



Raj Bhawan Information Wing, Uttarakhand

Press Note

**Rajiv Gandhi Inter-University Youth Festival ,Uttarakhand: Realisation of a Dream**

**Raj Bhawan Dehradun, 01<sup>st</sup> March, 2013**

Last evening saw the culmination of the 1st Rajiv Gandhi Inter-University Youth Festival at Doon University, Dehradun. Graphic Era Deemed University bagged the trophy for cultural events while HNB Garhwal University won the trophy for Sports.

The five-day festival brought together students of 19 universities of Uttarakhand for the first time .And all this happened as a result of an idea which first came to Uttarakhand Governor Dr.Aziz Qureshi . In all these years since the creation of Uttarakhand, no such organized effort to bring together the youth of the state had been made . That is the reason of the magnificent response the event has evoked.

The Governor was extremely keen that the youth of Uttarakhand be given a vast platform where they can express their talent in cultural and sports activities. Also, it was his wish that the rich cultural heritage of the state should be exhibited at the festival . Both at the inaugural on February 24 and the conclusion last evening, the Governor reiterated his appreciation of the Vice Chancellors of the various universities of the state for having co-operated with him to implement his idea of a youth festival.

The festival was named **“Rajiv Gandhi Inter-University Youth Festival, Uttarakhand”** during the inaugural ceremony where the Governor, with the consent of the students , gave this name to the event which he said would be held every year from now. He said that it was Rajiv Gandhi who first thought of giving 18 year olds the right to vote. “He recognized the power of youth and it is appropriate that this energetic youth festival be named after him,” he said. Students of the state have never witnessed this kind of an atmosphere and responded with great enthusiasm, putting forward their talent to the best of their ability.

The Governor’s idea of having such a festival for university students has been greatly welcomed .It has inspired students as well as teachers, besides all the people of the state. He said the government should ensure that funds be made available in the future to help this festival evolve into a national level youth festival.

The festival gave youngsters the opportunity to meet people from other universities and other spheres of life. In this day and era , when people rarely find time for social activities, such a platform can be of great significance for nurturing social skills and involvement.

The Governor believes greatly in the potential of the state’s youth and wishes that they should get as many platforms as possible to exhibit their energy in sports and cultural activities. **“This festival will be the best platform for them to meet each other, interact with people and create a unique identity which would give a message to the entire country about the talent of Uttarakhand’s youth.”**

Seeing the success of the festival and witnessing its vibrance and beauty is testimony to the fact that the dream which Dr.Qureshi saw for Uttarakhand’s youth has started being realized and ,over the years, will reach greater fulfillment.

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