

PRESS RELEASE NO- 18

Governor graces Yomgo river festival

Itanagar, January 15: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen JJ Singh while attending the concluding day of Yomgo River Festival at Aalo in West Siang district on Jan 15 last expressed his happiness as the festival has become a very important feature in the annual Tourism Festival calendar of the State. Such festival helps in promotion of the rich cultural heritage, its exotic food habits, places of tourism interest and other potentials of the State, he added, **reports PRO to Governor.**

Saying Tourism and Cultural Festivals as a great potential in the growth of Arunachal Pradesh and in becoming sustainable contributors towards State's economy the Governor meaningfully embraces the change and development of the State. Arunachal which is graced with bountiful coverage of flora and fauna, varying altitudes, abundant flowing rivers and a rich and diverse ethnic tribal population has an enriching experience and insight to offer to all our guests the Governor was confident that this festival will continue to showcase this beautiful part of Arunachal Pradesh.

Gen Singh congratulated the organizers, the participants and local villagers for their immense contribution for the success of the festival. As a token of encouragement to the cultural troupes and appreciation from Raj Bhavan, Governor made cash contribution towards the festival.

While urging the people to go for small scale entrepreneurship in viable sectors like fruit cultivation, tea, organic farming and handlooms and handicrafts, Gen Singh called upon them to join 'Team Arunachal' for development of the State and be active partners in the growth process. I want people of Arunachal Pradesh to be the leading citizen of the country having higher level of living standard. Reposing his faith on the government officials and the people, he added, I am confident, with dedication and hard work we can achieve it. Governor went on suggesting the local people to form cooperatives and exploit the avenues for income generations. He also suggested them to avail expertise from the Indian Council for Agricultural Research.

In his welcome address, West Siang Deputy Commissioner, Amjad Tak informed that this year's festival is the fifth edition of the River Festival which started in the year 2007.

Presenting glimpses of the festival, Tak said, during the five-day event, troupes from Galo, Minyong, Bori, Bokar and Memba tribes of the district presented cultural programmes. Cultural troupes from Karnataka, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Orissa, Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya also participated making it a medium of interstate cultural exchange programme. As an effort to promote indigenous games and sports, competitions were also organized. AIDS control Society of Arunachal Pradesh also took actively participated in the festival, he added. Former Zilla Parishad Chairperson Gumli Lollen also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, on his arrival to the festival ground, Governor and his entourage were accorded warm reception by large numbers of cultural troupes and Ponu parties. Governor visited the exhibition stalls by Indian Council for Agricultural Research, Krishi Vigya Kendra, West Siang district, Khadi and Vikas Kendra, Departments of Handlooms and Handicrafts, Agriculture and Horticulture, PMEGP entrepreneurs, local entrepreneurs and the Indian Army. He also visited food stalls and interacted with the participants. Accompanied by the local MLA and KVIB Chairman Jarkar Gamlin and other dignitaries, Governor saw the traditional houses of different tribes of the district and boat houses constructed by the local people for the festival.

Secretary to Governor Ankur Garg, Special Secretary Finance Swati Sharma, former ministers, Doi Ado and Dibang Tatak, Zilla Parishad Chairperson Jarsa Gamlin, senior officers of the districts and public leaders and general public were present on the occasion. Various ponu troupes of Aalo Township presented a mega Ponu dance. Cultural troupes from various community of the district and those from Sikkim and Meghalaya also presented cultural items. A dance titled 'Ngunuk Arunachal' or 'Hamara Arunachal' in Hindi was the highlight of the cultural porogramme. Later the guests and invitees attended a community feast and had taste of the exotic indigenous foods of the district.

Special highlights of the festival were the marvelous floating bridges constructed by the villagers of Kabu village and the musical nite by renowned Singer Zubin Garg, who enthralled twenty thousand strong audiences on the third evening of the festival. Efforts were made to showcase the tourism potential of the district through the river festival. Large numbers of visitors, foreign and local tourists and festival revelers attended the five-day programme.

Sd/- Ome Tayeng, Asst. PRO