

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa attended the 567th Birth Anniversary celebration of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev at Kristi Kendra, Naharlagun on 26th September 2015.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that Srimanta Sankardeva was one of the greatest Saints of Medieval India. He was one of the most versatile legendary personalities of all times from the North Eastern Region of the country, who played the role of a Saviour of humanity in the region. He was a social reformer, who advocated for a casteless society, for betterment and welfare of women, and strongly opposed bloody sacrifices. Sankaradeva preached and practiced the mission-love for humanity is love for God.

The Governor, who is regarded as an authority on study of Sankaradeva and his life said that Sankaradeva was a versatile genius – a yoga expert, an ace swimmer, a bull fighter and sportsman, a culinary expert and a master weaver cum designer. As a spiritual guru, Sankaradeva was a propounder of Eka-Sarana-Naam-Dharma or Neo-Vaisnavism. He was a celebrated scholar, a linguist with sound knowledge and understanding of Assamese, Sanskrit, Prakit, Brajavali, Maitheli etc. For the benefit of common people, he had translated many important ancient scriptures in to Assamese and other common languages. He was also an able administrator, an outstanding educationist, a musical maestro, a master craftsman, an actor, a playwright, a lyricist who composed many Borgits (Noble Psalms), a votary of secularism, an advocate of casteless, egalitarian society and a great unifier of people of diverse races, tribes and religions. He was the first modern day playwright who composed and staged the famous 'Cihna Yatra' play in 1468 AD and thus preceded William Shakespeare by one hundred years, though credit is being given to Shakespeare due to the traditional bias against the North Eastern Region.

The Governor urged upon the people to imbibe the virtues and ideals of Sankaradeva. He was impressed by the youth taking part in the cultural programme of the day. The Governor emphasised on educating the rich cultural heritage amongst the members of the community, particularly the younger generation, and said that the elders must preserve and promote their heritage.

Recalling one of the followers of Sankaradeva of some 460 years ago, Shri Narottam of present day Tirap District, the Governor advised the members of the Assamese community to strengthen the amity and bond of brotherly relations amongst the people of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. He suggested for joint cultural exchange programmes to maintain the age-old cultural bond. In this context, he lauded the Kristi Kendra, Naharlagun for imparting about a month long training to about a dozen Arunachali girls in 'Sattria Dance' one of the recognised Classical Dance forms of India.

Speaking as the 'Appointed Speaker' of the occasion, Shri Luhit Chandra Sharma said that Sankardeva was the greatest gift to the society. He propounded a casteless and classless society.

While highlighting the essence of Bhagawad Gita, Shri Sharma said that real Dharma is the one which make the society beautiful through healthy coordination of the body and mind and make people peace loving and happy. True religion is one that shows the path of goodness and love for humanity.

The Sattradhikar or 'Chief of Sattr' of Uttar Kamalabari Sattr, Majuli Shri Janardan Deva Goswami also spoke on the occasion.

Accompanied by First Lady of the State Smt Rita Rajkhowa, the Governor inaugurated a guest house of the Naam Ghar and unveiled a 'wall magazine' in the temple complex on the day. The Naam Ghar was established in 1974 with individual contribution of the Assamese Community and local Arunachali people.

Presenting the rich Assamese Cultural Heritage, the members of the Kristi Kndra performed Borgeet, Krishna Nritya, devotional modern dance, Diha Naam and Khul Vadaan. Parliamentary Secretary (Urban Development, Housing and Land Management) Shri Techhi Kaso, who is also the local MLA, members of Assamese community, guests and invitees were present on the occasion.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, September 26, 2015