

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

Faiths and beliefs are part and parcel of cultural identity: Goernor

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa graced the Indigenous Faith Day celebration at Nyikum Niya Ground, Nirjuli on 1st December 2015.

Addressing a huge gathering, the Governor informed that more than 400 tribes in the world are lost including some in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The indigenous communities must responsibility in preserving the heritage handed down by their forefathers. He advised for documentation of the cultural heritage, traditions and faiths of indigenous people of Arunachal Pradesh.

Paying rich tributes to Late Talom Rukbo, pioneer of indigenous faith movement in the State for his initiatives in preservation of the indigenous culture, the Governor also felicitated those associated with the IFCSAP movement.

The Governor said that the indigenous faiths ad beliefs followed in the State are very scientific as celestials bodies, the Sun and Moon have been worshiped since time immemorial, including in Mahabharata, which was in 5000 BC. If there is no faith, then there will be no culture. To save any culture, the people have to preserve in their faith. It is part and parcel of cultural identity, which must be protected. At the same time, he said that superstitious attached to faiths and beliefs must be eradicated.

Reiterating the distinctive Indian cultural characteristic which always has been 'Unity in Diversity' and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – the whole world is a family, the Governor exhorted the people to maintain the peaceful coexistence of various faiths and beliefs for progress and prosperity of the State. He said that the principle of secularism enshrined in various articles of Indian Constitution, which needs to be uphold by all means. Youth and elites of the society must raise their voices in cases of biasness in employment and other benefits based on religion, which is against the spirit of Indian Constitution.

The Governor, who was immensely impressed by the mega dance presented by five hundred children, suggested that IFCSAP must put in an effort for Guinness Book of Records involving more children.

The Governor said that youth are the future, who have to should the responsibility to carry forward the cultural heritage and traditions. He called upon the youth, particularly boys to actively participate in such important cultural events in future.

Speaking on the occasion, the First Lady of the State Smt Rita Rajkhowa urged upon the people to respect each other faith and belief for peaceful coexistence. The First Lady, who was impressed by the cultural presentation, said that Arunachal Pradesh is one of the richest States in the country in cultural diversity. He advised the people to preserve the treasured valued values.

Guest of Honour, Prof Tamo Mibang, Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh in his speech emphasised that there must be respect for indigenous people's way of life, culture and traditions. Calling for strengthening the cultural heritage, Vice Chancellor commended the IFCSAP for their endeavour. He informed that lots of research works on cultural heritage of the State by scholars from all over the country and world have been carry out and they found it very rich.

Special guest of the occasion, Shri Somaya Julu, All India Organising Secretary, Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram advised the indigenous faith believers to maintain their indigenous practices for peace and harmony. The ABVKA secretary, who was amazed by the enthusiastic participation of the people said that awareness among the indigenous community is very strong and they need to maintain it.

Delivering the keynote address, IFCSAP (Hq) Vice President, Shri Gichik Tazaa gave a brief background of IFCSAP and its aim and objects. He said that IFCSAP, which started in 1999, aims to protect, preserve and protect indigenous culture, traditions and languages. It strives to save the identity of indigenous people as part of Indian Culture. The organisation organizes Indigenous Faith Day throughout the state on 1st December every year, which is also the birthday of Late Talom Rukbo, one of the pioneers of Indigenous Faith and Cultural Movement of Arunachal Pradesh.

IFCSAP (Hq) Vice President also submitted a three-point memorandum to the Governor on the occasion, which includes land for office building of IFCSAP and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Centre.

In his welcome address, IFCSAP Secretary General Shri Bai Taba called upon the people to preserve the cultural heritage handed down by their forefathers. He also called for maintaining communal harmony for peaceful coexistence.

Earlier, initiative the celebration, the Governor and other guests lighted the inaugural lamp and offered prayers. The Governor also released the IFCSAP calendar, while the First Lady of the State released the audio CD of the Mega dance, which is sung in dialect of sixteen tribes of Arunachal Pradesh.

Special guests, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Hospital, Itanagar Swami Vishweshananda, Director Art and Culture, Shri RD Thungon, Director Social Justice, Empowerment & Tribal Affairs, Shri Taw Tebin, Former Chief Information Commissioner of Arunachal Pradesh and Sahitya Academy awardee Y.D Thongchi, Member Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE Dr. Joram Begi, former Presidents of IFCSAP, Dr. Tai Nyori, Shri Taba Hare, Shri Nabam Atum and hosts of guests and invitees and large number of indigenous faith believers attended the celebration.

A large number of cultural troupes from various indigenous tribes of the State presented traditions dances on the occasion. Five hundred students from seven schools of Capital Complex presented a mega dance, which was choreographed by Tai Riza and Toyang Komut. Shri Delong Padung gave the concept, lyrics and voice for the Dance.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, December 1, 2015