

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

Festivals promote amity and the people must observe it and whole heartedly
participant: Governor

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa and First Lady of the State Smt Rita Rajkhowa graced the Dree Festival of Apatani Tribe at Dree Festival Ground, Itanagar on 5th July 2015.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that celebration of the indigenous festival is showcasing the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the tribe. It helps in preserving the age-old cultural treasure and the people must be encouraged to celebrate their festivals. The folk dances and folk songs of all the tribes must be preserved and promoted.

Attending the first local festival of the State after assuming the charge of the constitutional head of the State, the Governor said that festivals promote amity and the people must observe it and whole heartedly participate. Delighted to see the participants from different walks of life and from different communities, the Governor said that festival also encourages spirit of brotherhood amongst communities. He commended the festival committee and the community for their effort.

The Governor said that Apatanis are known for their indigenous paddy-cum-fish culture cultivation system. This practice is unique and is known to enhance ecological sustainability. It promotes conservation of water. This is one of the valued cultures of the State.

Attending as the Guest of Honour Shri Ramesh Negi, Chief Secretary said that the festival is related to nature and all effort must be made to preserve the nature. The Chief Secretary emphasised that with time, the people should modernise and develop their society but at the same time they must be firmly rooted to their traditions and culture. He added that department of research and Art and Culture are putting effort to document the age –old cultural heritage of the State.

Briefing on the mythology of Dree, Shri Radhe Tajung, Vice Chairman of Dree Festival Celebration Committee said that the Dree is the main agricultural festival of Apatani. The Apatanis are ardent agriculturists and the origin of Dree is directly related to the origin of paddy seeds and agricultural practices of the community. The occasion of performing rituals for good harvest during the year came to be known as Dree and have been performed by Apatanis since time immemorial. The Festival Celebration Committee Chairman Er. Kago Tabyo and Secretary Shri Nani Khambo also spoke on the occasion.

A colourful cultural programme was presented on the occasion depicting the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the Apatani community. Participating in the festivity, the first couple took part in the 'Damida' dance. The Governor presented citation award to Shri Nani Challa for his exemplary social service. He also presented Academic excellence awards to students from the community who had excelled in the board examinations. The Governor released the Dree Festival souvenir on the occasion, while First Lady released an audio CD titled 'Aane'. The final of the traditional wrestling (Giibii) of Apatani Tribe was conducted.

A community feast with exotic Apatani cuisines was organised by the festival committee for the guests and community members.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, July 5, 2015