

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

Puroik Community getting glimpses of a fast paced metro city- an initiative of Governor Acharya

Indian National Fellowship Centre (INFC) is hosting a team of 18 members from Puroik Community of Arunachal Pradesh in Mumbai. The team, which reached Mumbai on 6th June 2017, was warmly received by the members and volunteers of INFC.

Puroiks are one of the most educationally and economically backward tribes and as a community was historically suppressed. Though the Government officially freed them slavery few years back they still continued to live in distress and were marginalized. To help them and for their welfare the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri P.B. Acharya initiated the formation of Puroik Welfare Board to monitor the upliftment of the community. This tour is one of the many initiatives of the Governor.

Shri Acharya also took some initiatives at a personal level like sending four students, including two girls from the community to a Nursing college in Udipi, Karnataka where their education and hostel will be free and taken care by the institute Alva's Education Trust. Also Ruparel College, Mumbai has offered to sponsor five students in a course of their choice at the behest of the Governor.

The representative delegation from among the Puroiks is currently in Mumbai for a 10 day educational, emotional and National Integration tour. The idea is to give them a glimpse of a fast paced metro city like Mumbai and also expose them to various nuances of the Maharashtrian culture.

The schedule is made such a way that there is a healthy balance of fun and learning. Apart from places of interest like the Gateway of India, Taraporewala aquarium, Hanging Garden, Museum, Nehru Center the team has also visited educational institutions like Vidyanidhi Infotech Academy (VITA), Ruparel College, Bhavan's College.

At Vidyanidhi Infotech Academy (VITA), the team got to try their hand at computers and also used painting software to create beautiful images. VITA also organized a short workshop on confidence building and life and soft-skills for the visiting team. The trainer Mr. Vikram Nayak from Pune like a magician brought out some of the most amazing traits from them which probably they themselves were not aware of. Using team activities as methodology, important lessons of life were derived through games. As the games progressed the team members themselves came up with learning like the role played by hard work and perseverance in success, how to find an aim in life and what happens without it.

The workshop instructor said, "All young people are smart and bright in their own right and if given an opportunity, will shine. I want to give them the confidence they are at par with people their age and when they go back to Arunachal Pradesh they too can do wonders. I had a wonderful time having this bunch of students which is also a new experience for me."

The workshop pedagogy was such that the team and the trainer became friends and concluded the evening with a short song and dance sequence.

Shri Bihu Paichen, a student of RGU and one of the Team members said, "This workshop was so much fun. We thought we were just playing some team games but at the end of every game we learnt something so important. I want to share all this with my friends back home"

Another important visit of the team was to Excel Industries where the team had the pleasure of interacting with Shri Ashwin Shroff, Chairman and Shri Rishit Shroff, Executive Director of the company. At Excel they also saw how to convert organic waste to manure. Mr. Ashwin Shroff encouraged the team to take it up as an entrepreneurial venture where small organic waste converters can be set up and manure can be sold to the vast agriculture dependant population of the region.

Since cultural understanding is an essential component of the visit the team spent a day with local Maharashtrian host families. This will be a good avenue for exchange of information and improve knowledge about the respective cultures. The team will also be visiting Jawahar where they will be exposed to rural regions of Maharashtra.

Coming to Mumbai and you can't miss the B-town buzz. The team was delighted to pass through Mr. Amitabh Bachhan's house, visit a set where popular television soap was being shot and also caught a movie screening in a multiplex.

The team will be meeting Mr. Girish Mahajan, Hon. Minister for Medical Education and Water Resources, Government of Maharashtra and will presenting to him memento & souvenir symbolizing the soul of Arunachal Pradesh.

They will be hosted by various families and will be visiting a village near Mumbai. To expose them to various possibilities keeping skill development in mind they visited Excel Industries, a bakery, integrated agricultural farm etc.

The tour will conclude with a cultural evening where a social group from Vile Parle will be hosting them. The evening will have performances by the visiting team where they will showcase the rich culture from Arunachal Pradesh particularly the Puroik dances and songs and also by local dance troupe displaying lavni and lezim.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
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