

PRESS RELEASE NO- 340

Governor, British high commissioner visits Ziro

Itanagar, April 4: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen JJ Singh and State First Lady Anupama Singh accompanied by British High Commissioner Sir Richard Stagg and his wife Arabella visited Ziro attended the Myoko festival of the Apatani tribe on April 4 last. To feel the pulse of the Ziro plateau and to have first hand experience, visiting dignitaries visited Michi Bamin, Mudang Tage, Dutta, Hija, Old Ziro before coming to Reru village for the festival. At every village, Goan burahs and Gaon burihs in red coats welcomed them with 'Jai Hind'. They also visited a local house belong to Padi Sah, **reports PRO to Governor.**

Seated on Kuru-Nenker Lapang, one of the oldest Lapangs or the decision making place in the Apatani plateau, Governor called for promotion of home stay and tourist friendly initiatives. Appreciating the sprit of the Apatani Tribe, Gen Singh called them very industrious.

British High Commissioner Sir Richard Stagg termed the visit as very unique experience. Local MLA and Parliamentary Secretary Padi Richo, welcoming the Governor, British High Commissioner and their better halves gave the back ground of Myoko festival, which is observed in rotation by the three main villages of the plateau. Recalling the visits of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1953 and Indira Gandhi in 1956 and 1969, Richo highlighted on the historical importance of Ziro. Now we look forward to make this place the educational and tourism hub of the State, Local MLA added.

Traditional cultural programme depicting the colour cultural heritage of the tribe was presented on the occasion. At token of love, the villagers of Reru village presented Apatani coat and daos to the guests.

Earlier the visiting dignitaries visited the District Museum, which is the Best Museum of the State. Victor Landi, Language Officer usher them around the displays. Assistant Curator Tage Tabin informed that there are 687 artifacts along with other detail ethnographic displays such as handicrafts, handlooms and jewelries. Established in 1954 and inaugurated 1956 by Dr. Verrier Elwin, the museum is special for its ornament section, Tabin Added.

A remarkable collection of Arunachali culture, weapons, cloths and handicrafts. Very well maintained and very inspiring, Governor said while putting his remarks. It provides great insight into the life and culture of this lovely State, Stagg said in his remark.

Governor and other dignitaries visited District Handloom and Handicraft Emporium and also Arun Kutir at Hapoli, which is known for its entrepreneurship. Privately run institute with the aid of government grants, Arun Kutir provide trainings to local artisans. At present with two master craftswomen, thirty trainees are undergoing training.

Pleased with the produce and appreciating the efforts of the women entrepreneurs, State First Lady assured to provide necessary guidance in designing. Continuing her effort towards women empowerment and financial and economic independence, she volunteered to take care of the marketing of the produces, so the inputs of the local artisans and women are result oriented.

Before, returning to Itanagar, Governor visited newly built guest house constructed by Urban Development. Interacting with the people and officials, Gen Singh stressed on taking up of tourism projects and running of guest houses under Private Public participation, the PPP mode.

Er. T. Tachang Deputy Director, Urban development, Ziro apprising on the project informed that once it is completely ready it will be leased out so that very objective of projects is met. On the arrival of Governor and distinguished guests to Ziro, they were accorded a traditional reception led by local MLA Padi Richo and Deputy Commission Nila Mohanan. District heads of department, army and BRO officials were present on the occasion.

Sd/- Ome Tayeng, Asst. PRO