

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

First Lady graces World Day for the differently abled celebration

First Lady of Arunachal Pradesh Smti Jyotsna Sharma graced the inaugural function of 4-day celebration of World Day for the differently abled at Donyi Polo School for Hearing and Visually Impaired, Chimpu, Itanagar on 4th December 2013.

Speaking on the occasion, First Lady said that the international day should be the day to celebrate the abilities of differently abled persons. She added that it should not only be just a ritualistic celebration, but an opportunity for all to pause and look both at what has been achieved, and what is still left to do. She pointed that although some steps in terms of equalization of opportunities for persons with disability have been taken, but there is a long way to go to ensure that people with disability around the world live with dignity.

Conveying good wishes of the Governor to the all children of the State on the special occasion of International Day for Disabled Children, First lady appealed to all to join hands and thoughts and endorse the United Nations Theme for the year 'Breaking barriers, open doors: For an Inclusive Society for All'.

First Lady advised the parents of the special children not to tag their family as a 'disabled family'. She said that an important quality that they need to nurture in their child is self-determination. Children who develop this quality have a sense of control over their lives and can set goals and work to attain them. Self-determination is important for all children. She added that researchers have found that students with disabilities who also have high levels of self-determination are more likely to become adults who are employed, satisfied with their lives, living independently, or with support, outside of their family homes.

Citing Sudha Chandran, one of the most accomplished and acclaimed dancers of the Indian Subcontinent Stephen William Hawking, the British theoretical physicist, whose world-renowned scientific career spans over 40 years or Helen Adams Keller the American author, political activist and lecturer and expert maker of the traditional bangle Shri Michi Omo, First lady said that given proper guidance, the differently abled person can excel.

First lady commended the Donyi Polo Mission for its dedicated philanthropic services in the State. She called upon every member of the society to support the endeavour of the mission. First Lady asked the parents and guardians to send their differently abled children to the special schools of the Mission.

Guest of Honour Dr. Shalini Verma, Secretary WCD, SJE & Tribal Affairs, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh said that the occasion is to showcase the abilities of differently abled children. She exhorted the children to fight against negative attitude of the society towards them by working harder and displaying their special quality. 'Aap Hai Hamara Tarey Zameen Par', she hailed.

Chairman of Donyi Polo Mission and founder of the special schools, Gegong Apang, former Chief Minister and Secretary Donyi Polo Mission S.K. Singh briefed on the initiatives and endeavours of the Mission.

Earlier ushered by Principal, DPMSH&VI, Chimpu H. Sharma, the First Lady visited the classrooms, Weaving / activity room, audio-logical diagnostics room and science room of the school. She saw the craft works and also interacted with the children.

A cultural programme was presented on the occasion, which included welcome presentation, danced by hearing impaired students and sung by visually impaired ones. A ghazal was presented by Master Rei Koyu, who is receiving three year scholarship for ghazal. Alumni were present on the occasion.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, December 4, 2013