

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

Governor appeals for sponsorship for differently abled children

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa, along with the First Lady of the State Smt Rita Rajkhowa graced the Silver Jubilee celebration of Donyi Polo Mission School for the Hearing Impaired, Chimpu, Itanagar at its campus on 15th October 2015. Founder Chairman, Shri Gegong Apang, Secretary Education Shri Marnya Ete, Director Social Justice, Empowerment & Tribal Affairs, Shri Taw Tebin, Secretary Ramakrishna Mission Hospital, Itanagar, Swami Vishweshananda and former MLA Shri Nima Tsering Khrimy were present amongst others.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that the society and social attitudes play an important role in determining the participation of differently abled people in social and economic life, often even within their own families. He advised that the people must follow the guiding principles, i.e. the differently abled people must be respected, not pitied, they must have their rights, not charity, they must be treated with equality, not dependence and they must be provided opportunity for participation, not segregation.

Suggesting for introduction of sponsorship for every student in the school as the entire educational expenses of a student including boarding and lodging are borne by the mission, the Governor appealed to the Corporate, Public and Private enterprises, Joint Ventures, Chamber of Commerce, Entrepreneurs, Associations, non-Governmental Organisations and individuals to come forward for such benevolent effort. Disclosing that the First Lady had sponsored a visually impaired student upto graduation level in Guwahati, the Governor said that there is a need for individual as well as collective participation for the wellbeing of differently abled children. Pointing that Arunachal Pradesh has the highest per capita income of above Rs. 83000, the Governor hoped that many individuals and affluent people will come forward to the aid of the Donyi Polo Mission and other such organizations, so that more such children would be covered for their education, training and rehabilitation.

Lauding Shri Gegong Apang, the founding Chairman of the Institute, the Governor said that such bold and selfless initiative is a great service to humanity. He said that political leaders and government officials must draw inspiration from Shri Apang and serve the people in selfless manner even when out of office.

The Governor expressed grave concern when informed that some land of the Institute has been encroached upon by some individuals. He called upon the Chief Minister and District Administration for immediate action for evicting the encroachers of public land, that too land housing educational and training facilities, hostels etc. for physically challenged children.

The Governor also expressed hope that State Government will release the amount of Rs. 1 crore reportedly committed by the Chief Minister last Financial Year for the Institute, at the earliest.

In his address, the founding chairman of the Institute, Shri Gegong Apang, former Chief Minister recalled the early phase of the first school of the State for the handicapped children set up by him in 1990. He expressed gratitude to the people who had contributed towards the growth and progress of the Institute. Calling for more public awareness, Shri Apang said that, at times, it is due to ignorance of the parents that many children become handicapped. Emotionally charged, Shri Apang said that he proposed to upgrade the institute to Class XII and requested for aid and assistance from the Raj Bhawan, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and other likeminded institutions and individuals.

The Governor felicitated the Founder Chairman Shri Gegong Apang, the Principal of the Institute Shri H. Sharma and dedicated staff, Shri Haridas Burman and Smt Sammang Tayeng on the occasion, for rendering commendable services to the Institute. The Governor also launched the Website of the Institute, www.dpmrc.in and released its Information Brochure on the occasion. To commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the School, the First Couple planted saplings of Ashoka Tree in the school campus. They also met the alumni of the school and wished them well.

As a token of appreciation, the First Couple made a token contribution for equipment for speech therapy, tailoring machines for vocational training etc.

Earlier, the Governor visited the School campus and interacted with the visually and hearing impaired children. He also visited the Waste Paper Recycling Unit of the school, where students and trainees of the school demonstrated the process of preparing paper bags, writing pads, writing papers, carry bags and cards etc. from waste papers and waste cotton, which are the best eco-friendly items.

The Governor, who was very impressed by Waste Paper Recycling Unit, said that as encouragement, Raj Bhawan will order different paper pads and stationery items from the Unit. He said that such unit must be there in every district and town of the State which apart from providing employment to the youth, would make eco-friendly bio-degradable paper bags etc. replace the non-degradable plastic items. During the visit, the Governor suggested for proper landscaping of the campus to improve the environment for the physically challenged children, including conversion of the low-lying wasteland into a small lake.

Adding festivity to the occasion, a colourful cultural programme was presented by the students of the Institute and its sister School, the Donyi Polo Vidhya Bhavan. A large number of guests, invitees, parents and guardians of the inmates attended the function.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, October 15, 2015