

SPEECH OF SHRI LA. GANESAN, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
MANIPUR AT RELEASING FUNCTION OF
DOCUMENTATION OF FOLK SONGS OF TARAO & KOM
JANAJATIS ON 22ND APRIL, 2022 AT KALYAN ASHRAM,
MANIPUR, IMPHAL.

Lt. Gen. (Retd) K. Himalay Singh ji,

Shri Ng. Tejkumar Singh ji, President, Kalyan Ashram, Manipur,

All the Members of Kalyan Ashram, Manipur,

Distinguished Invitees,

Friends from Electronic and Print Media,

Brothers and Sisters,

It is, indeed, a pleasure for me to be present this evening with you all, especially brothers and sisters of Tarao and KomJanajatis (Tribes). Let me, at the outset, extend my heartiest appreciation to the Members of Kalyan Ashram, Manipur for their relentless efforts to accomplish this task for the future generation of Tarao and Kom Tribes. My blessings are always with you in your future endeavours.

Though this documentation of folk songs of Tarao and Kom Tribes is meant only for these two tribes, I learn that many new facts and information have been brought to light for readers and researchers to have a thorough understanding of the growth of folk songs in different periods.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to note that the Kalyan Ashram, Manipur took the initiative to document this folklore in digital format for preservation as well as for perpetuation. Folk songs is one of the most challenging aspects of folklore as folk tunes renders appropriate meaning to lyrics for correct understanding. I am very happy to know that Kalyan Ashram, Manipur has already documented more than 300 folk songs from eight village of Chiru Tribe. I am fully confident that Kalyan Ashram, Manipur will keep rendering yeoman services in future also.

The oral tradition has preserved moral, social, cultural, religious, political and every human experience that the people thought worth preserving for them. This literature has been known as folklore. It is reflected in folk songs, folk tales, proverbs and phrases, greetings, good-bad omens and taboos and various other forms.

I do not intend to dilate about two Tribes, viz, Tarao and Kom as all the distinguished personalities present here are well aware of it. However, there is a need to have concrete plans for creating awareness about folk songs, folk tales and literature of all tribes among today's youth. Steps must be taken to encourage more research and at the same time to consolidate all research works on history of Tribes' literature undertaken so far and to identify and encourage new research projects.

It is important that the antiquity of folk songs and civilization must be further explored. When Tarao tribe is considered as the smallest in terms of population among 34 recognized tribes of Manipur, it is our responsibility to make every effort for its healthy growth and development so that posterity can benefit from the vast knowledge and ideas that rest within the Tarao and Kom folk songs.

I am very happy to see that Kalyan Ashram, Manipur has taken invaluable initiative to document the folk songs of two tribes which will really be an asset for the future generation of these two tribes and I am fully confident that Kalyan Ashram, Manipur will continue to document old folk songs of every tribe in future.

With these few words, I, once again, congratulate the august gathering and wish that such perceptive literary endeavours are taken up by leading intellectuals in days ahead and I am happy to release the documentation of folk songs of Tarao and Kom Tribes.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.