

**Chief Minister at 117th birth anniversary celebration of
Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur Debbarman
Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya's thinking was
totally focused on welfare of the state and its people**

The last king of the Manikya dynasty, Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya, was a true visionary. His visionary thinking led to unprecedented progress in the state's education, health, communication system, market, banking services. His overall thinking was focused on the welfare of the state and its people. Chief Minister Professor (Dr.) Manik Saha said this while inaugurating the state-level program to celebrate the 117th birth anniversary of Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur Debbarman at the Rabindra Satabarshiki Bhavan yesterday. At the program, eminent educationist and cultural personality Sachin Kalai was awarded this year's Maharaja Bir Bikram Smriti Puraskar. He was given a memento, certificate and a cheque of Rs. 1 lakh as the award. The program was organized by the Information and Cultural Affairs Department.

Speaking at the event, Chief Minister Professor (Dr.) Manik Saha said that Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya had taken up various plans for the welfare of the state and its people during his short life. He started a huge mission for the development of the state by utilizing his experience of travelling abroad. Although he was a follower of Hinduism, he was respectful to all religions. His role in the development of the state's higher education infrastructure is undeniable. The Chief Minister said that the current government is also marching on the path of development by following the Maharaja's thoughts.

The Chief Minister said that during the previous state governments, the kings of Tripura were not given due respect. During the tenure of the current government, the only airport in the state has been named after Maharaja Bir Bikram. His birth anniversary has been declared a public holiday on August 19. The Chief Minister said that on his birth anniversary, it is not enough to just pay tribute by garlanding the portrait of the Maharaja, but also to inform the current generation about his ideals and thoughts. During the partition, he generously provided food and shelter to countless people who came from East Bengal. Through this act of humanity, the humane side of the Maharaja's character was revealed. The last four kings of the Manikya dynasty had a special relationship with the poet Rabindranath Tagore. It was Maharaja Bir Bikram who awarded the poet the title of 'Bharat Bhaskar'.

The Chief Minister said that the current government wants to take the development of the state forward by preserving and carrying the old culture and heritage of the state. Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas and Sabka Vishwas are not just slogans, but also express the sense of responsibility of the central and state government towards the common people. India has been attacked by foreign powers many times. Despite this, the culture, heritage and traditions of this country still exist today, which is our pride.

The Chief Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken an unprecedented program through the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign to make the current generation aware of the lives and philosophy of the great people who sacrificed their lives for the independence of the motherland and are currently protecting it. Because it is never possible to take the country forward by ignoring the sacrifices of the brave martyrs. The Chief Minister said that all religions, castes, races and tribes are the children of this country. It is possible to build a great country through the overall efforts of everyone.

Speaking at the event, Cooperative Minister Shuklacharan Noatia said, "The current government is showing real respect to the kings. The people of the state still respect the state and the royal family." Participating in the discussion at the event, MP Kriti Devi Debbarmann said, "The kings and royal family of Tripura have always thought about the welfare of the people of this state. For the overall development of this marginal state, all the castes and tribes will have to work together with a sense of brotherhood." Secretary of the Information and Culture Department Dr. P. K. Chakraborty delivered the welcome speech at the event.

At the beginning of the program, the Chief Minister and other guests paid tribute to Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya by offering floral tributes. In addition, a documentary on the life and activities of the Maharaja was screened at the program. Among others present at the program were Mayor of Agartala Municipal Corporation MLA Deepak Majumdar, Padma Shri Swami Chittaranjan Maharaj, eminent educationist Jagadish Ganchowdhury, Vice-President of the State Cultural Advisory Committee Subrata Chakraborty and Director of the Information and Cultural Affairs Department Bimbisar Bhattacharya.

Meanwhile, in the morning, Chief Minister Professor (Dr.) Manik Saha, Agartala Municipal Corporation Mayor Deepak Majumdar and corporators paid floral tributes to the marble statue of Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya installed at Zero Point in Kaman Chowmuhani.
