

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF SWACHH BHARAT WEEK AT INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL TRIBAL UNIVERSITY REGIONAL CAMPUS, MANIPUR (KANGPOKPI DISTRICT) ON 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2017

Prof. N. Rajmuhon Singh ji, Dean, School of Mathematical & Physical Sciences, Manipur University,

Prof. S. Birendra Singh ji, Director, National Institute of Technology, Manipur,

Prof. Ramjeevan Singh Thakur ji, Director, IGNTU, Regional Campus, Manipur,

All the students and participants,

Friends from Media,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to be present here today at this important function of “Swachh Bharat Week”, organized by Eco-Club, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Regional Campus, Manipur in collaboration with Bio-diversity, Ecology and Environment Network, Manipur. Let me extend my best wishes to the organizers and participants in this function which is a week-long programme for the cause of Swachh Bharat. During the programme, a series of activities will focus on a number of subjects and the organizers deserve our commendation for choosing some pressing issues for deliberation.

As you are all well aware, Swachh Bharat Mission, a clean India campaign is the responsibility of all of us. It is a mass movement launched by the Government of India under the leadership of our Prime Minister to make India, a Clean India by 2019. It was the dream of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi for the people to maintain swachhta for a healthy and prosperous life. Unfortunately, it has not been so effective before because of the lack of awareness and cooperation of the people, lack of supervision of concerned Departments, lack of accountability of the concerned people, lack of dedication and sincerity among the Government machineries.

The “Swachh Bharat” mission was launched on 2nd of October in 2014, the 145th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, popularly known as Bapu and it is aimed to be completed on 2nd of October 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Bapu. Cleanliness is holiness and this mission is intended to cover all the rural and urban areas for maintaining cleanliness all over the country.

Cleanliness is not limited to any person or place, it is the responsibility of everyone to keep themselves clean as well as their surroundings to make India a clean India in the real sense. It is the collective responsibility of 1.2 billion people living in the country. One important component of the campaign is elimination of open defecation in the country. Manipur is well advanced on this front and large parts of the State have been declared as open defecation free. A huge positive of open defecation free is that it can keep the people healthy and check crime against women in the rural areas. Further, maintenance of cleanliness and hygiene in India would bring great opportunities in the country to enhance its economic status by improving tourism as well as keeping the citizens healthy and happy. Cleanliness would keep everyone happy and healthy in all respects physically, mentally, socially and intellectually by reducing the chance of diseases. The State Government has taken up various activities during the Swachh Bharat campaign to keep our environment clean. I have also taken up various initiatives like tree plantation in the Raj Bhavan complex. I am, indeed, impressed by the initiative taken by the University to celebrate Swachh Bharat and I do hope this will continue on regular basis. Your efforts will keep the campus clean and green by strengthening the existing forest cover and also by developing new green cover in the campus.

With these words, I again thank the organizers of such a meaningful programme and am glad to inaugurate the function.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.