

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

Cultural bond is the strongest bond: Governor

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa graced the 'Sampriti', a cultural presentation of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam at Raj Bhawan, Itanagar on 23rd October 2015.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that cultural bond is the strongest bond and cultural exchange programme can strengthen it on permanent footing. He expressed hope that the event will not only promote the cultural assets of the both the States but also revive the rich cultural heritage. He also hoped that such events will go a long way in strengthening the amity between the age-old neighbours. He commended the artists and officials for showcasing the vibrant cultural heritage of both the States.

Underscoring that cultural exchange programme will provide more understanding of each other's culture, values and traditions, which will in turn cement good relationship, the Governor suggested that next programme must be in Assam so that artists of Arunachal Pradesh can showcase their rich cultural heritage. He also stressed that such event must be also organised in border areas.

The Governor appealed to the people and to both the State governments to maintain peace and harmony through cultural activities and overcome the strains due to tension in boundary areas.

The Governor expressed hope that statue of cultural icon of North East Region, Late Bhupen Hazarika, who contributed immensely to the cultural heritage of Arunachal Pradesh and strengthen the age-old relation between the people of the States and love the Arunachalis, which was committed by the Chief Minister Shri Nabam Tuki, will be installed very soon and it will reinforce the good relationship between the two age-old neighbouring States.

Stating that with 26 major tribes and 110 sub-tribes Arunachal Pradesh can be the biggest contributor of cultural variety and unity in diversity. The Governor called for more Regional Centres of the ICCR in the Region with one in Itanagar to begin with.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Shri Nabam Tuki lauded the Regional Office of ICCR and Raj Bhawan for organising the event, which is first of its kind. He said that Interstate Cultural event helps in cultural integration and at the same time provide exposure to the artists. He added that talented youth will immensely benefit from it. He called for cultural exchange programme in the districts and interior places of the State.

Later, the Governor, First Lady of the State Smt Rita Rajkhowa and Chief Minister felicitated artists and officials for the presentation.

Earlier in his welcome address, Shri Sankar Prasad Kakoti Bora, Regional Director, ICCR said that Indian Council for Cultural Relations, an autonomous body under Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India which was started 1950 under the first Union Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, engages in cultural diplomacy. It has Centres in 26 countries, in addition to 16 Regional Centres involve in cultural exchange programme and scholarship.

Chief Secretary Shri Ramesh Negi, a number of distinguished guests and invitees were present amongst others on the occasion.

The event was organised by the Guwahati Regional Office of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Directorate of Art and Culture, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh. Folk Dances and Songs including Sattriya, Aka, Hazong, Bodo, Nyishi, Adi, Tiwa, Nocte, Assamese Bihu were presented during the programme.

Folk Dance on Bhupen Hazrika's legendary song 'Siang ore Galo' and Apatani Song by artists of ICCR, Assam, an Assamese Song by Shri Jomnya Siram, an Arunachali, and Shri Cheda Runka, who sang one of the Hindi hits of Kishore Kumar were some of the highlights of the cultural presentation.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, October 23, 2015