

President admires horticulture initiative at Raj Bhawan

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As part of Raj Bhavan tradition, President of India Pratibha Devisingh Patil and her spouse Dr. Devisingh Ramsingh Shekhawat planted saplings of *Brunfelsia pauciflora*, a flowering plant, in the lawns of Raj Bhavan here today.

The state Governor, Gen J J Singh, his wife Anupama Singh and minister in waiting Kalikho Pul, Finance minister were present amongst others.

Making a tour around the Raj Bhavan compound, the President visited the cane and bamboo technology center, medicinal and gerbera plants, rain water harvest and local fish rearing tank, bee keeping sheds, orchid center, fruit farm

and kitchen garden.

Minutely observing the cane and bamboo plant, President Patil pointed that with available raw materials, the ventures in the sector will be highly beneficial to local populace. Going around the medicinal plant project, the President suggested on promotion of Ayurvedic medicinal plants.

Appreciating the Governor for the vast horticulture initiative, she said, "You have become a farmer". She also went through the produces of the farm.

The Governor informed that as part of his effort to generate ideas amongst the masses for financial empowerment, he is promoting horticulture activities, bee keeping and also

highlighting on income generating avenues. Through these activities, we want to send a message that if Raj Bhavan can do it, so the local people can, he added.

Anupama Singh, joining the Governor said, efforts are also made for women empowerment through self-help income generating activities. She further apprised the President on the orchids of Arunachal Pradesh.

Later in the evening, a traditional cultural programme, depicting different tribes of the state, its customs and culture was presented in the Raj Bhavan complex, which was followed by state banquet hosted by the Governor in the honour of the President.