

Arunachal Front
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Arun Self Help Mela

Women's entrepreneurial spirit



ITANAGAR, Apr 03: Arun Self Help Mela, the first of its kind, organized at Banquet Hall here Thursday by the tourism department in collaboration with the social welfare and rural development department during President Pratibha Devisingh Patil's visit, showcased the rich handicrafts and handloom heritage of the state

and the entrepreneurial skills of the state's women, reports DIPR.

The president, accompanied by her husband Devisingh Sekhawat, Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen (Retd) JJ Singh and the state's first lady Anupama Singh, visited each one of the 25 stalls of different self-help groups (SHG) from all over the

state and interacted with the entrepreneurs. The items on display included *galeys* (wraparounds), jackets, cane and bamboo works, and household items.

Apart from established societies such as the Oju Welfare Society and the Ziro-based Arun Kutir Udyog Cooperative, many newly-formed societies made an impact on the dignitaries as well as the other visitors. Some of the groups attracted visitors with their extraordinary skill and range of products: Luaksin women's SHG showcased neckties, necklaces and bead purses of various sizes and styles, while Ralbom SHG from Bilat in East Siang district attracted people with its 'local Horlicks' and other traditional delicacies.

Patil, who along with the other dignitaries tasted some of the local delicacies, was impressed by the model of a traditional Apatani hut and the popular fish-cum-paddy culture practiced so successfully in the Ziro valley of Lower Subansiri district.

The mela, supervised by tourism secretary Bandana Deori, has effectively served its objective by bringing together women of all districts on a common platform to exhibit their talents in different crafts, the report adds.