

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

Press Communiqué

Governor inaugurates RFL-Independence Cup 2026

Governor calls upon the youth to embrace sports as a pathway to discipline, leadership, healthy living, and nation-building

Governor lauds the Rupa Town Club and the Indian Army for organizing the tournament

Rupa Football League serve as important platforms for identifying and nurturing future champions, particularly in remote and border areas: Governor

Every goal scored, every challenge overcome, and every act of fair play contributes to building a stronger nation: Governor

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt Gen KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.) inaugurated the Rupa Football League- Independence Cup Football Tournament at Gyaptang Stadium, Rupa, West Kameng District on 26th July 2026. Jointly organized by the Indian Army and Rupa Town Club under the theme 'Say No to Drugs, Yes to Football', 16 teams, including Indian Army formations under Kameng Sector and teams from across the North Eastern States and neighbouring country Nepal are participating in the tournament. Six women teams are also participating in the women's league.

In his inaugural address, the Governor called upon the youth to embrace sports as a pathway to discipline, leadership, healthy living, and nation-building, while advocating the message of 'Play Hard, Play Fair, and let the spirit of football unite us all'.

Highlighting the transformative power of football, the Governor said that the sport teaches invaluable life lessons such as teamwork, perseverance, resilience, respect for rules, and the ability to perform under pressure. He observed that sports provide a constructive avenue for channeling youthful energy, building confidence, and developing character.

Referring to the growing concern of substance abuse and other social challenges, the Governor emphasized that sports offer a healthy and meaningful alternative, helping young people develop positive habits and a strong sense of purpose.

The Governor said that Arunachal Pradesh possesses immense sporting talent and urged sustained investment in infrastructure, coaching, and exposure opportunities to help young athletes realize their full potential. He said that tournaments such as the Rupa Football League serve as important platforms for identifying and nurturing future champions, particularly in remote and border areas.

Impressed by the excellent infrastructure and potential of Gyaptang Stadium at Rupa, the Governor suggested the establishment of a dedicated Football Academy at the venue. He observed that quality sporting infrastructure serves as a catalyst for nurturing young talent and fostering a culture of excellence in sports.

The Governor emphasized that a well-developed stadium naturally attracts qualified coaches, trainers, and sports professionals, creating an enabling environment for systematic training and talent development. He noted that the presence of a Football Academy would facilitate scientific coaching, regular competitions, and effective talent scouting, enabling promising footballers from the region to realize their full potential.

Appreciating the inclusion of a Women's Football League, the Governor described it as a significant step towards promoting gender equality and empowering young women through sports. He said that the participation of women enriches the sporting ecosystem and inspires future generations to pursue their dreams with confidence.

The Governor lauded the Rupa Town Club and the Indian Army for organizing the tournament. He particularly commended the Indian Army for its continued contribution to youth development, community outreach, and nation-building initiatives in border areas. He said that the tournament reflects the strong bond of trust and cooperation between the people of West Kameng and the armed forces.

Calling upon players to compete with passion, integrity, and sportsmanship, the Governor said that victory and defeat are both part of the learning process. He urged parents, coaches, and community members to continue supporting young athletes in their pursuit of excellence.

Reiterating the role of youth in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, the Governor said that every goal scored, every challenge overcome, and every act of fair play contributes to building a stronger nation.

Local MLA and Chief Patron of the Rupa Football League Organizing Committee, Shri Tseten Chombay, 6-Thrizino-Buragaon Assembly Constituency MLA, Shri Tenzin Nyima Glow and the General Officer Commanding, 5 Mtn Div, Maj Gen Amit Nautiyal SM, VSM, also addressed the gathering. They highlighted the importance of sports in promoting youth development, fostering discipline and teamwork, and strengthening community bonds. They also underscored the significance of such initiatives in reinforcing the spirit of national integration and cooperation between the local communities and the Indian Army.

MLA, 6-Thrizino-Buragaon Assembly Constituency, Shri Tenzin Nyima Glow, Deputy Commissioner, West Kameng District, Dr. Dilip Kumar, Superintendent of Police, Dr. D.W. Thongon, former minister Shri D.K. Thongdok, former secretary, Rajya Sainik Board, Air Commodore Rinchin Musabi (Retd.), army and SSB officers, Panchayat leaders and invitees attended the inaugural function.

The inaugural ceremony was marked by colourful traditional welcome dances and vibrant cultural performances presented by local artistes. Showcasing the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the region, the performances added grandeur to the event and reflected the cultural diversity and unity of Arunachal Pradesh. The enthusiastic participation of the local community, youth, and sports enthusiasts created a festive atmosphere, setting the stage for an exciting and competitive football tournament.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
RUPA, July 26, 2026