

Mizo Dancers Create Guinness Record

- Bedabrata Lahkar

AIZAWL, March 12: Mizoram today danced to glory creating a new Guinness Record in Bamboo dance popularly known here as Cheraw dance. A total of 10,736 performers including 5368 girls and an equal number of boys set the record by dancing to rhythmic tunes of the traditional dance which is in vogue in varying forms in several countries in South East Asia as well.

There were 4096 performers in the Assam Rifles Ground, the main venue where the attempt for the record was made at 2 pm today under the watchful eyes of the Guinness Book of Record Adjudicator Lucia Sinigagliesi. The rest of the 6,640 dancers and bamboo beaters were spread over stretch of 3 kms of the city's main roads as the Assam Rifles Ground could accommodate only about 4000 dancers.

The people came out in thousands to the Ground besides lining up along the streets to cheer the dancers and witness history being created. Several Ministers, top officials and dignitaries were present at the function.

The record came just a day after the State celebrated Chapchar Kut, the most important traditional festival of the Mizos.

There was a riot of colours as the mostly young girl dancers attired in colourful traditional costumes performed for eight minutes as stipulated the Guinness Book of Records. The Director of Art and Culture department Boichhingpuii told newsmen that the organizers had approved eight different sets of costumes for the girls to add colour to the grand spectacle.



Ms. Sinigagliesi watched the performance with thousands of people

The Cheraw dance was performed in the earlier times only ensure safe passage for the soul of a woman who died at child birth. It is, therefore, a dance of sanctification and redemption. However nowadays, Cheraw is performed on the occasion of Chapcharkut festival.

The idea to create the new record was inspired by the Guinness Book of Records for biggest drum ensemble of over 5000 drummers set by Meghalaya in 1996, Boichhingpuii informed. The Government of Mizoram came out with full support to the event sanctioning Rs. 50 lakhs for the expenditure involved.

A lot of organizing and technical skills were involved in the mammoth event. With the performance spread out over 3 kms, 42 horns backed by 95,000 watts of sound system, had to be strategically placed on the streets so that the dancers could dance simultaneously to the same beat.

Today's record set by Mizoram comes after two other musical records set by Meghalaya in drum and guitar ensembles in 1996 and 1997.

(The Assam Tribune: 13-03-10)



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Rangali Bihu-Let it bring a change in our Social Life



save our DAUGHTERS



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Shri Amarendra Brahma, on behalf of
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Articles on **Eternal Faith and Culture** and different Socio-Cultural movements in Northeast are invited for publication.

Save the Daughters of NE

Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai and such other mega cities of our country become destination for our daughters of North East.

Female liberty may be a boon to the humanity here but, today it become a curse as girls moves from NE at their own will and finally it make them to reach the brothels in those cities. Various agents are working for such flesh trade centers, who take those girls in the name of white coloured job of high profile, to work in film industries etc., but their fate ends with the rackets running brothels there. It is next to impossible for such pity girls to come out of such prisons. Even police administration is involved at many a places who are patronising those brothel managers.

Some one may say, things are being publishing in newspapers, why people are being trapped by such agents! But how many of our girls in rural areas are acquainted with newspapers! Even if some of them are well versed with this problem, but personal relationship by agents with such innocent girls and their family members make them to believe and are becoming scapegoat to this demonic trap.

After all, what is the solution!

Only a vigilant society can save our daughters. If someone say, 'due to economic problem, they use to move outside', it can not be wise. If someone have time, he or she can go to the rural areas of Bihar, Orissa, M.P. and Maharastra. The life people leading there, is much worst then the NE zone. Again, the values of life and humanity itself can not be given up just for earning some additional money. Conditions here are not much worst. Our daughters are not starving here.

Can a delegation of elites will show their courage to move these mega cities and meet the govt. authorities and administration for **BRINGING BACK ALL OUR DAUGHTERS** from that **BLACK ROOMS**, where **HUMANITY IS BEING SOLD** every night just for the sake of a few currency notes!

North-East Terrorists and Maoists have Chinese Links

The intelligence agencies concerned keeping trail on the movement of Barua have got enough indications that he is cooling his heels in the wooded fastness of Kachin province of Myanmar. The province is known as a safe passage and sanctuary of north-east extremist group with active support from the Kachin Independent Army (KIA), Arakan, Karen, Shan, and Chin rebels fighting for liberating zones against the military junta of Yangon. The agencies in course of their trail have also stumbled upon the fact that China is backing up north-east militants and Maoists.

Mizo National Front (MNF) hqrs, it is to be recalled, was based at Newlogoon close to the border of Mizoram. Besides Bangladesh and Bhutan. ULFA had also set-up camps in Kachin after the outfit signed Indo-Burma Revolutionary Front (IBRF) with NSCN (K) and UNLU in 1995. The entire troubled zone is best known as guerilla hinterland. Both the NSCN (K) and UNLF have strong presence in the Arakant region. It is the writ of the rebels and not the military junta that runs through the province and all the areas around.

The strategic location of Kachin and Shan provinces with passage to China, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand provides the northeast militants easy access to arms shipped from international markets. It is an open secret that besides Chittagong and Cox's Bazaar, sea ports of Bangladesh, arms used by militants come from Myanmar. Assam Rifles has identified 30 border villages across Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram where arms are caught for gunrunners. BSF, on the other hand, listed India's 663 km border with Myanmar as "corridor of terror".

Logistic and material support has made Myanmar an ideal destination for ULFA the lone top fugitive Pares Barua in the present predicament can not have better option than to seek refuge with IBRF allies and the Myanmar guerillas. Intelligence agencies have more information on ULFA's Kachin safari. China has been one of the potential suppliers of arms. According to them, a strong syndicate code named Black House with its base in Yunan province of China controls

shipments of Chinese arms and ammunitions in South Asia.

Reports quoting Jane's intelligence review say that China now scores over Cambodia and Thailand as the main supplier of weapons to north-east militants. It further reveals IBRF allies have close coordination with United Wa State Army (UWSA) with large force of soldiers an obscure but dreaded Myanmar based insurgent group. The Army works as a link between Chinese arms suppliers and militant groups of India. Reports further add that Pares Barua has not escaped from Bangladesh in the wake of the crackdown on ULFA leaders. He has long before been in Kachin for arms shopping where he is holed up now.

According to another report, Barua along with Manipur based Peoples Liberation Army chairman Nengbom Bhorot went to Kuming in Yunan province and held two meetings with Lt. Gen. Guangkhai, the chief of Chinese military intelligence known as the second department of Chinese Peoples Liberation Army General staff officials. The meeting took place between February 13 and 17 this year.

Quite significantly, Maoists and naxalites have of late been seeking ideological resonance and tactical understanding with north-east insurgents. Union Home Minister P Chidambaram admitted while addressing the annual conference of Director Generals and Inspector Generals of Police in September in Delhi that Maoists are tying up in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam for arms from China through Myanmar Information with the Union Home Ministry is that Maoists have improved on military wares and operational tactics. UWSA is again a major player in this arms deal.

Can not India mount diplomatic pressure on Myanmar like Bangladesh for crackdown on extremist leaders? Observers say it is difficult to implement. Two important reasons are that military junta of Yangon have no control over Kachin and Shan provinces where the rebels are active. Secondly, Beijing has great influence over Myanmar military rulers and the rebels too maintain better Chinese connections for their own interests.

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"We owe a lot to Indians who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made."

- Albert Einstein (1879-1955) One of the great scientists and philosophers who received Nobel Prize for his 'Theory of Relativity'.