

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

**Arunachalee EENI tour participants meets Maharashtra Water Resources &
Medical Education Minister**

The Arunachal Pradesh Youth Team from Puroik Community on 'Educational, Emotional & National Integration(EENI) tour to Maharashtra sponsored by Indian National Fellowship Centre, Mumbai on initiative of the Governor Shri P.B. Acharya, over the weekend took a break from the past paced metro life of Mumbai and got a taste of the Maharashtrian culture in and around Mumbai. 'Home stays'- promoted by the Hon Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi as an excellent medium for cultural exchange, was experienced by the team. They were divided into smaller groups and spent the day with various local families. The host families were delighted to have guests from the eastern most state of the country.

During the day the team was treated to various home-made delicacies as part of the local cuisine. The host families were encouraged to be curious to understand the culture and lifestyle of the Puroik community and Arunachal Pradesh in general. One of the main attractions for some of the participants was to be able to go to the high-rise apartments and get a view of the skyline of the city. Some were even taken on a joy-ride in the Mumbai Metro. An emotional connect got established between the host families and visiting team members. There were phone numbers exchanged, selfies clicked and social media requests sent by the end of the day.

The team as part of the visit also went to a hamlet called Shirsoni about 170 km from Mumbai. This trip was made to make the team aware about the rural and tribal areas in Maharashtra. The team could relate to the mountainous terrain and the 'kaccha' houses with what they see back home. The simple lifestyle of the villages and the quiet serene atmosphere was a refreshing change from the hustle-bustle of the city.

The hospitality of Maharashtra was extended when Mr. Girish Mahajan, Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources & Medical Education, Government of Maharashtra invited the team for breakfast at his residence on 12th June 2017. The Minister spent close to an hour with the guests. He not only introduced himself and the kind of work he does in detail but also was all ears when each member of the visiting team spoke about themselves. The Minister was curious to know about Arunachal Pradesh and the life there. He also asked many questions to understand the kind of lifestyle the Puroik people led. He was thrilled to know about the food, dress and the leisure activities. He said he was extremely pleased to know that many students during their vacations assist their parents in estates and farms. The Minister also enquired about their tour so far and what they thought about Mumbai.

The team presented the Minister with an Arunachalee Traditional local jacket, muffler and bag. The visiting team was served a lavish breakfast which included snacks and dishes from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka.

Siji Nini, a member of the visiting team said, "We are very lucky to have met the Minister and spend so much time with him. He and the officers were very interested in knowing about our culture and we were more than happy to tell them. The women we met liked our ornaments very much. I am very happy that our local culture is appreciated so much here."

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, June 13, 2017