

The (FIRST) ANNUAL REPORT OF
SOCIO CULTURAL SOCIETY OF BISHNUPRIYA MANIPURI
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2012-13

INTRODUCTION

1. Bishnupriya Manipuri is one of the microscopic minority community of Tripura. Primarily they are inhabited in cluster-villages, in North Tripura, Unokuti, Dhalai, Sepahijola and west Tripura districts of the state. They are also inhabited in some parts of Assam and Republic of Bangladesh. Over the period of time, some of them shifted to Agartala, the state capital, for the obvious reason to find their livelihood by way of employment or petty business. As on date about three hundred families belonging to the Bishnupriya Manipuri community are residing at Agartala. The population of Bishnupriya Manipuri community are peace loving and very adaptable. They have a very distinct language, dress and unique cultural heritage of their own. It is estimated that the total population of Bishnupriya Manipuri all over the world, may not exceed five lakhs.

THE BACKGROUND

2. The population of Bishnupriya Manipuri residing at Agartala, are facing acute difficulties to profess and practice their rich traditional custom and socio cultural activities, in absence of a place of assembly i.e. a Community Centre, at Agartala. Despite having the world class socio-cultural background, the community is not in a position to even participate in cultural activities, organized at Agartala by the State Government or any other authorities, as the bulk of the population of the community reside in far-flung areas of the state.

3. The ball started rolling, when majority of the responsible and respected citizen of Agartala, belonging to the community, assembled at Major's Den, in a reception hosted by Major Prafulla Kumar Sinha (Retd) on 15th April 2012 (**ph – 1&2**). On deliberation upon the issue of requirement of a Community Centre, at Agartala, the house decided to submit an application to the Honorable Chief Minister urgently, seeking a piece of land for construction of a Community Centre for Bishnupriya Manipuri at Agartala. The application was submitted on 18th April 2012, duly signed by 181 in support.

4. Formation of a Body of Execution, was felt essential, to process and monitor the progress on the above application. The house also desired that that the body so formed to initiate further works towards the over-all development of the community. It is on 29th day of April 2012, the **Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri** (SCSBM) came in to being, in a General Meeting held at Bimal Singha Bishnupriya Manipuri Guest House, Agartala.

THE AIM OF SOCIO CULTURAL SOCIETY OF BISHNUPRIYA MANIPURI

5. **The Aim** of the society is to **Protect, Preserve, Nurture** and **Flourish** the rich socio-cultural heritage of Bishnupriya Manipuri, including overall development of this extremely minority and backward community in an organized manner.

THE OBJECTIVES

6. The Objectives of Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri are:-

- (a) To protect the original history, material evidences and information of heritage and socio-cultural value of Bishnupriya Manipuri.
- (b) To preserve the socio-cultural heritage of the community including the language of Bishnupriya Manipuri.
- (c) To nurture and develop the socio-cultural activities by regular practice, generating more interest through awareness and motivation.
- (d) To flourish the rich heritage and socio-cultural activities of Bishnupriya Manipuri by organizing programmes at State, National and International level.
- (e) Certification of the existing expert personalities of the community in different disciplines, in recognition to their knowledge in Manipuri dance, song, music and other allied fields, in consultation with the appropriate authorities and their rehabilitation.
- (f) Arrange training and standardization of knowledge in various disciplines of Bishnupriya Manipuri including dance, song, music and other allied activities of the community, in consultation / collaboration with Government / Semi-Government or private institutes of repute nature on the field.
- (g) To organize competitions on issues relating to the heritage and socio-cultural activities of the community.
- (h) To introduce certification along with prizes / incentives for distinction on any field relating to socio-cultural development of the community.
- (i) To make provision for a library to preserve the important documents, and books of Bishnupriya Manipuri along with a reading room.
- (j) Organize Workshop on :-
 - (I) Mridanga Badan (Dakula)
 - (II) Manipuri Song (Ishalpa/ Sutradhari)
 - (III) Making Ceremonial Dresses of Raash/Rakhal Dance etc
 - (IV) Hand Weaving (Lahing/ Matha/ Kangtolpi/Fitha/Fita etc)
 - (V) Handloom Weaving (Pahati/ Gamsa/ inafi/ Koyet)
 - (VI) Handicraft (Tapu chenchaluk etc)
 - (VII) Manipuri Dance for boys and girls.
 - (VIII) Making of Traditional Dolls etc.

- (k) To mediate and liaise with the State and Central Government for extending various schemes to promote the socio-cultural, and literary status of Bishnupriya Manipuri.
- (l) To organize functions of Bishnupriya Manipuri in co-ordination with other communities during various occasions at State and National level.
- (m) Establish electronic Library / Record room for available songs, films, and other activities of important nature etc.
- (n) To set up Dress Bank of Bishnupriya Manipuri and its outlets, to distribute the same to the needy, for cultural activities.
- (o) To procure & establish stocks of Mridanga and other musical instruments of Bishnupriya Manipuri and distribute to the poor and deserving artists.
- (p) To encourage formation of teams voluntarily, for socio-cultural activities of Bishnupriya Manipuri.
- (q) To raise fund for carrying out the activities through subscriptions and contributions, donations and grants from individuals, Institutions, Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies and others.
- (r) To raise loans for carrying out its activities from Individuals, Institutions, Banks, Financial Institutions, Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies, Corporate, Business Homes, and others on suitable term and condition.
- (s) To purchase, acquire, build, sell, manage, and otherwise deal with any movable and immovable property for earning income for the society in furtherance of the aim and objects of the society.
- (t) To set up other required institutions for carrying out the aim and objects of the society.
- (u) To maintain the Society to be totally non-political social society.
- (v) To seek advise / suggestions / assistance / co-operations from other such societies and vice versa to achieve the aim and objects.
- (w) To undertake any activity incidental to or related to the above.

THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

7. Since it's establishment on 29th April 2012, the activities carried out by SCSBM are as under:-

- (a) **Follow-up Action on the Application for Allotment of a piece of Land for Construction of a Community Centre of Bishnupriya Manipuri at Agartala-** The steps initiated by SCSBM to pursue the case are as under:-

- (i) 18th April 2012, the initial application was submitted to the Honorable Chief minister of Tripura, dully signed by 181 citizen of the community in support, with a copy each to the Honorable Revenue Minister and the DM & Collector. West Tripura District.
- (ii) 25th April 2012, fresh application submitted to the Revenue Minister, as he desired.
- (iii) 26 July 2012, the Honorable Revenue Minister was requested for his personal indulgence for early allotment of the land.
- (iv) 3rd August 2012, Five (5) alternative sites were suggested to the DM & Collector, West Tripura District.
- (v) 17th October 2012, a seven member delegation of the society, called on the SDM, Sadar, at his Office Chamber & informed him about the establishment of the society and requested for early allotment of a piece of land.
- (vi) 9th January 2013, another application submitted to the Honorable Revenue Minister, by the President and Secretary of the Society, indicating details of a land near the Ginger Hotel.

(b) **Workshop on Cultural Activities-** A one day workshop on cultural activities of Bishnupriya Manipuri was organized on 24th October 2012. It was attended by ten artists of traditional dance and song of Bishnupriya Manipuri. **(ph – 3)**

(c) **Intimation of Establishment of SCSBM** – Forty-eight Heads of Departments concerned with the activities of SCSBM, were intimated about the establishment of the organization, along with the details of Aim and Objectives of the society. This includes the Honorable Chief Minister and Chief Secretary of the state, the Honorable Prime Minister, the Minister of Culture, the Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD), the Minister of Development of North East Region (DONER) of the Union of India and the Secretariat of North East Council (NEC). They have been requested to extend their helping hand to this nascent organization to achieve our Aim and Objectives.

(d) **Participation in Cultural Function** – SCSBM participated in cultural function of Annual State Book Fair–2012 on 20th March 2012 **(ph – 4)**. In a brief, programme of about fifteen (15) minutes, the Fagu-Dance of Radha- Krishna in the ceremonial dress of Bishnupriya Manipuri was staged by two school-going girls, under the supervision of Smt Usha & Smt Asha Sinha,

(e) **Conduct of Executive Committee Meetings** :- During the period of report, a total of four meetings of the Executive Committee were held. A variety of issues pertaining to the over-all development of the community were discussed

(f) **Opening of Bank Account of SCSBM** :- An SB account jointly operated by the Secretary and the Treasurer of SCSBM has been opened at SBI, Kunjavan, Agartala on 19 Nov 2012. The Account No of SCSBM is -32656733886.

(g) **Registration of Members** :- Registration for membership of all members of the committee has been completed. Drive for Registration of new Member to continue.

(h) **Library of SCSBM** :- We have received 177 books from the State Library, in response to our application to establish a Library of SCSBM. In addition we have received some complimentary copies of books from Bangladesh.

(i) **Pan Card**:- SCSBM is in possession of their PAN Card No AAKAS2872B dated 14/08/2012.

(j) **Audit of Account** :- The accounts of SCSBM for the Financial Year 2012-13 has been duly audited by a firm of chartered accountants of repute at Agartala. There is no observation on the account.

(i)	Total Expenditure	-	Rs. 8454.00
(i)	Balance	-	Rs. 1105.00
(ii)	Grand Total	-	Rs. 9959.00

THE CONCLUSION

8. It is beyond doubt that the world famous master art of Manipuri classical dance is an inherent specialty of Bishnupriya Manipuri. It is appreciated that this microscopic minority community could carry along with them the rich culture of the community till date, without any assistance from any direction, competing with the present day environment. But now, due to the multi-directional adversities, they are finding it very difficult to profess and practice their rich socio-cultural activities. Gradually they are loosing the control over their own rich culture. The community is pacing very rapidly towards its extinct. This extremely minority community needs to be saved and brought to the mainstream. The Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri is totally dedicated to the cause, and would like put its sincere efforts to revive the socio-cultural heritage of the community. With your support firming our backbone, we are not only sure but also confidant that the rich culture of Bishnupriya Manipuri would revive and flourish all over the world, very soon.

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