

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
ITANAGAR**

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. Gen (Retd) Nirbhay Sharma graced the Buddha Purnima celebration at Theravada Buddhist Temple, Vivek Vihar, Itanagar on 14th May 2014. The Governor called upon the people to imbibe the teaching of Buddha to live in peace with ourselves and with each other.

The Governor said that Buddha preached the truth. One of His great messages was the equality of man. Every man and woman has the same right to attain spirituality and he considered all human beings to be equal, irrespective of their caste or creed. Even the lowest were entitled to the highest attainments; He opened the door of Nirvana to one and all.

The Governor said that Buddha's sermons and teachings pointed toward the true nature of the universe, what is known within Buddhism as the Dharma. His sermon presents an overview of suffering and the way out of suffering. According to it, suffering is part of life and is caused by desire. There is a way out of suffering is by putting an end to ego-centered desire and follow the noble eightfold path.

The Governor advised the people to practice habits of ethical conduct, thought and meditation that enable one to move along the path.

The Governor said that Arunachal Pradesh is a key destination for religious tourism. It has Parasuram Kund, a place of pilgrimage for Hindus, Tawang monastery and many important pagodas for Buddhists in addition to numerous other religious places like Malinithan in Likabali. We need to build on these to promote peace and tranquility, he pointed.

The Governor opined that the State has been an oasis of peace in the entire North-Eastern region. However, recent developments on the law and order front and intolerance amongst certain sections of the society are a cause of concern. It is a challenge to all and we need to address it. He said that religious leaders need to take led in promoting goodwill and amity in the State.

The Governor said that the Theravada Buddhist Temple and Itanagar Gompa have become centres cultural and religious in the State Capital reflecting the richness of the cultural heritage of the State in addition to the indigenous faiths and other mainstream religions. He advised the people to maintain the sanctity and serenity in the places of worship, while emphasising on meditation workshops and other activities which promote health and social well being in its premises.

The Governor complimented the Buddha Jayanti Joint Celebration Committee, Itanagar for its good initiatives and also for creating bond between Mahayana and Theravada sects of Buddhism in the State. He also complimented Dr. Y.D. Thongchi, Chief Information Commissioner, Shri Viswajit Kumar, Associate Professor of Pali, Nava Nalanda Mahavira, Nalanda for their talk on Buddhism Dharma.

Earlier the Governor and the First Lady of the State, Smt Jyotsna Sharma offered prayers at the Theravada Buddhist Temple initiated by Ven. Ratnadeepa, Head Monk.

Large number of members of Buddhist Community of Capital Complex including Secretary Planning Shri Sonam Chombay, Chairman Therevada Society, Shri C.M. Mongmaw, Director Planning C.L Tungkhang, Director IPR C.M. Longphong were present on the occasion.

PRO to Governor  
Arunachal Pradesh  
ITANAGAR, May 14, 2014