

**PRESS RELEASE NO-183**

**Governor attends functions of Pasighat centenary celebration**

**Itanagar, Feb. 21:** Pasighat has stood out in every sector and has always been known as Gateway of Arunachal Pradesh. An eventful existence of any place, whose foundation was laid more than century ago by itself is an indelible honor for a young State like Arunachal Pradesh, said State Governor Gen JJ Singh while participating on the concluding day of six-day Pasighat centenary celebration at Pasighat on Feb 21 last, reports PRO to Governor.

Pasighat with the first College of the State, named after first Prime Minister of our country Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru had been the educational hub of Arunachal Pradesh. Most of our leaders, senior bureaucrats, past and present had their education from this very place. It has always played a pivotal role in the development of the State. I share my pride in our great pioneers, the men and women who had put the effort in establishing this place with you all, he said while paying homage to the founders and pioneers of the place with whose efforts Pasighat would not have got such fame or risen to such eminence.

Governor, who had recently inaugurated the Itanagar book festival urged upon the people to write about the State, which he termed as enchanted Land, while appreciating writings of Dr. Igul Padung, Dr. Pekba Ringu and Onyok Panyang. He also stressed on entrepreneurship and organic farming. REferring to the CNN IBN7 award to Arunachal Pradesh, Governor said, iot reflects the sincere and dedicated efforts of the Arunachalees and with third party monitoring, the State has bright future. Earlier extending his greetings to the people, Governor congratulated the organizers, the District administration and Tourism department and people of Pasighat for such an elaborate arrangement.

Gen Singh who was very pleased to note that during the six-day celebration, indigenous cultural and games and sports competitions were conducted, in addition to fashion show and entertaining musical evenings said, this showcasing of our uniqueness will go a long way in preservation of our ethnicity. He was also very pleased to see involvement of young boys and girls and their enthusiastic participation in all the events, especially in cultural competitions. As I always maintain that moving forward with modernization and development should remain our mantra but at the same time we must inculcate pride amongst the younger generations in their very own age-old customs and traditions. Make your younger generation learn the importance of the cultural ethos, he emphasized.

As a token of appreciations, Governor made cash contribution towards the celebration. In his address local MLA Bosiram Siram, Education minister said, centenary celebration has given a special status to Pasighat in the heart of the people of Arunachal Pradesh which will be remembered for centuries to come. Profusely thanking the Governor for attending the celebration on its concluding day, Siram said under the guidance of Gen Singh, the State of Arunachal Pradesh has made huge progress and people will not forget his immense contributions.

Taking pride in the school children who had presented captivating performances in the cultural presentation, Education Minister appreciated Onit Panyang, East Siang district Deputy Commissioner, Chairman, Pasighat Centenary Celebration Committee and his Secretary Bittam Darang, DFO for the elaborate and wonderful six-day celebration. Earlier in his welcome address, Chairman, Pasighat Centenary Celebration Committee Onit Panyang, East Siang district Deputy Commissioner said, this celebration depicting and showcasing the 100 years of glorious journey of Pasighat being the first of its kind in the history of Arunachal Pradesh has special significance for more than one reason. For, the establishment of Pasighat in 1911 by the Britishers is inextricably linked with the heroic deeds of the people of undivided Siang, wherein the local people fought bravely their honour, democracy and freedom of the motherland, which indeed is a part and parcel of freedom struggle of India. It is also equally significant for the fact that people of Pasighat have immensely contributed to the all round development of our State as torch bearers in all spheres of life including socio-political, arts, literature and culture, education, public administration and economic development in the formative stage of Arunachal Pradesh, Panyang added. Organizing Secretary Bittam Darang, DFO, who also spoke on the occasion, thanked the State Government, tourism department and one and all who contributed towards the centenary celebration.

A colorful cultural programme was presented on the occasion. Taking pride in their cultural heritage and displaying warfare skill, villagers presented Tapu or the War Dance, while winner and runner-up of folk dance competition, troupes from Rani and Namey villages respectively presented rhythmic Ponung dances. Highlight of the closing ceremony was the mega dance, choreographed by Yatok Kakki, Deepti Apang and Miti Megu Perme and performed by 450 students from different schools of Pasighat. Local artists, Delong Padung, Onumoti Sisam and Omik Dai sang the song for the dance, composed by multifaceted and eminent film producer Delong Padung. Theme song, composed by Makson Yomso and dance choreographed by Oman Rome and Jyoti Apum was another attraction. Students of Jawaharlal Nehru College, the oldest college of the State presented a fusion dance of modern and traditional on the occasion. Later the Chief Guest and other dignitaries visited the mock village, where local houses of other tribes of the State, like Galo, Mishmi were also constructed. They also visited the food and indigenous handicraft stalls. The photo exhibition by organizing committee, District Information and Public Relations Office and Centre for Cultural Research and Documentation, Naharlagun, which gave glimpses of historical past of Pasighat were the huge crowd pullers.

On his arrival to Pasighat, a traditional reception was accorded to the Governor led by Local MLA and Deputy Commissioner. Gaon Burahs, Punung troupes and denizens were part of the rousing reception. Pasighat Centennial Celebration with the theme, honoring the past, visioning the future to commemorate the history and culture, to educate, involve and inspire all communities and people and to leave a legacy for future generation was inaugurated by Chief Minister Dorjee Khandu on 16th February last, adds the PRO.

Sd/- Ome Tayeng, Asst.PRO