

REPUBLIC DAY SPEECH BY SHRI LA. GANESAN, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR TO BE BROADCAST OVER DOORDARSHAN KENDRA, IMPHAL ON 26TH JANUARY, 2022.

VANDE MATARAM

KHURUMJARI,

My dear Sisters and Brothers

It is indeed a pleasure to address you on this Republic Day during the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' the 75th year of Independence celebration. My best wishes to the people of India and particularly the people of Manipur. My salutations and pranams to all the Freedom fighters and my respects to all those who have sacrificed their lives for the Mother Land. Our classic non-violent fight for Freedom, under Mahatma Gandhi's leadership, continues to serve as a path-setter for the oppressed and exploited people all over the world. On this historic occasion, let me also congratulate the Security Forces for the stupendous role being played by them in keeping our Country safe.

Manipur is a land of Freedom fighters who had fought along with Shri Neta Ji Subash Chandra Bose, in a revolution. Fight for Freedom in Manipur has history traced back to the 1820s Anglo Burmese war where Raja Gambhir Singh was successful in defeating the Burmese. Manipur also has the proud History of Colonel Shaukat Malik of the Indian National Army hoisting the Tricolour for the first time on Indian soil on 14 April 1944.

There are many Freedom fighters in Manipur who have been recognized by the State but are not famous in other parts of the Country. During his speech, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has highlighted the sacrifice of all the Unsung heroes of the Nation and has requested all the people to make efforts to spread awareness about the Unsung heroes of the Nation. It is our duty to proudly speak about the Unsung heroes of Manipur like Bir Tikendrajit Singh, Rani Gaidinliu, Paona Brajabashi, etc and make them famous among the people in the other states in India.

On this Republic day, let us remember the efforts of the Author of our Constitution, Dr BR Ambedkar and thank all the members of the committee who had strived that every person in India should be given equal right and should be treated equally. It is our ardent duty to remember and pay respects to Shri Vallabhai Patel the Iron Man of India, without whom the 565 princely states would not have united into One Bharath. We are one in culture from time immemorial. Our Nation is one and though we have a fascinating unity amidst breathtaking diversity in Language, Religion, Customs and even in the Ethnic and Racial composition in our vast populace, we are united in One Culture. We must unite and take care that this Culture is well preserved and is delivered, safely, to our Next Generation. Let no force separate us. All of us, individually and collectively must be vigilant against these lurking disruptive forces.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put the people of our State in untold miseries during the past two years. However, due to the sincere

efforts made by both the State and Central Governments, we will surely be able to overcome this dreaded disease. I request you all to kindly extend your valuable cooperation to those Doctors and front line workers who have been working round-the-clock to overcome this dreaded disease and most importantly get yourself vaccinated twice if once already vaccinated and immediately once if not vaccinated at all and follow the instructions of the Government in containing this Virus. Once you are vaccinated twice, whenever you meet your friends and relatives, show your two fingers, that is, victory sign.

Meanwhile, general elections for the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly will be held on 27th February and 3rd March respectively. I sincerely appeal to all the people of Manipur who are eligible voters to exercise their franchise peacefully without fear. Only then the meaning of democracy will be fulfilled. After voting, when you return from the Polling Station proudly show the finger with ink mark to everybody outside that you have voted.

On this 73rd Republic Day, let us re-dedicate ourselves to the Service of the State and the Nation. May the Almighty give us the strength and determination to face every challenge and to make every sacrifice for the Nation in general and the State in particular.

Thagatchari

Jai Hind.