

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

Strengthening the spirit of 'Unity in Diversity': Governor

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa and First Lady of the State Smt Rita Rajkhowa graced the Oriah Festival celebration at Mopin Solung Ground, Itanagar on 16th February 2016.

Initiating the commencement of the festival by performing of 'Zangwan Wan Tong Shom' i.e.r offering to God, the First couple offered prayers for wellbeing of the people, bounty harvest and communal harmony.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor appreciated the organisers for carrying forward the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the Wancho tribe by celebrating the Oriah festival in Itanagar. He exhorted the people to preserve the age-old cultural values and traditions as loss of culture is loss of identity.

The Governor emphasised that the indigenous communities must preserve their dialogue, language and heritage. He advised the people to go for documentation and at the same time efforts should be there to develop their own script.

The Governor on the occasion called for communal harmony in the State and strengthening the spirit of 'Unity in Diversity'. He said that major tribes must ensure the ground so that minor tribes can carry forward their identity. That will ensure peace and tranquillity in the State and also go a long way to facilitate in having democratically Government in the State.

Recalling the age-old relationship between Ahom King and a Wancho Princess, the Governor called for amity amongst the two neighbouring States, thereby restoring the age-old ties.

Impressed by the agility of dancers performing gymnastics in dance numbers, the Governor assured them in providing guidance and assistance to hone their skill in gymnastics, games and sports.

Earlier, Shri Gabriel Wangsu, President of 14th Oriah Festival celebration at Itanagar said that every tribe of the State observes festivals which are diverge in colours and rituals but ethos and ingredients are same for all the indigenous festivals of the State. He urged upon the people to celebrate the commonness in the culture and traditions.

A colourful cultural programme including, famed bamboo dance of the Wancho, war dance, fashion show and remix of traditional and gymnastic dance were presented on the occasion. Wancho community of Itanagar along with public representatives of Tirap, Changlang and Longding also attended the celebration.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, February 16, 2016