

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

Governor, First Lady graces Nyokum Yullo celebration

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa along with the First Lady of the State, Smt Rita Rajkhowa graced the Nyokum Yullo festival of the Nyishi Community at Nyokum Lapang Ground, Itanagar on 26th February 2016.

Addressing a huge gathering on the festival occasion, the Governor conveyed his Nyokum greetings and wished that the festivity will herald new phase of development and prosperity in the State.

The Governor said that the word 'Nyokum' has been derived from two words; 'Nyok' means the entire land mass of earth and 'Um' means putting things together. In the same spirit, he said that the people must preserve the flora and fauna of the State for their prosperity, happiness and for a better crop.

Calling all, irrespective of age, sex and creed to actively participate in the indigenous festivals of the State, the Governor said that the festivals such as Bihu, Durga Puja and also indigenous festivals, which started with rituals in olden days, have today become a public function and cultural festivals. It showcases the cultural heritage and traditions thereby facilitate in preserving the legacy passed down by the forefathers. With exhibitions, cultural, literary and games and sports competitions and presentations, it provides ample opportunities for the youth to show their talents. He also suggested for review of public animal sacrifice by the community's elder, which has been done away by many communities.

The Governor said that as the largest tribe, onus is on the community to take care of other tribes and Sub-tribes of the State. He advised the members of the community to contribute towards conservation of the dwindling rich cultural legacy of the State and its traditions.

Recalling the early interaction between the Nyishi Tribe of present day Arunachal Pradesh and Royals of Cooch Behar and assistance provided by the Tribe to Akom Kngs during the Mughal invasion of Assam, the Governor called for strengthening amity among the two neighbours.

Impressed by the mega 'Rikam Pada' dance, the Governor advised the festival organisers to go for Guinness Book of World Records in the coming years, which was greeted with huge applause from the participants.

Guest of Honour, Shri Kumar Waii, Member of Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly in his address said that Nyokum is a festival for all and urged members of various faiths and political parties to be part of the festivity. Nyokum inspires all to preserve the flora and fauna. Like all indigenous festivals of the State, it showcases the cultural riches of the community and promotes cultural tourism in the State.

Former minister added that it also provides exposure to the youths to demonstrate their talents in cultural and literary activities along with games and sports which are organised during the festival week.

Enlightening on Nyokum mythology, Dr. Joram Begi, founder member of Nyokum Yullo celebration at Itanagar in 1980, said that Nyokum is a prayer for welfare of all human beings and for peace, progress and prosperity. Recalling the first Nyokum Yullo celebration at Zoram, in Lower Subansiri District 50 (fifty) years earlier, Dr. Begi said that it is a Cultural festival showcasing the tribe's cultural inheritance. He also recalled the establishment of the Nyokum Lapang ground, where the festival is being observed regularly in the last 36 years. Nyokum Lapang area was earlier proposed for Nyishi Heritage Village, Dr. Begi pointed.

Chairman of 36th NyokumYullo Celebration Committee, Shri Lokam Nai and General Secretary Shri Dongche Tabin also spoke on the occasion.

Former ministers, Shri Kahfa Bengia, President, People's Party of Arunachal and Shri Lokam Tassar were also present on the occasion.

A mega dance, participated by more than thousand young girls and boys and elders presented 'Rikam Pada' and Buya. Students of VKV, Chimpu, Itanagar also presented traditional dances. The day-long programme includes rituals, merry-making and traditional cultural display.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, February 26, 2016