

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

**Governor inaugurates seminar 'India Foreign Policy with special context to
China and Tibet'**

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa inaugurated a Seminar on the theme, 'India Foreign Policy with special context to China and Tibet', organised by Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch (BTSM) at Rupa, West Kameng District on 20th November 2015. The seminar is part of 'Tawang Tirth Yatra' organised by the BTSM.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that India has 2000 years old cultural relationship with Tibet. There was no boundary dispute earlier as the people of India and Tibet shared cordial relationship, similar religion, traditions, culture and way of life. Moreover, people of both India and Tibet respect people's right to individual freedom and way of life.

Referring to China and Tibet, the Governor said that India has some ideological differences with China in its approach of governance and foreign policy. While India is the largest democracy in the world, China has one party dictatorial form of government without the fundamental rights as in India. Moreover, he said that India has never attacked and infringed upon the sovereignty of any country, whereas China occupied Tibet in 1954. India believes that political power comes from the votes, mandate of the people, not 'through the barrel of the gun'.

Reiterating the country's solidarity towards the Tibet cause and referring the famous song of Late Bhupen Hazarika's popular song 'Manuhe Manuhar Babe', which was beautifully presented on the occasion by girls and ladies of Rupa, and which signifies 'the concern of man for man', the Governor said that it is natural that people of India have to think and act for the welfare of its neighbours, the Tibetans in particular, with whom, friendly and brotherly ties have been there for centuries.

The Governor said that India with its diverse culture and communities and 125 Crores population, which is the strength of the Nation, has got overwhelming influence all over the world. The 125 Crore Indians stand united to always support the sentinels at the borders to defend the sovereignty and integrity of the motherland. However, China is apprehensive of growing economic power of India.

The Governor cautioned the people against use of cheap and poor quality Chinese goods and dumping of it in the North Eastern Region and elsewhere in the country, as the indigenous micro, small and medium enterprises are being adversely impacted. He opined that it will create imbalance in the economy and destroy the small and cottage industries of the Region, if the entry of the various items legally as well as illegally is not stopped.

Lauding the endeavour of Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch for promoting patriotism and tourism as well, the Governor paid tribute to the martyrs of 1962 Indo- China war and appreciated the local people of Arunachal Pradesh who helped the brave soldiers in numerous ways. He also commended the soldiers guarding the frontiers, facing many challenges and odds.

In his address, the main Speaker of the Seminar and the Patron of Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch, Shri Indres Kumarji highlighted on the Tibet issue and said that the Manch stands for Tibet cause. It also stands for liberation of Kailash Mansarovar, one of the most holy places for Indians since ancient times. He said that through the 'Tawang Tirth Yatra' the Manch want to send message across the border that India is a peace loving country, cultured and honourable. It cannot be dealt with violence and aggression but with respect on equal footing.

The BTSM Patron said that it is a pilgrimage for its members to come to Arunachal Pradesh and reach upto Bumla Pass, coming from all over India and the Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch is with the people of the State. He informed that the Central Government has special focus on the development of the frontier regions particularly North Eastern Region. Many initiatives in road communication, health and education in particular are in the pipeline and are at various stages of implementation. This Manch aims to create a connecting bridge between the people of the Region with other parts of the country, he added.

Former Member of Parliament and former Minister Shri RK Khrirey, who is the State President, Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch said that the Manch stands for Tibet's Independence. He reasoned that if Tibet attains independence, India will be more secured, as India had never faced any border problem or any kind of threat or apprehension from Independent Tibet.

A large number of people, including community leaders, Village Council Presidents, Gaon Burahs, Youth, students and members of Tawang Tirth Yatra attended the programme.

Later the Governor flagged off the 'Tawang Tirth Yatra 2015', conducted by Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch from Rupa. More than 125 Yatris from all over of India, including Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Delhi, Maharashtra, Assam and Manipur in the age-group of 18 to 85 years are participating in the Yatra.

Earlier on the day, the Governor and First Lady of the State Smt Rita Rajkhowa were received by West Kameng District Deputy Commissioner Shri A.K. Singh, SP, Dr. A Kaon and Brig. Tannudeep Kumar, Station Commander and Deputy General Officer Commanding, 5 MTN Div, Tenga at Rupa helipad.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, November 20, 2015