

SPEECH OF THE HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR, DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA AT THE FLUTE CONCERT OF WORLD FLUTE FESTIVAL ON 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2016 AT 5.30 P.M. AT MAHARAJA CHANDRAKIRTI AUDITORIUM, PALACE COMPOUND, IMPHAL

Mr. Arcadio Baracchi,
Pandit Chetan Joshi ji,
Shri Biswajit Pal ji,
Dr. Sushila ji, Director, Arts and Culture, Govt. of Manipur.
Print and Electronic Media members,
Distinguished Invitees,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a matter of great happiness for me to inaugurate this Flute Concert as a part of the ongoing World Flute Festival, organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in collaboration with the Department of Arts and Culture, Government of Manipur. I have a soft corner for this musical instrument and it will be a rewarding experience personally to listen to the flute concert presented by Mr. Arcadio Baracchi from Italy along with Pandit Chetan Joshi and Shri Biswajit Pal. I compliment the organizers and some of you may be aware that my grandfather, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad was the founder of ICCR. I also welcome all the artistes especially those coming from outside the State and wish them a happy stay.

Flute which is an integral part of culture and tradition of any civilization, has developed through the ages and is a part and parcel of human life. The flute figures prominently in some of the great Indian mythologies. The flute known as Bansuri was inseparable from the life of Lord Krishna. He played the Bansuri sideways rather than straight and the mystical sound produced by Lord Krishna's Bansuri mesmerised the humans, animals and birds alike. Historical records indicate that several centuries before the birth of Christ all theatrical arts of India were already developed. But one could say that today's flute music instrument is the result of the past one century of activity. The flute developed from a Folk Musical Instrument to a Stage Musical Instrument under the renowned flute exponent Shri Panna Lal Ghosh. I still have a

vivid childhood memory of listening to Panna Lal Ghosh flute on AIR. It should be the bounden duty of the present generation to preserve and promote the Indian flute music.

The idea of organizing this Concert at Imphal as a part of World Flute Festival by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations with active participation of the State Government Department is indeed laudable by all. Manipur is best known for its rich culture and traditions. I hope that the Concert will give a boost to the presence of Manipur on the Cultural Map of India and the World and will prove to be the silken thread to bind the people of Manipur with those of the other parts of the country more strongly. It can also prove to be one of the key factors for national understanding and integration.

Organizing a concert of any kind provides a good opportunity to the participants for displaying their talents and also to meet together and exchange their ideas and experience in their respective fields. I am confident that the present flute concert will provide the opportunity to the artistes/flute singers in this regard. More importantly, the present concert is an endeavour towards the broader objective of ICCR to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries, to promote cultural exchanges with other countries and people and to develop relations with other Nations. If I may recollect, when I was the Chairperson of ICCR during 2002-2005, this type of concerts were organized successfully not only in the country but in the overseas countries also. Therefore, organization of such concerts on regular basis will be so helpful in preserving and developing of Flute music like other music, apart from fulfilling the objectives of ICCR. I, once again, thank the Regional Office, ICCR for making this Concert a success and hope many concerts will follow in future to carry forward the aims and ideals of the ICCR. .

I thank the organizers for inviting me to this wonderful and memorable concert and wish the same a grand success.

Thank you.

Jai Hind.