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FOLK DANCES A VITAL PART OF OUR CULTURAL IDENTITY –GEN.SINGH

Itanagar, October 7: The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh General (Retd) J.J. Singh appealed to the people to preserve and promote folk dances as part of Indian art and culture, while gracing the National Folk Dance Festival as chief guest at Itanagar on October 7 last. He said that if the folk dances are lost, native culture is lost and the people also losses their identity. He exhorted all to revive and preserve folk music, folk dance and folk drama of different tribes of the country.

The Governor appealed to the parents to teach their indigenous dialect, customs and traditions to their children thereby maintaining the linkage between the past, present and future. He lauded the indigenous organizations who are working in preserving indigenous faiths and cultural heritage.

Stating that Arunachal Pradesh is not only rich in biodiversity but also rich in ethnic and cultural diversity, the Governor said that it is a mini India and truly a mesmerizing cultural mosaic. He maintained that with its cultural assets, Arunachal Pradesh has huge scope for culture promotion. When combined with tourism, it will be a sustainable venture. It will provide boost to rural economy and to the State as a whole.

The Governor lauded North East Zone Cultural Center, Dimapur and State Department of Art and Culture for organizing the National Folk Dance Festival and expressed his confidence that the festival will showcase the richness, diversity and magnificence of Indian art and culture represented through folk dances. He said that folk dance and cultural festivals have always played a crucial role in increasing awareness and consciousness amongst the people about cultural heritage, traditions and practices in other parts of the country and enrich relationships. It also instills the proud spirit of 'Unity in Diversity' in every Indian.

The Governor felicitating the people associated with NEZCC, Dimapur on the occasion of its silver jubilee celebration, the Governor reposed his faith that the center will continue to promote the timeless and treasured cultural legacy of the region and also provide a platform for artists to exhibit their talent.

Guest of Honour Shri Takam Sanjay, Member of Parliament speaking on the occasion called for nation unity. Shri Sanjay, who have been associated with NEZCC since 1991 asked the center to market the cultural assets of the north eastern region properly.

Earlier in her welcome address, Smti Indra Mallo Jain, Secretary Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh briefed on the National Folk Dance festival.

State First Lady Anupama Singh, State Minister Art & Culture Shri Komlung Mossang, Shri Tali Moksha, Joint Director, North East Zone Cultural Center, Dimapur, hosts of dignitaries and senior officers of the State, officials and representatives from different States were present on the occasion.

Artists and folk dancers from Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Manipur, Gujarat, Assam and Punjab took part in the festival. Students from Kalashetra Academy of Dance and Music, Itanagar also participated in the event, **adds the report.**

Sd/ D.Dodum, PRO