

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE CLOSING FUNCTION OF CULTURAL-CUM-LITERARY MEET, 2019 ON 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2019 AT THE AUDITORIUM OF MANIPUR STATE FILM DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY, IMPHAL

Shri Th. Biswajit Singh ji, Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department,

Shri L. Jayantakumar Singh ji, Hon'ble Minister, Art & Culture,

Other dignitaries on the dais,

Friends from Media,

All eminent personalities in the field of culture and literature,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very happy to be here at the closing function of the Cultural-cum-Literary Meet, 2019, organized by the Manipur University of Culture. The Manipur University of Culture is a unique institution and a rare asset of the State. The efforts made by the University to safeguard the rich cultural heritage of the State and nourish its tremendous potential as has been envisaged in the cultural policies of the Government deserve commendation and praise.

The small State of Manipur is vibrant with natural beauty and boasts of a rich cultural heritage. The unique language and literature of Manipur are widely appreciated on the global platform. The history and customs of the people attract attention from far and wide. Their belief and practices have always charmed the foreigners. Frankly speaking, this tiny State of the country may be called as "Unexplored Paradise". The historical explanation of the growth of a distinctive cultural pattern and its philosophical significance play a very important role in literature as literature is also a product of the same culture through a historical process. Thus, the celebration of this Cultural-cum-Literary Meet shows the inevitability of simultaneous study of the context and the text along with non-literary cultural

elements in understanding literature. I am confident that this programme of Cultural-cum-Literary Meet will serve its purpose of highlighting and promoting the rich culture and literature of Manipur, the attributes of an ancient civilization.

The establishment of Manipur University of Culture by the Government of Manipur has been a landmark step for preservation and propagation of the rich cultural heritage of the State. It has been spawned under a driving need to safeguard this priceless cultural heritage and to work for its development. The ancient culture of the land finds its expression in the collective institutions, character, manner, beliefs as well as in fine arts, indigenous sports, literature and martial arts. The young University aims at unleashing the fundamental philosophy which was inherently there behind these rich and colourful cultural elements. This University will become an important and prestigious cultural centre on the country's cultural map in due course of time.

In our march towards progress and prosperity, our cultural riches are our assets and that make us proud, beautiful and connected. We must ensure the survival of our handicrafts, traditional art, dance forms and music. We should encourage our youths to keep these skills and creativity alive and robust. All the eminent personalities present here today are well aware that the richness of the Indian literature is mainly contributed by the works in different Indian languages, many of which await translation into either English or other languages. Hence, this richness is left unknown to those who do not know the particular native language. This is true for Manipuri literature also. I would like to make a sincere appeal to all that efforts need to be made for translating Manipuri works into English and other languages. This will enhance the popularity of the work and I believe, if this is done, many of our creative writers will become household names in both inside and outside the State. This will also help in getting publishers for our creative

writers who ultimately publish their own work as there is serious dearth of publishers.

I, once again, congratulate the Manipur University of Culture for taking this significant step for a deeper appreciation of the rich culture and associated literary wealth of an ancient civilization. It will have a major role towards cultural integration, growth and prosperity which will lead to communal harmony in the State. I am very hopeful that it will certainly usher in a better, richer and more dynamic Manipur where all communities will be proud of their identities and promote cultural harmony having integrative effect on the different communities. I, once again, compliment the Manipur University of Culture and look forward to much more of such activity in future.

Once again, I thank the organizers for inviting me to this memorable function.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.