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Cultures amalgamate at North East Tibetan fest

Governor pays rich tributes to North East Tibetan people

Therali Ovung

CAMPUS: In an evening of its kind, 'Footprints 3.0,' a cultural fest dedicated to the Tibetan and Northeastern states of India, flung open a platform for the Northeast and Tibetan students to expose their much unexplored culture, gifting everyone, an extravagant cultural and musical bonanza on February 6 at St Joseph's College campus.

Expressing his attachment to Northeast, Hans Raj Bhadraraj, Governor of Karnataka and the Chief Guest of the event said that he had been attached to the Northeast right from his early days of his political career. "I have known every leader of the Northeast



Rector, Fr Terence felicitated the Governor with the traditional Naga attire

and all these have brought me very close to the region," he said.

Reminiscing on his past ex-

'I was born in one state, graduated in another, elected from a third'

CAMPUS: Terming the people of the Northeast as warm and good hearted, Governor Shri Bhadraraj said that the seven sister states were rich in culture and traditions - a true example of unity in diversity. "Such unity in diversity is of utmost importance for all of us," he said.

Calling himself as one who belonged to many States, Shri Bhadraraj said, "I was born in one state, did my schooling in another; my Law degree was from a different state and I was elected to the Parliament from wholly a different state. And now as you can see, I am the Governor of Karnataka." Governor had good words for



The Bihu dance from Assam is performed during the harvest festival by couples. The dance received much cheer from the audience at the Footprints

periences, he said that he had laid the foundation of Nagaland High Court only with the view that students would join bar and become judges and lawyers and shoot into the mainstream of the country. "That was my vision to develop good institution for higher learning of northeast," he pointed. Appreciating colleges that strived to promote friendship and goodwill among students coming from varied communities, he opined that such colleges served the country in the most dignified way. "I am proud that such institutions as this one are doing an outstanding and constructive work," he acclaimed.

Highlighting on 'family, unity in diversity' as the mantra of St Joseph's College,

Fr Ambrose Pinto, Principal, said, "The College appreciates every culture and community with their differences. Through our commitment to the love of diversity, we desire to make a thousand orchards bloom in this campus."

Terming the fest as 'unique and the only one of its kind' among all colleges in Bangalore, Fr Pinto further said, "Footprints signify a musical note and convey harmony through the folk, classical dances, music and food of Northeast states. There is no better way to safeguard diversity than providing opportunities for performance."

Based under the theme 'A cultural Amalgamation', the fest was organised by the North East and Tibetan Forum

of St Joseph's College with the main objective of bridging cultural gap and help bring students of different states



The traditional Rongmei dance performed at the Footprints 3.0 depicts true individuality of Rongmeis

together in showcasing their distinct culture and traditions.

The four hour fest was laden with a medley of many tribal dances and songs, each carry-

never thought I would have such a nice time being here. I loved the traditional ramp walk and, of course, the food."

Dances galore at the fest

CAMPUS: Graceful dances, foot tapping music and the climatic ramp show of traditional North East and Tibetan attire marked the cultural extravaganza, Footprints 3.0, at the College grounds on Saturday. There were dances from all seven sister states of North East and from Tibet.

Naga students performed the traditional Rongmei dance. This dance, accompanied with drum beatings, enhances the liveliness and intrinsic interest of its audiences and sway their hearts as the dancers move. 'Laam' meaning dance in Rongmei dialect depicts the true individuality of the Rongmeis.

The Mizo dance that was performed is called Chawnglaizawn dance. This

dance is performed mainly on two occasions: when one loses his wife and when they bag a rich haul after hunting. It is both individual and group.

The Kuki dance from Manipur is performed mainly in November, after the harvest. Today it has been influenced by with modernisation and performed mainly by young people to celebrate the hard work. They drink the local rice beer as they dance. The elders surround them and command their moves.

The Bihu dance from Assam is also performed during the harvest season by couples to express their joy and love for each other.

(With inputs from Michael, Puia, Yurseem, Robertson, Priya and Preeti.)



Governor, Principal and Rector with audience at the fest

the Tibetan people as well. He said that they should be treated as our own people and their culture and traditions should be respected. "His Holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet is the most pure soul in the world," Shri Bhadraraj acclaimed.

Over two thousand people - mostly from Northeast and Tibet - attended the fest that was colourful and visually pleasing, what with Northeast and Tibetan the unique culture and tradition on full display at the SJC grounds. Rector, Fr Terence Farias was present.