

CM appeals to discourage polygamy

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ITANAGAR, Nov 26: Chief Minister Pema Khandu appealed one and all to discourage people from practicing 'polygamy' in the state.

Speaking at the Mrs. Arunachal-2016 pageant organised by Ngurang Learning Institute (NLI) at Dree Ground here, the Chief Minister said he personally does not encourage polygamy and wished to see the end of such practice in the state.

The issue of polygamy came in the backdrop of discussion on applicability of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in tribal state Arunachal with respect to women's right. This was highlighted in her earlier keynote address by noted women activist, Jarjum Ete.

It is worth mentioning here that majority of the contestants of the beauty pageant were sufferers of polygamy and domestic violence.



Grand finale of Mrs Arunachal-2016 in progress

Pema observed that women in Arunachal normally hold respectable position in the society as compared to other societies from rest of the country. He, however, said this could depend on communities, where they follow different customs.

The Chief Minister assured to initiate dialogue with various women organisations to discuss on implementation of UCC in the state. Pema also promised that budget for the coming financial year will be 'women-friendly', which will be prepared in consultation with various women organisations.

The Chief Minister said the budget will also accommodate the interest of all tribal communities and community based organizations.

In her key-note address, Ete spoke on UCC, its implementation, women's inheritance rights in tribal society.

Earlier in his welcome address, patron of Mrs Arunachal-2016, Ngurang Pinch appealed people to encourage women's inheritance right.

A 5-minute video presentation on NLI and its founder, Ngurang Meena on her struggle as women activists were narrated. Meena is known for her role in fighting for women's right in traditional patriarchal society.

The event also saw pageant judges – Everester Anshu Janshempa, first DSP of state Techhi Henyir and Adult Education activist Toko Mina being felicitated.

Rajya Sabha MP MC Mary Kom and North East's first woman Everester Tine Mena were also present on the occasion.