

**The (THIRD) ANNUAL REPORT OF**  
**SOCIO CULTURAL SOCIETY OF BISHNUPRIYA MANIPURI**  
**FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014-15**



**SOCIO CULTURAL SOCIETY OF BISHNUPRIYA MANIPURI**

C/O – Majors Den, Opposite Saiba Sangha  
Jagatpur. PO – Abhoynagar. Tripura West.  
Pin – 799005. E-mail – [scsbm.agt@gmail.com](mailto:scsbm.agt@gmail.com)  
Web – [www.scsbm.org](http://www.scsbm.org)

Estd. 2012

Regd. No - 6476

## ***Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri***

C/O - Majors Den, Opp. Saiba Sangha, Jagatpur, P.O.-Abhoynagar, Agartala, Tripura (W), PIN-799005. E-mail: [scsbm.agt@gmail.com](mailto:scsbm.agt@gmail.com)

E-mail – [scsbm.agt@gmail.com](mailto:scsbm.agt@gmail.com) Web – [www.scsbm.org](http://www.scsbm.org)

### **President**

*Smt Jyotsna Sinha*  
SDO Chowmuhani  
Agartala, Tripura (W)  
9862139605 (M)

### **Secretary**

*Maj. Prafulla Kr. Sinha (Retd)*  
Jagatpur, Abhoynagar  
Agartala, Tripura (W)  
9436476566 (M)

### **Treasurer**

*Smt Sumitra Sinha*  
Officers Quarter Lane  
Agartala, Tripura (W)  
9774208591 (M)

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## **THE (THIRD) ANNUAL REPORT OF** **SOCIO CULTURAL SOCIETY OF BISHNUPRIYA MANIPURI** **FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014-15**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Bishnupriya Manipuri is a backward microscopic minority community, mainly inhabited in the North-Eastern States of Tripura, Assam and Manipur of the Union of India. A major portion of the population of the community is also residing in earlier Sylhet District of the present Republic of Bangladesh. The total population of the community, all over the world is estimated to be, not even five (5) lacs. Despite having a rich cultural heritage, language and dress of their own, the community is pacing very rapidly towards its extinction, due to the economic backwardness and inadequate representation because of their microscopic population, inhabited in splintered settlements. The poor, diminishing community deserve to be saved. To assign the noble task of “Ensuring the revival of the community”, the “Socio cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri” (SCSBM) was formed on 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 2012, in a General Meeting of the community, held at Bimal Singha Bishnupriya Manipuri Guest House, Agartala. It is duly registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 (Act XXI of 1860) on 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2012.

### **THE AIM**

2. **The Aim** of the Socio cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri (SCSBM) is to **Protect, Preserve, Nurture** and **Flourish** the rich socio-cultural heritage of Bishnupriya Manipuri in an organized manner.

### **THE OBJECTIVES**

3. 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 ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT**

4. The activities carried out by SCSBM during the Financial 2014-15, are as under:-

(a) **Progress on Allotment of a piece of Land for Construction of a Community Centre of Bishnupriya Manipuri at Agartala-** The initial application was submitted to the Honorable Chief Minister of Tripura on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012, duly signed by 181 in support. SCSBM since its inception has tried its best to maintain a very good liaison with all the concerned authorities of the State Government, to pursue the case for early allotment of a piece of land. A total number of eight sites have so far been shown to the District Administration. Land is yet to be allotted for the purpose. The progress on the issue, during the year under report, is as under:-

(i) After a joint visit to a site (Near Vivekananda Abason), by the Secretary SCSBM along with the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sadar and his concerned staff on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014, a fresh Proposal for allotment of one Kani of land, as agreed by the S D M, has been submitted to the D M & Collector, West Tripura District on 21 May 2014.

(ii) An application duly recommended by Smt Bijoy Laxmi Sinha, MLA, was initiated to the Revenue Minister, Government of Tripura, for early allotment of the land stated above on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

(iii) Similar application was initiated to the Urban Development Minister, Government of Tripura, for kind consideration of early allotment of the land stated above on 08 October 2014.

(iv) Delegates of SCSBM along with Smt Bijoy Laxmi Sinha MLA, submitted another application to the Honorable Chief Minister of Tripura, at his residential office on 31<sup>st</sup>. December 2014. They have also presented a doll, in traditional dress of Bishnupriya Manipuri, the first product of such dolls by SCSBM, to the Honorable Chief Minister on that day.

(v) There being no place of assembly or a Community Centre for the community of Bishnupriya Manipuri at Agartala, the inhabitants of Agartala belonging to the community are unable to follow their traditional custom in their day to day life. Because of that, they are also unable to profess and practice their rich culture resultantly, unable to participate in any cultural activities held in the state capital. However, it is believed that the piece of land proposed (last), is under active consideration of the Government for allotment.

(vi) In the Annual General Meeting of the community held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015, at Agartala, the house expressed their concerned over the issue and urged the Government of Tripura to settle the case at the earliest by allotting the land proposed for the purpose, thereby allow reviving the culture of the community.

(b) **Conduct of Executive Committee Meetings:** - During last one year a total of six meetings of the Executive Committee of SCSBM were held. In addition to the points of routine nature, the important issues for over-all development of the community were also discussed and action taken accordingly.

(c) **Rothojatra at Agartala** :- It is for the first time, the Rothojatra was celebrated by the Bishnupriya Manipuri community with full enthusiasms as per the tradition of the community at Agartala, during the year 2014. It was organized under the aegis of SCSBM (ph – 1 to 3).

(d) **Establishing the Central Library of Bishnupriya Manipuri:-** With the intent to preserve the rich language and the literature of the community SCSBM has initiated necessary action to establish a Central Library of Bishnupriya Manipuri. For the time being the library has been established in the office premises of SCSBM. As on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 there were more than 550 books in the library. The library is open to all with the reading room facility. (ph – 4)

(e) **Making of Traditional Dolls:** - SCSBM at its own initiative has started making the interior decoration pieces / Gift items of "GOPI" in traditional ceremonial dress of Bishnupriya Manipuri. It is believed that it would be one of the most attractive interior decoration piece or gift item for every one. (ph – 5)

(f) **Proposal for Production of Traditional Items Under KVIC Schemes** :- A case has been taken up with the K V I C to include the production of various traditional commodities special to the community of Bishnupriya Manipuri, in the schemes of KVIC, under the employment Generation Scheme. To name some of them are:-

- (i) Making of Traditional Doll, e.g.- Gift items / interior Decoration Pieces.
- (ii) Making of Traditional items, based on Bamboo and Cane, e.g. - Tapu.
- (iii) Making of Traditional Dresses, - Pollei & Raakhal dresses.

- (iv) Making of Traditional Handloom, e.g. – Kangtolpi, Matha etc.
- (v) Wood work e.g. – Mridongo.
- (vi) Embroidery e.g. – Chaksabi, Innafi etc.

(g) **Seminar cum Cultural Function to Rejuvenate the Diminishing Culture of Bishnupriya Manipuri:-**

It was for the first time in the history Bishnupriya Manipuri, a two days “Seminar cum Cultural Function to Rejuvenate the Diminishing Culture of Bishnupriya Manipuri” was organized under the aegis of SCSBM at Agartala on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015 (ph- 13 to 16). The programme was sponsored by NEZCC Dimapur. Some of the important activities undertaken during the two days programme are as under:-

(i) **Inauguration of the Cultural Institute of Bishnupriya Manipuri:-** SCSBM intends to bring the existing system of “Guru-Porompura” in regard to the learning of rich cultural activities (including the world famous Manipuri Dance) of Bishnupriya Manipuri to the class room system of teachings to attract the interest of the coming generations. As the maiden initiative of SCSBM to this direction “The Cultural Institute of Bishnupriya Manipuri” has been inaugurated at Agartala by Dr. Prafullajit Sinha, Honorable Mayor, Agartala Municipal Corporation, in a brief but memorable function on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2015 (ph-6 to 9).

(ii) **The Unique Cultural Procession of Bishnupriya Manipuri at Agartala:-** Agartala witnessed the rich cultural heritage of Bishnupriya Manipuri on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015, when a colorful procession of about five hundred people belonging to the community of Bishnupriya Manipuri, including male and female of different age groups, duly dressed in their traditional attire, marched through the heart of Agartala, dancing on the rhythms of their traditional musical instruments and melodious songs. In-fact it was a memorable event of the community of Bishnupriya Manipuri (ph – 10 to 12).

(iii) **Publication of Souvenir of SCSBM:** - The maiden edition of “**The Heritage of Bishnupriya Manipuri**” the annual souvenir of SCSBM was published by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015, in a Function to Rejuvenate the Diminishing Culture of Bishnupriya Manipuri (ph-17).

(iv) **Launch of Website:-** To enable to update the community of Bishnupriya Manipuri with the present day environment and to establish a means of interaction with the population of the community, the website [www.scsbm.org](http://www.scsbm.org) of Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri, dedicated to the community has been launched by Sri Manik Sarkar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura, at Agartala on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015 (ph – 18)

(v) **Conferring the Title of GURU to the Eminent Cultural Artistes of Bishnupriya Manipuri:-** On the initiatives of SCSBM, four eminent cultural artists of different disciplines, were conferred with the title of “GURU” on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015, in the maiden function to rejuvenate the diminishing culture of Bishnupriya Manipuri, which was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura as the Chief Guest and Sri Bhanu Lal Saha, Hon'ble Finance & I C A Minister, Government of Tripura as Special Guest, among others (ph - 19 & 20).

(j) **Cultural Programme**:- Talents from all over the state in different fields of cultural activities of Bishnupriya Manipuri had participated in the cultural function. The interest and master arts exhibited by the artistes were extremely commendable but being organized for the first time, SCSBM was not in a position or prepared to reward them appropriately to encourage them. The interest of the audience was worth noting. The auditorium remained full to its brim till the last minute of the programme.

(k) **Reception to Justice Bhabani Prasad Singha**:- Justice Bhabani Prasad Singha, judge High Court Division of Supreme Court of the Republic of Bangladesh who was on an official visit to the state, as a state guest, was honored in a reception organized by SCSBM at Agartala on 22 March 2015 (ph-21 & 22).

(l) **Celebration of Holi at Agartala**:- It is for the first time Holi was celebrated at Agartala in traditional manner of Bishnupriya Manipuri. In that a team of thirty-five to forty people of Bishnupriya Manipuri (majority of whom were ladies) duly dressed in their traditional dresses, went door to door at different places in Agartala for three days from 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015 to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015, singing the traditional songs of love and brotherhood along with their musical instruments. An unimaginable overwhelming response of love and affection received from the people of Agartala, even in total disregard to their faith and belief or cast and creed (ph – 23 & 24).

**Regular Publication of Tripura Che**:- A case has also been taken up by S C S B M with the Director ICA, Government of Tripura to kindly take necessary action for regular publication of the “Tripura Che” the only news paper of Bishnupriya Manipuri published in their language, by the Government. On deliberation upon the issue the house is of the opinion that the case be represented appropriately through the Director ICA for immediate necessary action.

(m) **Grant of Honorarium to the Eminent Cultural Artiste of Bishnupriya Manipuri**:- A case has been taken up with the Honorable Cultural Minister, Government of Tripura for grant of honorarium to the eminent cultural artiste of Bishnupriya Manipuri in honor to their life-long services to the community(Nation). The issue was deliberated upon in the General Meeting of the community held on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015. The house strongly recommended that each eminent Cultural Artistes of Different Disciplines of Bishnupriya Manipuri be granted an honorarium of Rupees Five thousand (Rs. 5000/-) only per month with immediate effect, considering their acute financial hardship, as a special case, to allow them to lead a dignified life, at least at the last lag of their life. The house also recommended that to start with the honorarium in a logical order, the senior most personalities conferred with the titles of “Guru” / “Pandit” etc. be given Priority.

(n) **Conduct of the Annual Programme of Bishnupriya Manipuri At Agartala**:- With the successful conduct of the Annual Function of Bishnupriya Manipuri on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2015, with the support of NEZCC, Dimapur, by sponsoring the programme, a ray of hope has started emanating in the minds of each member of the community of Bishnupriya Manipuri for their revival. They are confident that the Annual Function of this diminishing community for the coming years would be held regularly in a better way. The issue was deliberated upon in the General Meeting of the community held on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015. The house earnestly urged the NEZCC, Dimapur, Directorate of Information & Cultural Affairs (ICA), Government of Tripura, Directorate of Welfare of Other Backward Communities (OBC), Government of Tripura and National School of Drama, to extend their kind helping hand sponsoring the function jointly, making provision of adequate fund to enable SCSBM to conduct the event in a befitting manner, to bring the hope of the helpless community of Bishnupriya Manipuri, to its reality.

(o) **Audit of Account:** - The accounts of SCSBM for the Financial Year 2014-15 have been duly audited by a reputed firm of chartered accountants. There is no observation on the account. However the summary of account is:-

(i)	Expenditure	-	Rs. - 1, 44,460.00
(ii)	Balance	-	Rs. - 01,779.00
(iii)	Grand Total	-	Rs. - 1, 46,239.00

### **CONCLUSION**

5. We the team of SCSBM considered it a miraculous event, when we received the E-mail sanctioning Rupees one lac from NEZCC for conduct of our Annual Function to Rejuvenate the Diminishing Culture of Bishnupriya Manipuri held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015 at Agartala. The people who attended the function returned home with a ray of hope in their mind that the rich culture of the community of Bishnupriya Manipuri may not diminish. It was made possible due to the helping hand of NEZCC Dimapur, who sponsored the function. Despite inadequacy of the fund, the function could be conducted successfully due to the cooperation and spontaneous support of the people of the community and the well-wishers, even belonging to other communities. It was for the first time in the history of Bishnupriya Manipuri, where such a function was conducted by an organization of the community and was graced by the Honorable Chief Minister and the Minister of Finance and I C A etc Department, Government of Tripura. We are highly encouraged by their kind presence. It is fact that to revive the culture of the community, detail deliberation of the issue, by the competent authorities is one of the urgent and inescapable requirement of the day. Singularly for the Socio Cultural Society of Bishnupriya Manipuri (SCSBM), it may be a very difficult task to achieve our "AIM". But today, with your support with us, our confidence is building up, we could now believe that the diminishing culture of Bishnupriya Manipuri would flourish all over the world, very soon.

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Activities of SCSBM during the Financial –Year 2014-15



The traditional Chariot is set for Rothojatra 2014(ph1)



The "Central Library of Bishnupriya Manipuri" Is coming up under the aegis of SCSBM (ph-4).



The Puja before the Rothojatra 2014 ((ph-2)



Traditional Doll, a Product of SCSBM (Ph – 5)



The Rothojatra of Bishnupriya Manipuri at Agartala in 2014 (ph-3)



Welcome Address by secretary SCSBM in the inaugural function of the Cultural Institute of Bishnupriya Manipuri on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015 (ph-6)



**The Cultural Institute of Bishnupriya Manipuri being inaugurated on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015 (ph – 7)**



**The Cultural Procession of Bishnupriya Manjuri at Agrtala on 15 Feb 2015 (ph-10)**



**Dr. Prafullajit Sinha Inaugurates the Cultural Institute of Bishnupriya Manipuri at Agartala (ph-8)**



**The Cultural Procession of Bishnupriya Manjuri at Agrtala on 15 Feb 2015 (ph- 11)**



**The Classical Dance of Bishnupriya Manipuri (ph-9)**



**The Cultural Procession of Bishnupriya Manjuri at Agrtala on 15 Feb 2015 (ph- 12)**



The Function to rejuvenate the diminishing Culture of Bishnupriya Manjuri at Agrtala on 15/2/15 (ph-13)



Function on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015 was graced by the Honorable Chief Minister and the Finance Minister, Government of Tripura among others (ph-16)



Sri Manik Sarkar Honorable Chief Minister of Tripura arrives to the function on 15 Feb 2015 (ph - 14)



The Souvenir of SCSBM being released by the Honorable Chief Minister of Tripura (ph-17)



The Chief Guest is being honoured with a 'Koyet' the traditional Headgear of Bishnupriya Manjuri (ph - 15)



Website [www.scsbm.org](http://www.scsbm.org) being launched (ph-18)



The title "Guru" is being conferred to Sri Bidya Sinha, Dakula, by Sri Bhanu Lal Saha the Honorable Cultural Minister, Govt. of Tripura (ph-19)



Justice Bhabani Prasad Singha, of the High court Division of Supreme Court of Bangladesh at Agartala on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 (ph-22)



The title "Guru" is being conferred to Smt Srimati Sinha Raajdhari, by Smt Bijoy Laxmi Sinha, MLA (ph-20)



Team is ready for Celebration of Holi at Agartala on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015 (ph23)



Reception to Justice Bhabani Prasad Singha, of the High court Division of Supreme Court of Bangladesh on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 (ph-21)



Door to door celebration of Holi in traditional way of Bishnupriya Manipuri at Agartala 2015 (ph- 24)