

**GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS  
NAHARLAGUN**

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**“Tawang Festival 2012 ” declared open by Governor**

**TAWANG, October 26:** To the chant of religious hymns, the first edition of Tawang Festival began here today as Governor Gen (Rtd) J J Singh declared it open with a cheerful Chief Minister Nabam Tuki applauding along with hundreds, including Tourism Minister Pema Khandu, WRD Minister Newlai Tingkhatra, UD & Town Planning Minister Rajesh Tacho and Parliamentary Secretaries T N Thongdok, P D Sona, Jambey Tashi, Tsewang Dhondup, Phurpa Tsering and R T Khunjuju, **reports PRO to CM.**

Congratulating the people of Tawang, the Governor wished that the five-day tourism festival will take Tawang a notch higher in the tourism map of the world. He expressed happiness that Tawang has become the face of Arunachal Pradesh in the last couple of years and appreciated the natives for it.

The Governor was, however, skeptical about the condition of roads that lead to Tawang. He urged the BRO authorities to take the matter seriously.

Chief Minister Nabam Tuki, who is also the Chief Patron of the tourism festival, in his address, paid rich tributes to former Chief Minister, Late Dorjee Khandu. He said because of Late Khandu's personal intervention Tawang today was in the world tourism map. Expressing his gratitude to the former CM, Tuki assured the people that Late Khandu's dream of a developed Arunachal will not be left aloof.

“My government will leave no stone unturned to fulfill the dreams of the great visionary,” he said.

Highlighting several initiatives of the Government for welfare of the people, Tuki informed that top priority is being given to promote, preserve and document the rich cultural heritage of Arunachal Pradesh through a new scheme called “Living Heritage” and encourage local artists, artisans and exponents of traditional art forms.

Tuki, who had in the morning visited the land-slide affected site of the Tawang Monastery, said that the Government will do everything possible to save the age-old monastery, which is the center of Buddhist teachings for the region.

“I have constituted a High Level Committee under Principal Secretary Yeshe Tsering that will submit a technical report for consideration by the Government. We will have to save the Monastery from the danger of landslides,” he said.

As pointed by the Governor, the Chief Minister also expressed concern over the condition of roads. In fact, he had traveled by road from Dirang to Tawang yesterday to get a first-hand experience of the problem that has angered not only the natives but also the transporters.

Tuki said it was a genuine concern and assured the people that he will take up the matter on an urgent note with the Border Road Organization (BRO). He has in fact called a meeting here tomorrow of the authorities to discuss on it in presence of the Governor.

The Chief Minister earlier in the day also visited the orphanage Manjushree Vidyapeeth run by monks.

He assured to keep provisions for payment of stipends to the students of the Vidyapeeth from the next financial year as availed by local students in government schools.

Tourism Minister Pema Khandu, Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism P D Sona and Planning Commission Member Saumitra Choudhury also spoke on the occasion.

Besides Planning Commission Advisor for North East Brahma Choudhury, several high ranking government officials, officers of the Indian Army and Paramilitary Forces, media-persons and village folk were present on the occasion.

The inaugural function was followed by a multi cultural programme by troupes from across the state as well as outside including a cultural team from Bhutan, **the release added.**

**Sd/ D.Dodum, PRO**