

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

Governor calls upon social and Non Governmental Organisations to work for preservation of the cultural heritage

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa graced the premiere screening of the short animation film, 'Abotani', the first tribal story from the Tani tribes of Arunachal Pradesh to be adapted for animation, at Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh on 28th October 2015.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor lauded the Adivasi Arts Trust, London, the Department of Mass Communication, Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh and Centre for Cultural Research & Documentation, Naharlagun for the project. He said that such animation projects on folklores, culture and traditions will go a long way in preservation of tribal cultural heritage. It tells about the tribal culture, ethos, lifestyle and social values. Such animation projects will bring more interest to the younger generation about their culture, mythologies and traditions, as they are always fascinated by animated characters of Mahabharat, Ramayan and other stories imparting moral values. He added that these animated characters are best way to educate the younger generation.

The Governor informed that more than 200 tribes of the world have been lost and their culture and tradition got extinct. Stressing that no tribe, culture, language, folklore, dances and traditions must be lost, He called upon more social and Non Governmental Organisations to work for preservation of the cultural heritage.

The Governor exhorted the students of Mass Communication, RGU to shoulder the responsibility to carry out more documentation and research in the area of folk culture in collaboration with Adivasi Arts Trust, London, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, Centre for Cultural Research & Documentation, Naharlagun and other parallel organisations and bodies.

The Governor pointed that there are 26 major tribes and 110 sub-tribes in the State, but he is yet to have the lists of all the sub-tribes. He called upon the literates and scholars to bring out the list of the tribes as it will help in exploring their history, segregations, folklores and ethnicity. It is important as it will help in identifying their distinct individuality and uniqueness and cultural diversity of the State.

The Governor emphasized on documentation, research and then preservation of cultural heritage, traditions and customs. He said the good values of our culture should be revived and promoted, while obsolete ones should be avoided. He added that indigenous religion which is part of their culture should not be disturbed and may be allowed to practice.

Former Chairman, Lalit Kala Akademi, Dr. K. K. Chakraborty, while highlighting the importance of animal film, said that such endeavour will help in reviving and bringing out of tales and folklores of the tribal communities and also draw attention to diversity of tribal culture.

Vice Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University, Prof. Tamo Mibang, who also spoke on the occasion, said that such project will not only help in preservation of folklores and folktales but also provide a international audience.

Introducing the animated film to the curious and enthusiastic audience, Secretary, Adivasi Arts Trust, London, Ms. Tara Douglas gave an in-depth presentation of the process of making the film. She informed that a three week long Animation Workshop was conducted in RGU, Doimukh in January 2013. It was first such workshop to take place in the remote state of Arunachal Pradesh. It will provide local participants from the tribes of the State unique opportunity and environment to explore their own cultural heritage for stories and artistic inspiration for a short animation film to represent the vast north eastern state in a collection of animated tribal folktales, Tales of the Tribes. Most of the films in the collection focus on the northeast region, with other stories from Sikkim, Nagaland and Manipur. Tribal folktales from Arunachal Pradesh were documented from Dr Verrier Elwin's two books, Myths of the Northeast Frontier of India and A New Book of Tribal Fiction.

Ms Douglas said that the film aims to sustain the indigenous narrative, self expression and strengthen diversity.

The First Lady of the State Smt Rita Rajkhowa, Co-Producer of Abotani Animated Film, Mr. Paolo Polesello, Chairperson, Centre for Cultural Research & Documentation, Naharlagun, Smt Minoti Riba, RGU Registrar, Prof. Rachob Taba, and a large numbers of distinguished guests and invitees attend the premiere screening.

In tune with the screening of the film based on tribal folklore, a fusion folk musical band, 'The Star Song Project' of Mr. Hage Chobin, Mr. Marbom Mara, Ms Nikon Tana gave some fusion numbers in Apatani, Galo and Nyshi songs respectively with Eken Taba in Guitter and Prakash Thapa in percussion.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, October 28, 2015