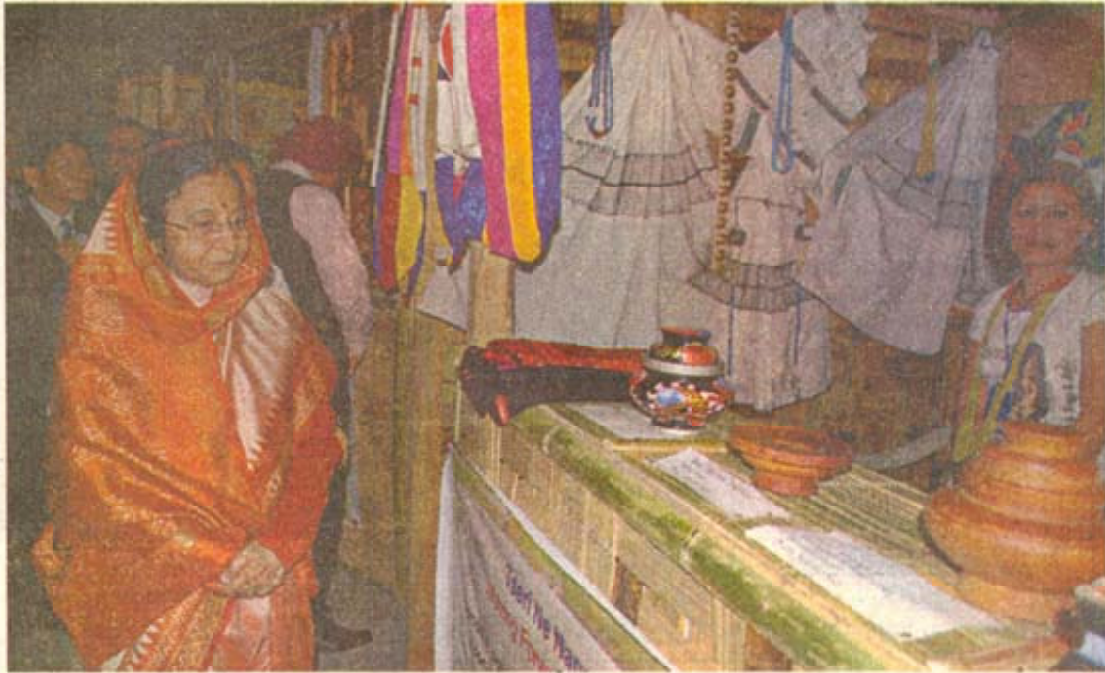


Patil inaugurates Arun Self help Mela

Salute to women entrepreneurship



Staff Reporter

ITANAGAR, Apr 2: President of India Pratibha Devisingh Patil today inaugurated the ARUN self help mela at Banquet Hall which has been transformed into a rural getup with ethnic touch.

Over 25 self help group and NGOs have been brought under one umbrella to showcase their pioneering efforts of economic sustainable development through the Arun self help mela which will be open to the public from April 3-4 next.

The president of India visited the various traditional huts examining the traditional

costumes, ornaments, handicraft products and other local products displayed by the successful SHGs run by women entrepreneurs from all corners of the state.

The event is being organized by the government in partnership with NABARD, SBI & ESSOMI foundation (NGO resource partner). The State Tourism department created ethnic environment for this event.

Patil experienced first hand the live demonstration of traditional activities in the life of women. At the entrance, daily village scene and lives of the tribal women of Papum Pare and

Lower Subansiri districts was demonstrated by Arun Kutir Udyog Co-operative society, Ziro and Abo Hina Welfare Society, Sagalee.

The ambience of paddy and fish culture of the Apatani's was also created for the President besides the traditional food courts offering Patil the taste of local delicacies of the state.

A mini village has been constructed inside the hall. The Apatani house constructed in the middle is surrounded by various small huts that are used by 25 women entrepreneurs to display their economic activities. (See P-3)