

THE (FIFTH) ANNUAL REPORT OF
SOCIO CULTURAL SOCIETY OF BISHNUPRIYA MANIPURI
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016-2017



SOCIO CULTURAL SOCIETY OF BISHNUPRIYA MANIPURI

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THE ANNUAL REPORT OF **SOCIO CULTURAL SOCIETY OF BISHNUPRIYA MANIPURI (SCSBM)** **FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016-17**

Introduction

1. We are the proud citizen of India, the largest Secular, Socialist, Democratic Republic of the world, where the Government is "Of the people, by the people and for the people". We Indian have been setting the example of our unity and integrity to the world since ages, despite our variances in thought, belief, facial impressions, dresses, languages and religion. We have completed seventy years of long journey, after our independence. In post-independence days, numerous developments have taken place, covering almost every field. But, at the same time, it may not be possible for any government in such a vast country, to guarantee that no stone has been left unturned. It is quite possible, that limited number of issues (may be important in nature), might have escaped the notice of the Government. It is believed that Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are encouraged to bring-up, such un-noticed issues to the knowledge of the Government and work in full co-operation to bring optimum prosperity to the humankind, extending equal opportunity to the deprived. May be, unlike any other NGO, the Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri (SCSBM) was formed, assigning the noble task to save the vanishing world class cultural heritage of the backward, microscopic minority community of Bishnupriya Manipuri which remained unattended even after seventy years of independence.

The Background

2. The Bishnupriya Manipuri is a backward, microscopic minority community with an estimated total population of not even two lacs, all over the world. The community believe that their forefathers fled away in small groups from their mainland, the than princely kingdom of Manipur, in search of safe shelter. Now, the community is found to have settled in splintered remote villages in the North Eastern states of Assam and Tripura, in the Union of India, with a considerable population in Sylhet Division of the present Republic of Bangladesh. It may be needless to elaborate the rich cultural heritage of Bishnupriya Manipuri. Despite drifted from their main land, Bishnupriya Manipuries carried along with them the rich cultural heritage of the community, even under extreme adversities, for hundreds of years. Some of the cultural talents of the community picked by the Nobel laureate Rabindra Nath Thakur to bring the Cultural Revolution at Shantiniketan were:- (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 Singha,. The world famous Manipuri dancer Jhaveri Sisters and Dr. Tamanna Rehaman were nurtured by Guru Bipin Singha. The name of Professor Guru Banamali Sinha (retired), Bhatkhande Nritya Kala Academy Lucknow, comes foremost, among the other world famous cultural artistes of Bishnupriya Manipuri.

3. In addition to their rich cultural heritage, Bishnupriya Manipuri have a rich language and traditional dresses of ceremonial and common nature of their own. The community remained unattended, may be due to their inability to reorganize themselves or inadequate representation due to microscopic splintered population. The community is pacing very rapidly towards its extinction, due to various adversities.

4. Alarmed by the eminent threat of extinction of the world class culture, the “Socio cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri” (SCSBM) was formed on 29th day of April 2012, in a General Meeting of Bishnupriya Manipuri at Agartala, Tripura to initiate all possible activities to rejuvenate the vanishing culture of the community. It is duly registered under Section 3 of the Societies Registration Act –1860, on 14 Aug 2012, bearing Registration No–6476.

The Aim

5. 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

6. The Objectives of Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri as enumerated in the By-Law of the society, 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 books of other languages with the facility of 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/Langw, 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) 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 electronic data of important nature of the community.
- (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 Office of the SCSBM

7. 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.
E-mail:- scsbm.agt@gmail.com
Website:- www.scsbm.org

The Executive Committee

8. The Fifteen (15) members Executive Committee including seven (07) Office Bearers were actively involved in the activities of the Society during the Financial Year 2016-17.

NGO Darpan

9. SCSBM has renewed its registration from NGO Partnership System to NGO Darpan under the NITI AYOJ. Our Unique ID is: - TR/2013/0070763.

Bank Account

10. 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

PAN of SCSBM

11. PAN Card No of SCSBM is – **AAKAS2872B**.

E-Filing Registration

12. SCSBM is duly registered with Income-Tax Department for e-Filing. E-return of SCSBM for the Financial Year 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 has been filed with the IT Department.

Allotment of a Piece of Land for a Community Centre at Agartala

13. Bishnupriya Manipurians are primarily residents of the far-flung areas of the state. But by now, a considerable number of populations of the community are also settled at Agartala, the state capital, for their livelihood. The population of the community residing at Agartala, have no provision to profess and practice their day-to-day traditional custom and cultural activities. Despite having a rich cultural heritage, the cultural artistes of the community, residing in remote villages are unable to participate in the cultural activities held in the state capital, throughout the year in absence of a Community Centre of Bishnupriya Manipuri at Agartala. In this regard an application for allotment of a piece of land for construction of a Community Centre of Bishnupriya Manipuri at Agartala, was submitted to the Honorable Chief Minister of Tripura, on 18 April 2012, duly signed by 81 (Eighty one) in support, on behalf of the community in Tripura.

14. To pursue the issue SCSBM is constantly in touch with the District Administration of West Tripura and the State Government. It is believed that at present, the issue is under active consideration of the State Government.

Participation in Cultural Function

15. As a part of our endeavor to rejuvenate the rich cultural heritage of Bishnupriya Manipuri, SCSBM participates in all possible cultural functions held at Agartala. Director, Information and Cultural Affairs (ICA), Government of Tripura has been requested more than once, to include SCSBM in the panel, for representing Bishnupriya Manipuri in all scheduled Government functions organized under them. Affective response from the Director ICA is awaited. However SCSBM participated in cultural programme of Annual Book Fair and in the state level Ex Servicemen function at Pragna Bhavan, Agartala on 26 Jan 2017.

Central Library of Bishnupriya Manipuri

16. To preserve the rich language and the literature of the community SCSBM has establish a Central Library of Bishnupriya Manipuri. This would enable the community to undertake research work on various fields of the community. For the time being the library has been established in the office premises of SCSBM. As on date, there are more than 600 books, including a number of books written in Bishnupriya Manipuri language, in the library. The Central Library of State Government and the Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRLF) has been requested to grant books and other admissible assistance to the Central Library of Bishnupriya Manipuri under the aegis of SCSBM. The library is open to all, with the reading room facility. To support our endeavor, we solicit helping hand from all corners.

Making of Traditional Dolls

17. SCSBM has initiated action to produce “Gopi”, a fiber made female doll of one ft height, in traditional gorgeous dress of Manipuri. It is believed that this indigenous “Gopi”, would be one of the unique and meaningful interior decoration / gift items of India to the world, exhibiting the rich cultural heritage of India. But, due to financial constraints bulk production of the item is held up.

The Rothojatra

18. Rothojatra is one of the important festivals of Bishnupriya Manipuri. The nine days festival of the community, generally held in the month of July (Aasad) is celebrated in their traditional ways with full joy and enthusiasms every year. As of previous years this year it was celebrated from 6 July to 14 July 2016 at Agartala, under the aegis of SCSBM.

The Holi Utshov

19. The five (05) days Holi Utshov, 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” of Radha-Krishna. An overwhelming response of love and affection received from the people of Agartala, in total disregard to their cast and creed or faith and belief. This year it was celebrated from 12 to 16 March 2017.

Conduct of Workshops

20. Workshops on Traditional Song, Dance and Mridanga are conducted regularly at Cultural Institute of Bishnupriya Manipuri (CIBM), within the premises of SCSBM at Agartala. During the Financial Year 2016-17, the outdoor workshops on Traditional Song, Dance and Mridanga were conducted at the following places on dates shown against each:-

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------|
| (a) Borjola, Agartala | - | 17 June 2016. |
| (b) Sri-Mandap, Rajbari, Dharmanagar | - | 24 Aug 2016 |
| (c) Sri-Mandap, Purba Hurua, Dharmanagar | - | 25 Aug 2016 |

Cultural Institute of Bishnupriya Manipuri

21. The Cultural Institute, namely the Cultural Institute of Bishnupriya Manipuri was inaugurated on 14th February 2015 at Agartala. by Dr. Prafullajit Sinha, Honorable Mayor, Agartala Municipal Corporation, in a brief but memorable function under the aegis of SCSBM. It is our endeavor to initiate all possible cultural activities towards rejuvenation of the vanishing rich culture of Bishnupriya Manipuri. It is co-located in the premises of SCSBM. Workshops on folk song, Manipuri dance and Mridanga are being held regularly in the institute. Actions are in hand to make it fully functional to impart training of all cultural activities of the community.

Conduct of Seminar of Cultural Artistes of Bishnupriya Manipuri

22. A seminar cum discussion of the Cultural Artistes and Heads of Cultural Institutes of Bishnupriya Manipuri, was organized by SCSBM at Agartala on 20th September 2015. The Seminar cum Discussion was conducted with the intent to resolve a unanimous course of action to rejuvenate the backward vanishing rich culture of the microscopic minority community of Bishnupriya Manipuri. Out of the total of 42 participants, eight were ladies. Smt Bijoy Laxmi Sinha MLA and Mr R Ganguly, the Director, Sangeet Natak Academy, North East Centre, Agartala, were present in the Seminar Cum Discussion as Special Invitees. The Seminar was presided over by Smt Jyotsna Sinha, the President of SCSBM. The important resolutions of the seminar were circulated to all concerned. Due liaisons are being made with the Authorities concerned, for smooth implementation of the resolutions.

Website of SCSBM

23. Website of SCSBM i.e. www.scsbm.org was launched by Sri Manik Sarkar the Honorable Chief Minister of Tripura on 15 Feb 2015 and the same is being updated regularly.

Publication of Annual Souvenir of SCSBM

24. The Fourth Edition of “**The Heritage of Bishnupriya Manipuri**” the Annual Souvenir of SCSBM has been printed and released.

Expansion of Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri

25. To reach easily to the population of Bishnupriya Manipuri at far-flung areas of the state, SCSBM has established offices of 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.

The Annual Functions of SCSBM

26. Agartala is the state capital of Tripura and gateway for exposure of the rich cultural heritage of the community. It is also believed that conduct of an Annual Function of Bishnupriya Manipuri at Agartala would not only encourage the Artistes but also enhance the unity and integrity of the community, residing at far-flung areas. The Third Annual Function of SCSBM was held in the hall of Cultural Institute of Bishnupriya Manipuri C/O Majors Den, Jagatpur, Abhoynagar Agartal, on 13th March 2016. Smt Bijoy Laxmi Sinha MLA was the inaugurator and among others Dr Prafullajit Sinha, the Hon'ble Mayor, Agartala Municipal Corporation and Dr Milind Ramteke, IAS, DM & Collector West Tripura were present. Application (complete in all respect) for financial grant under CFGPS was submitted to NCZCC through the ICA Department, Government of Tripura. But the application not being considered favorably, the Annual Function of the year 2016-17 is deferred.

Audit of Accounts of SCSBM

27. The Accounts of the SCSBM, since its inception has been audited by Firms of Charter Accountants of repute at Agartala. The Summary of Account as on 31st March 2017 is as under:-

<u>The Details</u>		<u>In Cash</u>	<u>In Bank</u>
Expenditure	-	45,386 43, 000	
Balance	-	0, 207	9, 384
Grand Total	-	45, 593	52, 384

The Conclusion

28. Like Bishnupriya Manipurians there may be many other backward microscopic minority communities, not only in the Union of India but also all over the world, who are deprived of the basics and are at the verge of their extinction. There is every possibility that the heart-rending cries of these needy people might not have reach to the Government or the concerned authorities, 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.

29. For ages, India is the leading country in setting examples to the world on various fields. Let us target to rejuvenate the vanishing cultural heritage and languages of the backward, microscopic minority communities of the Union of India, as our next example to be set to the world, among others. It is true that wastage of every single day has extreme adverse affect on cultural heritage and languages of these communities.

30. It is recommended that the Bishnupriya Manipuri, the community which inherits a world class cultural heritage, with a vulnerable language spoken by them, be the one to start with the project. Over and above the total population of the community is not even two lacs and settled in splintered remote villages of North-East, On our stepping in to the sixth year of journey, Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri (SCSBM) is fully confident to take on any responsibility assigned to it by the Government towards the uplift and development of the community of Bishnupriya Manipuri. 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 different levels. We are also confident that active helping hands from all corners would not only rejuvenate the rich cultural heritage of the community but also flourish all-over the world very soon.

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