

SPEECH OF SHRI LA. GANESAN, HON'BLE GOVERNOR
OF MANIPUR ON THE OCCASION OF 84TH VYASA PUJA
AT RANGANIKETAN MANDAP, SANGAIPROU, IMPHAL
ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2021.

Iningthou Leishemba Sanajaoba ji,

Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha),

Respected Gurus and Artistes of Goura Dhumen Yagna,

Distinguished Invitees,

Friends from Electronic and Print Media,

Brothers and Sisters,

It gives me an immense pleasure to be with you all this afternoon on the auspicious occasion of 84th Vyasa Puja celebration of His Divine Holiness Srila Bhaktisvarupa Damodara Swami Sripada Maharaja, popularly known Dr. T.D. Singh. As far as Swami ji's academic career is concerned, I do not intend to dilate as all the distinguished personalities present here are well aware of it.

The efforts and pain made and taken by the Ranganiketan International Centre for Manipuri Arts and Culture to organize such sacred Puja celebration in honour of Swami ji are, indeed, commendable and praiseworthy by one and all.

Brothers and Sisters, His Holiness Sripada Maharaja was a visionary. His message was clear - science and spirituality are indispensable partners in humanity's quest for truth, peace and happiness. Though a trained Chemist with a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry, Sripada Maharaja's objective extended far beyond the mere combination of atoms and molecules and His Holiness engaged in the chemistry of the paradigms of thought and culture. Today, the study of consciousness and understanding the soul, the spiritual dimension of life is getting more attention in academic circles, particularly among top scientists. Interest in understanding the Vedantic paradigm of life and the cosmos is rekindled in Colleges and Universities. The All India Science and Spiritual Quest Annual Conferences that he had started which is held in the top educational institutions in India receive overwhelming response and participation from the brightest young minds of our Nation.

Most importantly, as a true spiritualist, he saw every one as a child of the Supreme Lord, regardless of religious beliefs, ethnicity, caste or any secular designations for that matter.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to note that as a founding member of the United Religions Initiative (URI) which was formed under the auspices of the United Nations, Sripada Maharaja contributed to the penning of the URI charter and helped form Cooperation Circles for inter-religious dialogue and peace in many parts of the world. Indeed, he was well-loved by the members of the

URI. Even after his passing, members of URI, to honour him, organized URI Second Annual Assembly in 2008 at the World Headquarters of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in the holy land of Sri Mayapur Dham, the birth place of the Lord, Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

I feel, indeed, honoured to have an opportunity to be in your midst today in observing the Vyasa Puja ceremony of His Holiness Bhaktisvarupa Swami Sripada Maharaja, Dr. T.D. Singh. I do not intend to take much of your time as the brothers and sisters present here today must be eagerly waiting to witness the most impressive Goura Dhumen Sankirtana which is going to be performed in a short while from now.

Thank you,

Jai Hind,

Jai Krishna.