

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF **SOCIO CULTURAL SOCIETY OF BISHNUPRIYA MANIPURI (SCSBM)** **FINANCIAL YEAR 2018-19**

Introduction

1. India is a land of vast human diversity in terms of language, culture, customs, physical features and dress etc. Despite all, India has been setting examples of unity and integrity to the world, since ages. There are reasons as to why we all feel proud of ourselves to be Indian. Among others, the foremost reason is that equal opportunity to all citizens is guaranteed in our constitution. Ours is a Government by the people, of the people and for the people which leaves no stone unturned to extend equal benefits to every citizen of the country. Despite best efforts, something may escape the notice of the Government, which is quite possible in a vast country like India. Apart from the Government networks, the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are also equally encouraged in India, to bring such un-noticed issues to the knowledge of the Government, for justice to the deprived. Motivated by the existing norms, the Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri (SCSBM), the only one of its nature of the community of Bishnupriya Manipuri, was established at Agartala on 29 April 2012. The noble cause of establishing the SCSBM is to rejuvenate the UNESCO enlisted endangered language and vanishing cultural Heritage of Bishnupriya Manipuri. The community is pacing very rapidly towards its extinction. Since inception SCSBM is actively working for the cause, in close coordination with the Government in the State and Centre.

The Brief Background of the Vanishing Rich Culture of Bishnupriya Manipuri

2. Bishnupriya Manipuri is a stateless, unorganized, backward, microscopic minority community, settled in splintered remote villages, especially in North-Eastern states of Assam and Tripura in the Union of India. A considerable population of the community is also found to have settled along the Indian border-adjacent areas of the present Republic of Bangladesh. The accurate census report on the population of Bishnupriya Manipuri is not available. However, the estimated population of the community may not be more than three (03) lacs only.

3. Bishnupriya Manipuries believe that their forefathers belonged to the princely kingdom of Manipur. The population of Manipur at that time was known as Manipuri. Though the dresses and culture was same, the Manipuri of Manipur consisted of population speaking two distinctly different languages namely, (a) Meitei and (b) Bishnupriya. Accordingly, Manipuri of Manipur at that time had two races, based on the languages spoken by them, as under:-

- (a) The Bishnupriya Manipuri – They were Indo-Aryan origin and spoken Bishnupriya Manipuri language.
- (b) The Meitei Manipuri – They were Sino-Mongolian origin and spoken Meitei Manipuri language.

4. It is also believed that the major portion of Bishnupriya Manipuri fled away from the than princely kingdom of Manipur to the neighboring states, in search of safe shelter, in small groups, due to some or other reasons. Some of them who remained in Manipur accepted the Meitei Manipuri as their Mother-Tongue along with other terms.

5. The “Meitei Manipuri dominated Manipur” got acceded to Independent India in Oct 1949 and it was granted the status of a full state on 21 Jan 1972. Blessed by the resources and facilities of a state and a State Government, the Meitei Manipuries flourished in every respect.

6. On the other hand, the displaced, stateless Bishnupriya Manipurians, settled in splintered remote villages without any communication among their settlements, are yet to get re-organized and re-grouped. The backward microscopic minority community of Bishnupriya Manipuri remained unnoticed and unattended even after seventy two years of our Independence, may be due to their splintered settlements, in remote isolated villages, without adequate communications. The backwardness compounded by multidirectional complex adversities, without any community development for centuries, the life in the community of Bishnupriya Manipuri has become disgusting. Today the language of Manipuri is an “Endangered Language” as per UNESCO, the vanishing rich culture of the community is pacing rapidly towards its extinction, the production of their traditional dresses/commodities has come to a standstill due to lack of infrastructure and modern equipments. In fact today, the community is finding it extremely difficult to control its own social affairs even to establish its own identity.

7. Whatever be it, Bishnupriya Manipuri carried along with them their rich cultural heritage for hundreds of years, despite extreme adversities. It may be proudly mentioned here that amused by the rich cultural heritage of the community, the Nobel laureate Rabindra Nath Thakur picked a number of Cultural Artistes of this community to Shanti Niketan as instructors of Manipuri Dance to bring Cultural Revolution. Some of them to name are (a) Guru Rajkumar Senarik Singha (b) Guru Mahim Chandra Singha (c) Guru Bihari Singha (d) Guru Nileswar Mukherjee (e) Pt Nila Madhab Singha and (f) Guru Bipin Singh.

8. It may not be out of place to mention here that the world famous Manipuri dancer Javeri Sisters of Mumbai and Dr. Tamanna Rahaman of Republic of Bangladesh are the products of Guru Bipin Singh of this community. Among others, the name of Guru Banamali Sinha, the world famous Manipuri dancer and Vice Principal (Now Retd) Bhatkhande Nritya-Kala Academy Lucknow, comes foremost.

The Aim of the Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri (SCSBM)

9. The Aim of the Society is to **PROTECT, PRESERVE, NURTURE** and **FLOURISH** the rich Socio-Cultural heritage of Bishnupriya Manipuri in an organized manner.

The Objectives of SCSBM

10. The Objectives of Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri are briefly enumerated below:-

- (a) Protect the origin, history, material evidences and information on cultural heritage of Bishnupriya Manipuri.
- (b) Preserve the rich cultural heritage, including the language of Bishnupriya Manipuri.
- (c) Nurture and develop the cultural heritage of Bishnupriya Manipuri by research and regular practice.
- (d) Flourish the rich cultural heritage of Bishnupriya Manipuri by organizing functions at State, National and International level.
- (e) Appropriate certification of Cultural Artistes and their rehabilitation.
- (f) Arrange training and standardization of knowledge in culture of Bishnupriya Manipuri.
- (g) Organize competitions on cultural activities of the community.
- (h) Introduce prizes and incentives on cultural development of the community.

- (i) Establish a library of Bishnupriya Manipuri.
- (j) Organize Workshop on:-
 - (I) Mridanga Badan (Dakula)
 - (II) Manipuri Song (Ishalpa / Sutradhari)
 - (III) Making Ceremonial Dresses of Raash / Rakhai Dance etc
 - (IV) Hand Weaving (Lahing / Angaluri, Matha, Kangtolpi, Fitha / Fita etc)
 - (V) Handloom Weaving (Pahati, Gamsa, inafi, Koyet etc.)
 - (VI) Handicraft (Tapu, chenchaluk etc)
 - (VII) Manipuri Dance for boys and girls
 - (VIII) Making of Traditional Dolls etc.
- (k) Liaise with the Government at the Centre and State for socio-cultural and literary development of Bishnupriya Manipuri.
- (l) Organize & participate in functions to represent Bishnupriya Manipuri at State and National level.
- (m) Establish electronic Library & Record room for the community.
- (n) Establish a Traditional Dress Bank of Bishnupriya Manipuri.
- (o) Procure & stock Mridanga and other traditional musical instruments.
- (p) Encourage formation of voluntary teams for socio-cultural activities.
- (q) Raise fund to carry out the activities of the Society through subscriptions, grants, contributions and donations from individuals, Institutions, Government and Non-Governmental Agencies.
- (r) Raise loans (as and when required) for carrying out its activities.
- (s) Deal with any movable and immovable property to furtherance the aim and objectives of the society.
- (t) Set up other institutions as may be required to carry out the aim and objectives of the society.
- (u) Maintain the Society to be totally non-political.
- (v) To seek advise / suggestions / assistance / co-operations from other such other societies and vice versa to achieve the aim and objects.
- (w) To undertake any activity incidental to or related to the above.

The Address of the Office of the SCSBM

11. The office address:-
 Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri (SCSBM)
 C/O – Major’s Den, Opp. Saiba Sangha,
 Jagatpur, PO - Abhoynagar, Agartala,
 Tripura West, PIN – 799005.
 Tele – 0381 2350061 Mobile - 9436476566
 E-mail:- scsbm.agt@gmail.com Website:- www.scsbm.org

The Executive Committee of SCSBM

12. The new eleven members Executive Committee including seven office bearers took oath of office and assumed their responsibilities on 30 Sep 2018. The present members of Executive Committee of SCSBM are:-

Serial No	Name	Designation
1	Smt Alaka Sinha	President
2	Sri Indrajit Sinha	Vice President
3	Dr Sushil Sinha	Vice President
4	Major Prafulla Kumar Sinha (Retd)	Secretary
5	Sri Nishi Kanta Sinha	Asst. Secretary
6	Sri Braja Gopal Sinha	Asst. Secretary
7	Sri Hem Kumar Sinha	Treasurer
8	Smt Mamata Sinha	Member
9	Smt Anubha Sinha	Member
10	Sri Bipresh Sinha	Member
11	Sri Dhruba Sinha	Member

The General Information

13. **NGO Darpan** - SCSBM is duly registered with NGO DARPAN under the NITI AYOJ. Our **Unique ID is: - TR/2013/0070763.**

14. **Bank Account** - The account of SCSBM is jointly operated by the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Society. The details of the Bank Account of SCSBM is :-

- (a) Name of the Bank - State Bank of India
- (b) Branch - Kunjavan
- (c) Account No - **32656733886**
- (d) C I F No - 86513810811
- (e) I F S C No - SBIN0004545

15. **PAN of SCSBM**: - PAN Card No of SCSBM is – **AAKAS2872B.**

16. **Website of SCSBM:** - Website of SCSBM i.e. www.scsbm.org was launched by Sri Manik Sarkar the Honorable Chief Minister, Government of Tripura on 15 Feb 2015 and the same is being maintained and updated regularly.

Activities of SCSBM

17. **Felicitation to the New Ministry:**- On 6th April 2018, a six member delegation of SCSBM met Sri Biplab Kumar Deb, the newly elected Chief Minister of Tripura at New Secretariat Agartala to felicitate him and his ministry for their over whelming win in the Assembly Election 2018. In addition to a “Letter of Congratulation” the team felicitated him with an indigenously made “Traditional Doll” (Female), in ceremonial attire of Bishnupriya Manipuri. **(Photographs -1, & 2)**

18. **Allotment of a Piece of Land for Construction of a Community Centre of Bishnupriya Manipuri at Agartala:** - The Bishnupriya Manipurians with rich cultural heritage are generally residing at far-flung areas of the state. They are unable to participate in cultural activities held at Agartala, in absence of a Community Centre, where the Cultural Artistes of the community could be adequately trained under expert guidance with basic amenities, including provision of food and lodging. Over the period of time, a considerable population of the community too have started residing at Agartala, for their livelihood, being the state capital. The population of the community residing at Agartala have no provision to perform their traditional and customary day to day rituals and cultural activities.

19. An application of SCSBM on allotment of a piece of land for construct a Community Centre of Bishnupriya Manipuri at Agartala, was pending with the Government of Tripura, since 18 April 2012. In reference to the pending application a fresh application has been submitted to Sri Biplab Kumar Deb, Honorable Chief Minister (New) Government of Tripura, meeting him at “Janata Darbar” by a delegation of SCSBM on 03 Aug 2018. **(Photographs – 3 & 4)**

20. As assured by the Honorable Chief Minister, we are not only sure but also confident that the present Government is considering the issue with due PRIORITY.

21. **The Rothojatra:** - Rothojatra is one of the important festivals of Bishnupriya Manipuri. As of previous years this year also it was celebrated with great joy and enthusiasms. During the year 2018-19 the Rothojatra was celebrated on 12 Aug 2018 followed by nine days traditional folksong and dance along with Mridanga. Out of nine days, one day function was organized by SCSBM at Dharmanagar **(Photographs – 5 & 6).**

22. **General Meeting:** - A General Meeting of SCSBM was held on 23 Sep 2018. Among other resolutions the new Executive Committee was also formed on that day. **(Photographs – 7 & 8)**

23. **Submission of Application for Artistes Pension:**- Mridangashri Guru Bidya Singha an eminent Manipuri Mridanga badak, 92 years, belonging to the community of Bishnupriya Manipuri was living his life under acute financial hardship, being BPL category. The case was taken up by SCSBM with the SCZCC Nagpur, Government of India for grant of Artistes Pension, which he deserved. Application was also submitted to Sri Biplab Kumar Deb, Honorable Chief Minister Government of Tripura by the Secretary SCSBM, meeting him at “Janata Darbar” on 12 Oct 2018. **(Photographs – 9 & 10).**

24. **Submission of Memorandum on Anomalies in Previous Census Reports on population of Bishnupriya Manipuri:** - A high level delegation of Bishnupriya Manipuri including Secretary SCSBM, submitted a memorandum to HE the Governor of Tripura and the

Director of Census Operation Tripura on 13 Nov 2018. The application relates to the anomalies observed in the past census reports in relation to population of Bishnupriya Manipuri, in the states of Assam and Tripura, with a request for utmost care in the forthcoming Census Reports. **(Photograph – 11 & 12)**

25. **Raash Leela**: - It is one of the important traditional festivals of Bishnupriya Manipuri Generally held on Kartik Purnima (Oct-Nov). It involves Manipuri (Ladies) classical Dance along with traditional folksong in ceremonial attire for the whole night. The theme is Raash Leela of Lord Sri Krishna with the Gopies. This year it was celebrated on 22 Nov 2018. SCSBM was actively involved in smooth conduct of a Raash Leela at Dharmanagar, North Tripura. **(Photographs – 13)**

26. **Rahkwal (Raakhal Nrittya)**:- Rakhwal is again one of the important traditional festivals of Bishnupriya Manipuri. This is also generally held on Kartik Purnima (Oct-Nov) from noon till sunset. It involves Manipuri male dance along with traditional folksong in ceremonial attire. The theme of Rakhwal is involved with grazing of cows by Lord Sri Krishna along with the Gopals. This year it was celebrated on 22 Nov 2018. SCSBM was actively involved with the Rakhwal held at Kamalpur, Dhalai District. **(Photographs – 14)**

27. **Central Library & Research Centre of Bishnupriya Manipuri**: - The language spoken by the Bishnupriya Manipuri is known as Bishnupriya Manipuri. It is an endangered language as per UNESCO. To preserve the language and the literature of the community, SCSBM has established the Central Library & Research Centre of Bishnupriya Manipuri. It is co-located with the office of the SCSBM. As on date, we have about 1000 books in the library including around 100 books in Bishnupriya Manipuri language. The library is open to all, with the reading room facility. **(Photographs – 15)**

28. We are constantly in touch with the Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) Kolkata, through the Birchandra State Central Library Agartala to convert our dream to a reality. To support our endeavor, we solicit helping hands from all corners.

29. **Making of Traditional Dolls**: - SCSBM started production of “Gopi”, a symbolic fiber doll (female), in traditional dress of Bishnupriya Manipuri indigenously few years back. It is believed that this indigenous “Gopi”, would be one of the unique and meaningful interior decoration piece or gift items of India to the world, exhibiting the rich cultural heritage of India. In addition to generating self-employment, it would publicize the rich cultures of India to the world. Due to financial constraints bulk production of the item is held up). **(Photograph – 16)**

30. **Matri-Bhashsa Divas**:- SCSBM observed Matri-Bhashsa Divas (Mother-Tongue Day) on 21 Feb 2019 by participating in the Central Rally organized by the State Government at Agartala, Tripura. **(Photograph – 17 & 18)**

31. **Kali Kinkar Debarman Smriti Puraskar 2019**:- The name of Mridangashri Guru Bidya Singha, an eminent Manipuri Mridanga badak, 92 years, was recommended by SCSBM for award of Kali Kinkar Debarman Smriti Puraskar, 2019 for his outstanding life-long contribution, towards Bishnupriya Manipuri Culture, especially in Mridanga. As the empowered committee found him to be most deserving, the Government of Tripura decided to award Kali Kinkar Debarman Smriti Puraskar, 2019 to Mridangashri Guru Bidya Singha. But due to old age ailments, Guruji could not attend the scheduled function to receive the award.

32. A noble decision was taken by the Government of Tripura in this regard. As per the decision of the Government Smt Santana Chakma, Honorable Minister, Social Welfare etc. Departments, along with other dignitaries went to the house of Guru Bidya Singha at Mohanpur,

Kailashahar, Unakoti and handed over the award on 06 March 2019. The initiative of the government set an example before the young cultural artistes and boosted the morale of the entire Bishnupriya Manipuri community. The brief “Award Handing over Ceremony” was organized by SCSBM. **(Photographs – 19 & 20)**. However, Guruji breathed his last on 09 March 2019 with greatest satisfaction in his life.

33. **The Holi Utshov:** - This year the five days Holi Utshov started on 21 March 2019 with the burning of Jormo (Holika). It is another important festival of Bishnupriya Manipuri. On these days teams of Bishnupriya Manipuri dressed in their traditional attire and musical instruments, go door to door singing the “Faagu Songs”, the message of love and friendship, in total disregard to their cast and creed or faith and belief. **(Photographs – 21)**

34. **The Cultural Institute of Bishnupriya Manipuri (CIBM):** - The Cultural Institute of Bishnupriya Manipuri under the aegis of SCSBM was inaugurated on 14th February 2015 and is functional at Agartala. It is our endeavor to rejuvenate the vanishing cultural heritage of Bishnupriya Manipuri by imparting regular training to the artists. It is also co-located in the premises of SCSBM. Workshops on folk song, Manipuri dance and Mridanga are being held regularly in the institute. **(Photographs – 22)**

35. **Attending Function in Republic of Bangladesh:** - The Secretary of SCSBM was invited to the Republic of Bangladesh by Dhira Chandra Chattopadhyay Trust, Kamalganj to attend the function organized by them on the occasion of death anniversary of poet Dhira Chandra Chattopadhyaya at his birth place Dalua, on 14 March 2019, as the Chief Guest. Major (Retd) Prafulla Kumar Sinha, Secretary SCSBM attended the memorable function under unimaginable atmosphere of love and affection from the people of Bangladesh. **(Photographs – 23 & 24)**

36. **Publication of Annual Souvenir of SCSBM:** - The “Heritage of Bishnupriya Manipuri” the annual souvenir of SCSBM for the year has been published.

37. **Expansion of Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri:**- To reach easily to the population of Bishnupriya Manipuri at far-flung areas of the state, SCSBM has established its Branch Offices forming five (05) Sub-Committees at the following places:-

- (a) East Hurua, Dharmanagar, North Tripura.
- (b) Chirakuti, Kailashahar, Unokuti.
- (c) Dolugaon, Aaur, Kailashahar Unokuti
- (d) Moshauli, Kanchanbari, Kumarghat, Unokuti.
- (e) Fatikroy, Kumarghat, Unokuti.

38. **Audit of Accounts of SCSBM:**-The Accounts of the SCSBM, since its inception has been audited by Firms of Charter Accountants of repute at Agartala. The Summery of Account as on 31st March 2018 was as under:-

<u>The Details</u>		<u>In Cash</u>	<u>In Bank</u>
Expenditure	-	12, 742.00	13, 000.00
Balance	-	0, 465.00	52, 591.00
Grand Total	-	13, 207.00	65, 591.00

39. **E-Filing Registration** - SCSBM is duly registered with Income-Tax Department for e-returns. SCSBM has duly filed its ITRs up to Financial Year 2017-18.

The Conclusion

40. There is every possibility that the heart-rending cries of these deserving needy people of Bishnupriya Manipuri might not have reached to the Government or the concerned authorities so far, due their backwardness or inadequate representation because of their microscopic minority population. But a little bit of our pro-activeness in this regard, may lead them towards their rejuvenation.

41. For ages, India is the leading country in setting examples on various fields, to the world. Let our next target be "Rejuvenation of the Vanishing Cultural Heritage and Languages" of the stateless, backward, microscopic minority communities of the Union. We are not only sure but also confident that this would set the finest example of humanity to the world. It is true that wastage of every single minute has the extreme adverse affect on these communities.

42. It is recommended that the Bishnupriya Manipuri, the community which inherits a world class cultural heritage, with an endangered language as per UNESCO, be the one to start with the project. The Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri (SCSBM) is always ready to take on any responsibility (if assigned) by the Government in this regard. We are not only sure but also confident that rejuvenation of the language and cultural heritage of Biahnupriya Manipuri would draw the special attention of all concerned authorities, including the Government at every level. We are also confident that with the helping hands from all corners, the rich vanishing culture & literature of Bishnupriya Manipuri would not only revive but also flourish all over the world by PLATINUM JUBELEE of our Independence.



Enclosure:- Photographs (Four Pages)

Place :- Agartala

Date :- 28 June 2019

Major Prafulla Kumar Sinha (Retd)

Secretary

Socio Cultural Society of Bishhnupriya Manipuri

Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri Agartala : Activities 2018-19



1. Letter of Congratulation to Sri Biplab Kumar Deb the New CM of Tripura on 06 Apr 2019



2. Traditional Doll to Sri Biplab Kumar Deb the New CM of Tripura on 06 Apr 2019



3 Team of SCSBM with the application for a piece of land for Community Centre at Agartala



4 The Application for land for Community Centre of BM at Agartala being Submitted



5. The traditional Rathajatra procession is progressing on 12 Aug 2018 at Dharmanagar



6. The traditional Joydev Pala of Bishnupriya Manipuri on the occasion of Rathajatra

Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri Agartala : Activities 2018-19



7. The General Meeting of SCSBM on 23 Sep 18 is in progress



8. Sri Gopi Singh, the Vice President of last Executive Committee is being felicitated



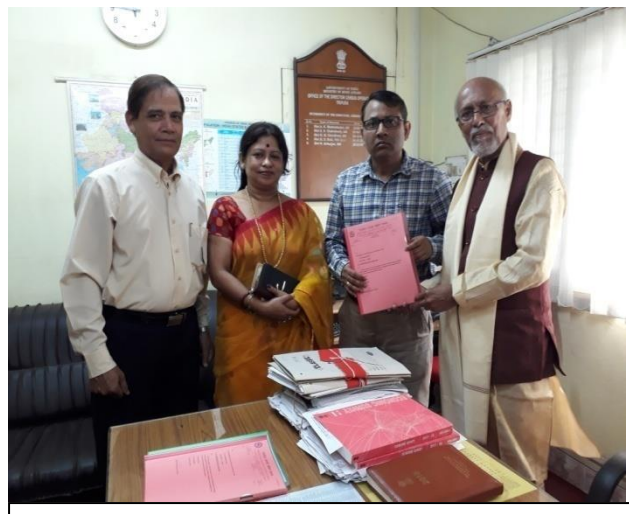
9. Pension to an eminent Cultural Artistes i.e. to Guru Bidya Sinha was taken up on 12 Oct 2018



10. The case of Guru Bidya Sinha was heard by the Honorable CM of Tripura with keen interest



11. Memorandum on anomaly in previous Census Reports on Population of Bishnupriya Manipuri (BM) submitted to HE the Governor of Tripura



12. Memorandum on anomaly in past Census Reports on BM Population submitted to the Director of Census Ops Tripura on 13 Nov 2018

Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri Agartala : Activities 2018-19



13. Traditional Raash Leela of Bishnupriya Manipuri, Lord Srikrishna with the Gopies



14. The Rakhal Dance of Bishnupriya Manipuri, Lord Srikrishna with the Gopals on 23 Nov 2018



15. The Central Library & Research Centre of Bishnupriya Manipuri, an initiative of SCSBM



16. The indigenously made Traditional Doll of SCSBM



17. Mother Tongue Day observed, participating in Central Rally organized at Agartala by the Government of Tripura on 21 Feb 19



18. Contingent of SCSBM on Matri Bhasha Divas Procession, at Agartala representing Bishnupriya Manipuri language on 21 Feb 2019

Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri Agartala : Activities 2018-19



19. Handing over Ceremony of the Award to Guru Bidya Singha by Smti Santana Chakma, Hon'ble Minister, Govt of Tripura on 6 Mar 19



20. The Master Art of Mridangashri Guru Bidya Singha, 93 years (bed ridden), is being exhibited by his youngest tiny "SISHYA" Master Debaraj



21. Traditional Holi Utshav being celebrated by ladies of Bishnupriya Manipuri spreading the message of love and friendship on 22 Mar 19



22. The Cultural Institute & Research Centre of Bishnupriya Manipuri, established by SCSBM is for regular training and cultural activities .



23. Secretary SCSBM in a function as Chief Guest at kamalganj in the Republic of Banglades on 14 March 2019



24. The Death Anniversary of poet Dhira Chandra Chattopadhyaya and award giving ceremony at Kamalganj, Bangladesh on 14 March 2019