

**Ambassador's Remarks at Manipuri Dance Performance, National Art Gallery,  
Astana, April 4, 2015**

Excellencies, distinguished guests and dear friends,

I am delighted to welcome you all to the “Presentation of Manipuri Dance” today evening, as part of the Namaste India Festival being organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Embassy.

As part of the Festival, we had a scintillating presentation of Indian Classical Music and Dance yesterday and today we have a presentation of Manipuri Dance by a 12-member group led by Shri Thoiba Oinam from the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal.

The performance today would showcase the classical and folk dances of Manipur, one of the 29 states and 7 union territories that form the Union of India. Almost each state and union territory in India has its own distinct culture, food, dress and in most cases its own distinct language.

The group would perform four group performances and two solo items. The performance would include Manipuri classical dance, which has its roots that go back over 2000 years ago and folk dances, Dhol Cholam and Thang-Ta. Dhol Cholam is a folk drum dance welcoming the spring season and Thang-Ta is a dance of Manipuri martial art.

Before we begin the performance, we will screen a short film to give you a glimpse of the state of Manipur also called the jewel of India or the jeweled land.

In bringing today's performance, I would like to thank National Art Gallery for offering the venue, and ONGC Videsh Limited, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year; Tea Board of India; Arcelor Mittal; KEC Ltd; Gateway Ventures and FlyDubai for providing local hospitality to the group.

I am confident that today's performance will contribute to further strengthening of cultural ties between India and Kazakhstan.

I wish you a pleasant evening.

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