

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa graced the Solung Festival celebration of the Adi Community at Itanagar on 1st September 2015.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor offered his prayers to 'Kine Nane', the Goddess of Crops and Prosperity, 'Dadi Bote', the God of Animal Kingdom, 'Doying-Bote', the God of Wisdom and all other benevolent deities to shower their blessings to entire mankind and herald peace, progress and prosperity for one and all.

The Governor called upon the youth of the community to take responsibility in carrying forward the rich cultural heritage of their tribe. Pointing at the participation of the young girls and women in large number, but few boys during the celebration, he advised all, particularly young boys to take active part in the celebration to preserve their cultural identity, customs and traditions. The Governor also advised the people converse in their indigenous language and put on indigenous attires and take pride on it. He said that people should modernise but should not lose touch with their roots.

Citing that there is no detail records of all the 26 major and 110 sub-tribes of the State, the Governor advised the people on documentation of the language, customs and traditions, so that age-old heritage which had been handed over from generation to generation is not lost.

The Governor said that tribal festivals are based on realization of gift of nature and it is an expression of their appreciation. It helps in preservation of nature's gifts such as the prized flora and fauna. He called upon the people of the State for a united approach for preservation of the nature.

Taking opportunity of the huge gathering during the celebration, the Governor called upon people to put in a united effort in eradication of drugs and opium addiction in the State. Conveying his appreciation to those organisation who are working toward drug eradication, he said that people of the State have to stand together against this menace while State Government explore alternate source of livelihood to the effected people.

Gracing as one of the Guests of Honour of the celebration, Shri Gabriel D Wangsu, MLA, Kanubari stressed that parents should instil basic social values of the community in their children for preserving their indigenous knowledge, language and identity. The Kanubari MLA said that Adi Community has been one of the leaders of the State and experiments and experience of the community has always enriched others. He urged upon the members of the community to take initiative in safeguarding the age-old cultural heritage and traditions of the State.

In his address, Shri Lombo Tayeng, MLA Mebo, one of the Guests of Honour emphasised that there must be no compromise with originality of Solung festival celebration with modernization. He also suggested that Itanagar Festival Committee with its large number of senior citizens of the community must take initiative in conducting a conference on preservation and revival of indigenous language.

Attending as Special Guest, Shri Tajom Taloh, Commissioner, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh said that the festival helps the community to keep its culture and tradition alive. It is associated with traditional attires, which in turn promote tribal handloom and textiles and handicrafts industries.

In his welcome address, President of Itanagar Solung Celebration Committee Shri Rajeev Takuk said that Solung is the embodiment of Adi way of life. It encompasses the entire gamut of Adi socio-cultural and religious life. He appealed to all the Adi brethren to work constantly to find better and healthier paths of development not only for the community but for the entire State. Secretary of the Festival Celebration Committee Shri Nima Tondrang also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, initiating the celebration, the Governor took part in a ritual called 'Taku Taabat', a traditional offering of rice powder and apong (rice beer) at the makeshift altar erected in the festival ground amid chanting of hymns by the Miri (priest), brought in all the way from Adi-Pasi village in Upper Siang district.

The Governor felicitated the elders of the Adi community of Itanagar who has contributed towards the society on the occasion. He also gave away the prizes to winners of games and sports competitions.

The Governor released the Solung souvenir, 'Diigok Roli' on the occasion, while Guests of Honour, MLA Kanubari and MLA Mebo released Adi Audio Albums 'Yitge Do Yayi Nom' and 'Gogying' respectively.

Numbers of colourful cultural items, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Adi Tribe were presented during the celebration. A mega dance based on Adi mythology choreographed by Smt Olen Megu Damin and folk dances by various Ponung troupes and students of Donyi Polo Vidhya Bhawan were presented.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, September 1, 2015