

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE MUSICAL CONCERT BY JENNY CARDENAS & THE BOLIVIAN CAPIHUARAS (FROM BOLIVIA) ON 7TH NOVEMBER, 2019 AT MANIPUR STATE FILM DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY AUDITORIUM, IMPHAL.

Padma Shri Elam Indira ji,

Shri N. Munish Singh, Regional Director, Indian Council for Cultural Relations,

All the participating Artistes of Bolivian Musical Concert Team,

Friends from Electronic and Print Media,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is, indeed, a great pleasure for me to be with you all today. I am also very happy to have this opportunity of meeting you all at this Musical Concert by a group from Bolivia. Congratulations to all of you. I also thank the officials of Regional Office, Indian Council for Cultural Relations for organizing such a memorable mega musical concert at Imphal.

I am happy to learn that the Indian Council for Cultural Relations is hosting Latin America Festival in different parts of the country and as a part of the festival, ICCR in collaboration with the Department of Art and Culture, Government of Manipur is presenting a Concert today by Jenny Cardenas and The Bolivian Capihuaras. I, on behalf of the people of Manipur, heartily welcome you in this tiny State of the country. I hope that such kind of cultural exchange programmes will strengthen the relationship between India and rest of the globe. I am, indeed, very happy to learn that Cultural Troupes from Manipur are also visiting different countries representing India and its rich cultural heritage during this current year. My blessings will always be with them.

Your main objective is to foster and disseminate your musical culture all over the world and to further develop and consolidate the composite Bolivian musical culture.

As you are well aware that music has always had a special place in the life of a people, doubly so, when it is folk song. No other forms of arts can so quickly, so spontaneously and so genuinely capture both pain and joy together of a society, as folk song does. The simplicity and melodic beauty of the traditional instruments, the stark realities depicted by the folk singers in a folk song is a soul uplifting experience.

Manipur is well-known for its rich cultural heritage not only in the country but overseas. Manipur is almost synonymous with dances and music. Dancing for the sake of dancing was almost unknown here. The occasion of dances in Manipur is the changing of seasons and the objective is devotional. I have also been given to understand that artistes from this State have given more than thousand shows in our country and several countries abroad and have brought commendation and recognition from various foreign countries.

Organization of such musical concert of a foreign country will help in enhancing the popularity of music of a foreign country and I strongly believe that during the musical concert many renowned singers of Bolivia will have tremendous opportunities to exchange their valuable views for promoting the diverse cultural activities of the country in general and the State in particular.

Music and dance are torch bearers and their studies provide not only a cultural and traditional glimpse of society but also reflect its vast image. Music brings out the traditional richness and beauty of the people through the language of common and unassuming people.

I am fully confident that the ICCR's endeavour to keep performing various Musical Concerts so that the ICCR will be able to disseminate message to the people of the country as a whole for bringing peace and

harmony in the society. I congratulate the singers of the Bolivian Capihuaras. I also do not intend to take much of your time as everybody must be eagerly waiting to listen to the wonderful Musical Concert to be performed by the talented singers of the Bolivian Capihuaras in a few minutes from now. My good wishes to all the singers of the Concert.

I, once again, thank the organizers for inviting me to this wonderful Musical Concert and wish the concert a grand success.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.