

SPEECH OF SHRI LA. GANESAN, HON'BLE GOVERNOR  
OF MANIPUR AT THE BOOK PRESENTATION FUNCTION  
ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2022 AT MU, CANCHIPUR.

Prof. N. Lokendro Singh ji,  
Vice-Chancellor, Manipur University,  
Distinguished Invitees,  
Friends from Print and Electronic Media,  
Brothers and Sisters,

I am very happy to be present at this function for presentation of a book titled “**Unsung Anglo-Manipur War Heroes at Kalapani**” authored by Dr. Shukhdeba Sharma Hanjabam and Late Shri Aheibam Koireng Singh. These collective efforts by the eminent writers are really commendable and praiseworthy. I am fully confident that many writers will keep continuing compiling and writing these invaluable records for the coming generations.

All the distinguished personalities present here today are well aware of Anglo-Manipur War of 1891. Therefore, I do not intend to dilate on this. However, I would like to share with you my little knowledge about the aftermath effects of Anglo-Manipur War of 1891.

After the defeat at Anglo-Manipur War in 1891, Maharaj Kulachandra was arrested on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1891 and subsequently charged for waging war against the Queen Empress. Besides him, many other prominent persons including Jubaraj Tikendrajit Singh and Thangal General were also arrested and charged for waging war against the Queen Empress and abatement of murder British Officers. Five of them were hanged and twenty-three people including Maharaj Kulachandra were transported for life at Kalapani, Andaman. The transported Manipuri Manipur War Heroes from Manipur were believed to have interned at a Bungalow at Mount Harriet. All the Manipur War Heroes were released by 1906 when the Cellular Jail started functioning. Altogether, there were twenty-four Manipur War Heroes including Prince Sana Chahi Ahum who were later deported to Kalapani, Andaman.

Manipur's last war of Independence also called Anglo-Manipur War was fought in the year 1891. The historic and gory battle took place at Khongjom, in which the brave sons of Manipur laid down their lives almost to the last man.

The heart-rending accounts of the Khongjom battle is still very popular and is heard in every home of Meitei. Khongjom Parba (folk music) which has been an inseparable part of the Manipuri life since the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, immortalized the Khongjom battle of 1891.

Paona Brajabasi carved out a shining place in the history of Manipur and in our country because of his inspiration to his followers to fight against the mighty and well-equipped British Army in the face of heavy odds and his subsequent supreme sacrifice. For him, the independence of motherland was above all petty differences and personal grudges. We must emulate such rare qualities of our heroic forefathers.

Manipur's fight against the British forms an integral part of series of struggles which the freedom loving people of India fought in different forms and in different parts of our country beginning from 1817 (Paik Revolt in Orissa now Odisha), 1857 (Sepoy Mutiny in the country) and onwards. The heroic people of Manipur fought shoulder to shoulder with their fellow countrymen for freedom of our motherland. Manipur's last war of Independence in 1891 is a testimony to this.

I, once again, thank Dr. Shukhdeba Sharma and Late Shri Aheibam Koireng Singh for their relentless efforts to keep these rare and invaluable records in tact for the present and future generations of the State in particular and the Nation in general. My blessings will always be with you for the success of your future endeavours.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.