

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, THE HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
MANIPUR ON THE OCCASION OF BOOK RELEASE FUNCTION ON
JULY 20, 2017 AT DURBAR HALL, RAJ BHAVAN, IMPHAL

Respected R.K. Jhalajit Singh ji, Padmashree,

Prof. Jodhachandra Sanasam, Sahitya Akademi Award Recipient,

Dr. Jamini Devji ji, President and other members of Raseswari Pala Marup,
Imphal,

Friends from media,

Distinguished invitees, and

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you to the Raj Bhavan. I am sure, for many of you it is the first visit to the Raj Bhavan, Imphal and I can confidently say that you will not be disappointed by its regal beauty.

Let me share with the audience present here that before I was given the gubernatorial assignment of Manipur state in the month of August, 2016, I had heard and read a lot about the rich cultural heritage and traditions of this tiny state in the North East. When I was appointed as the Governor of Manipur, I was so happy and excited at the prospect that I would be mixing up with people having an established cultural identity in the country.

I am happy to release the book “Lumbini Leikonda Sathouba Leirang” roughly translated as ‘the flower that was blooming in the Lumbini garden’ a travelogue written by Dr. Jamini Devi on their recent visit to Nepal. As you all are well aware, Dr. Jamini Devi is one of the most popular women writers in the state and she has contributed handsomely to the development of Manipuri literature. I have no doubt that the readers of her travelogue will find it equally interesting as her other literary works. I wish I could read and

understand Manipuri language to be able to imbibe the travelogue in its original Manipuri flavour.

I remember that Dr. Jamini Devi, President along with other members of the group called on me before they embarked for Nepal and I profusely wished them a successful visit to our neighbouring country. I am also very happy to learn that the team met the President of Nepal during their stay in that country and exchanged views regarding the age-old cultural relation between Manipur and Nepal. It was in the 20th century that Maharaj Bodhachandra, the king of Manipur married Iswari Devi of Nepal and made her queen of that country. The role of the Organization for the propagation and preservation of culture of Manipur by organizing seminars and cultural festivals at different places within the state and outside is quite commendable. It is also heartening to know that the Organization is arranging cultural festivals not only in the country but also on foreign soil such as Myanmar, Kathmandu and Bangladesh. Our writers and poets should relentlessly strive to promote Manipuri culture and literature and also to make it more comprehensible to the masses. This way we can draw more admirers to our culture and in the process give a new dimension and vision for the development of Manipuri culture and literature. The effort to bring out this book (A travelogue) by Dr. Jamini Devi is indeed laudable and I congratulate the team involved in the process.

I am also myself an avid traveller and I have travelled far and wide all over the globe. As the President of the Inter-Parliament Union (IPU) and even otherwise also there is hardly any country which I have not visited. Meeting different peoples with diverse cultural background and habits has left deep impressions on my mind. I find it interesting to meet people belonging to different countries, laced with beautiful anecdotes which are

sometimes scary and strange too. I also hope to write one day my travelogue, which will be an account of my visits to different parts of the world.

With these words, I, once again, congratulate Dr. Jamini Devi and her group for their efforts in bringing out this travelogue and I look forward to more of such literary pursuit in the times to come.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.