



Speech

of

Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati
Hon'ble Governor of Mizoram

On The Occasion of

18th FRESHER'S SOCIAL MEET
CUM
AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Organized By

Mizoram Chakma Students' Union

On

26th October, 2024

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to be with you all here today for the Fresher's Social and Awareness Campaign organized by the Mizoram Chakma Students' Union.

Over the years, the Chakma Students' Union has been a helpful resource for students to find community support, guidance, and assistance here in Aizawl. It has also played a significant role in preserving and promoting Chakma culture, language, and traditions among the younger generation in Mizoram. Apart from advocating for the rights and opportunities for students in education and other student affairs, the Union has been engaging in broader social issues affecting the Chakma community, as we have seen, these include matters of identity, representation, and human rights.

A very important decision was made during the Executive Committee meeting of the 11th Chakma Autonomous District Council held on 4th October, 2024, where the CADC decided to introduce Mizo as a subject in schools within its jurisdiction, from the primary to upper levels. This move will surely cultivate bilingual proficiency among students. Learning Mizo is crucial as it promotes better communication and understanding with the local community. It also opens up academic and professional opportunities, as many institutions and workplaces in Mizoram operate in Mizo.

As we have seen in the student communities in other states of India, it is also important to foster mutual respect and learning between Chakma and Mizo students. While adapting to the local culture, I encourage everyone present here to share your cultural heritage through events, discussions, and personal interactions while also being mindful of local customs, social and religious practices. For those who have come from other states, studying in Aizawl offers you an opportunity to build beautiful friendships across ethnic lines. By actively participating in school or college activities, sports, and study

groups, lasting relationships can be formed with students of other communities. This not only offers a chance to connect and get involved in common student issues, but it can also create a balance between adapting to a new culture while preserving one's own.

As you move forward, remember that education is not just about academic achievement but also a tool for empowerment and a means to bridge gaps, resulting in understanding and unity in society. You are not just students; you are ambassadors of your culture and reformers for your community. It is vital to keep in mind that you are shaping not only your own future but also that of the Chakma community in Mizoram and beyond. It is my wish that you continue to lead with integrity and a strong sense of responsibility.

As Mizoram continues its journey towards progress with the rest of India, the role of students, of all cultures and backgrounds, remains integral in shaping a bright future. May your hardwork and dedication result in great achievements. I wish you success in all your aspirations.

Jai Hind.