

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
ITANAGAR**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Book Festivals expose the children to the world of books and inculcate the habit of reading: Governor**

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa inaugurated the 11<sup>th</sup> Festival of Books for Children, organised by an Assam based NGO, ANWESHA in Guwahati, Assam on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at Lummer Dai Pavilion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that books are the first foundation for an individual to become a good and useful citizen. It is most important source of information particularly good children books during early stages of learning at tender age. Children story books like Grandma's tales by the legendary litterateur Lakshminath Bezbaruah, Gulliver's Travels, Aesop's Fables, Panchatantra stories, hitopadesha etc. have been not only source of delight for the young people, but also provide them excellent moral lessons.

The Governor appreciated the endeavour of the organisers, particularly ANWESHA for organising such important children book festival in Guwahati for the past 25 years. He said that such event will expose the children to the world of books and inculcate the habit of reading among them and also familiarise them with the world beyond the classroom. Imparting of training by expert story writers and story tellers in the art of storytelling, by ANWESHA is a highly laudable step, so also holding of competition in storytelling.

The Governor requested the organisers to organise such events in Arunachal Pradesh also in association with local bodies like K.V. Sangathans, Arunachal Literary Society, State Education department etc. He suggested important places, like Itanagar, Bomdila, Seppa, Ziro, Aalo, Pasighat, Tezu and Khonsa to begin with. The Governor assured necessary cooperation and support for such initiatives.

The Governor emphasised that, like the ANWESHA book festival for children in Guwahati, it should be a calendared event in each of the districts of the Frontier State.

The Book Fair is organised every year by an Assam based NGO, ANWESHA in collaboration with UNICEF, National Book Trust, India, Indira Gandhi Centre for Arts and a number of agencies involved in book related initiatives. The central theme of the 11<sup>th</sup> Festival by ANWESHA is WASH (Water, Sanitation and Health) through 'Swachh Bharat, Swachh Vidyalaya' mission.

The main pavilion of the 10-day Festival is dedicated to the literary doyen of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Lummer Dai.

An important feature of the 11th festival includes a two-day workshop on storytelling for children conducted by internationally acclaimed storyteller Shri Jeeva Raghunath,

a two-day art workshop for children by well-known illustrator of children's books, Shri Atanu Roy and a two-day hands-on workshop on art and science for early graders by Mita Hegde of Circle of Explorers from New Delhi. On the last day of the festival (October 18), the National Book Trust, India, will organise a discussion on 'Knowledge Resources of the Northeast and Children's Literature'.

PRO to Governor  
Arunachal Pradesh  
ITANAGAR, October 9, 2015