

"This Year's trip to North East"



Like in the previous years, this year also with Pujya Swamiji's blessings and permission I have visited Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. It was a trip that I will not forget in my life time.

On 9th of May, 2013 I reached Guwhati and on 10th from there I went to Meghalaya. On 13th afternoon, along with Mr. Kripa Prasad Singh (All India Vice President of Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram) I reached Agartala, Tripura. On 14th we started our journey

towards Maa Tripureswarii Mandir in a place called Udaypur. After having wonderful Darshanam and receiving her Blessings we started to Kumarghat (where Pujya Swamiji's devotee Smt. Dr. Indu Krishnan and her family friends have donated a Hostel Building to Vanavasii Kalyan Ashram). The hostel has been functioning since 2011 and 40 tribal girls stay there. Next day we went to Kanchanpur and from there to Riyong-Refugee-Camp, in place called Ashapada

and Narsingpada in Tripura-Mizoram-Border.

In Ashapada, the Riyong tribes accorded us a very warm welcome in a traditional way. We met hundreds of people. As I have written in my last year's report, more than 45,000 people are living in these two refugee-camps for the past 16 years. Last year we brought 10 boys and 15 girls from there to Aim for Seva Hostels in MP. All the student's parents and relatives expressed their desire to meet me separately. **I am extremely happy to share with you that the parents have expressed their gratitude and happiness to Aim for Seva for taking care of and educating their children very nicely and without their having to take care of any expense.** They have expressed their gratitude and Pranams to Pujya Swamiji for starting Aim for Seva organization. Many of them have asked me to take their other children also to Aim for Seva Hostels. *" We do not know whether we will go back to our homes in Mizoram or not. We are afraid our children will grow up without any education. Here we do not have school facility. Schools run by missionaries are there in this place but we have to pay Rs500 per student per month and we can't afford that; plus they force us to come to their prayers and criticize our style of living. We don't want to give up our culture and our children tell us that in Aim for Seva, all the people love us, validate our culture and encourage us for following our culture. Our children tell us over phone that our Swamiji and other people keep asking us about our culture and family members. No body has done this for us since last 16 years, not even our*



Government. Hence we request you to take more students from our camps”.

On the 15th we moved from Kanchanpur to Mizoram side. This trip was an eye-opener for us. From Kanchanpur(NorthTripura) to Rajiv Nagar (Mizoram) the road is NH 44 and the distance is 150km. We started from Kanchanpur at 9am in the morning and reached Rajiv Nagar at 6pm. There is no road at all and it is a total hilly area, called Jampui Hills. On the way we crossed Hmunpui, Vanghmun, Behliang Chhip, Banglabari, Thangsang, Sabual, Phuldeengsei, Kawnoui and Kawnpui North(this is the last villege of Tripura). Here our car was stopped by Tripura police and then by Mizoram Police. We had to go through like immigration formalities(Even though we had taken permission to go to Mizoram 15 days before) with both Tripura and Mizoram police before going to Rajiv Nagar.

Before reaching Rajiv Nagar we had to cross Khantlang, Amsurimukh and Kild. As we entered Rajiv Nagar, the village Head(Mukhiya) told us that it was not the right time for us to visit Mizoram as these days a lot of things were happening in that area. When I asked him further, he said *“Since last 15 days 5 people have been kidnapped from these 4 villages and 2 have been killed. One person’s dead body is still in this village only. Yesterday police were suppose to come here to do the formalities but so far they have not come. Without them completing the formalities we can’t do the cremation also. Suppose we do it and they come to know, all of us will be behind bars. Though that person is my*

relative, we can’t even touch the dead body”.

It was very late by then and they took us to a Buddhist temple (It is on top of the hill) and asked us to spend the night there and left us, saying they would meet us the next morning.



In Mizoram three tribes live- the Mizu, Riyong and Chakma. Among them Mizus are 85%, Riyongs are 6 % and Chakmas are 9%. Mizus are 100% converted into Christianity; Riyongs are 40% Hindus and 60% converted Christians and Chakmas, being very strong Buddhists are given a tough time because they do not want to be converted into Christians.

We stayed overnight at the Buddhist temple which is made of bamboos. It rained heavily the whole night. The Buddhist monk at the temple offered us rice and some unknown vegetables. We took it and then a few people came to meet us from the village. I remember their names- Gyana Ranjan Chakma, Dhiman Chakma, Jnanandu Chakma, Bishrut Chakma, Kumari Khema Chakma and Smt.Kanika Chakma. There was no electricity; so they brought a few candles.

Mr.Gyana Ranjan Chakma knew a little Hindi, so I set with him and started asking about their life there, how many people were there in the village? How do you manage your livelihood? Who are the people live in this village.. etc. He told that in Rajiv Nagar village and in nearby 15 villages only Chakma people lived. (They were a total of 25,000 people in that part of Mizoram.) After that, in a few villages the Riyong people and some Mizu people lived. The Riyong and Chakma lived only in hilly area and Mizus lived in the other part of Mizoram.

I then asked him about the 1997 incident, when there was tension between Riyongs tribes and Mijus tribes which later turned into a big fight and Riyongs had run away

to Tripura. Mr. Gyana Ranjan Chakma told me the whole story. –

There was a Forest Guard in that area and he was from Mizu Tribe. One day he showed a very beautiful girl in one village. She belonged to the Riyong tribe. He had kidnapped the girl and taken her to his office. After few days he brought her to that village and told the villagers that she was his wife. The Riyong community accepted it and kept quiet as they had no choice. They were scared and suppressed by Mizus. They were tortured by them. Then after some time that Forest Guard started giving her more and more torture and started looking towards other girls also. He had started openly telling that I will have few more girls from your community, what will you people do and touched one more girl, but there were many Riyong people, so he couldn't take her on that day. That same night some of the Riyong community youth came together and went to forest office and killed that Guard. That was the reason the Mizu Community got violent and killed many people; many villages were put on fire, many girls were raped and killed; many Riyong village leaders were kidnapped and latter on killed, their heads, hands and legs being cut. It went on for few days, even then no police force came to stop it. So the remaining Riyong Community people ran away towards the Tripura border and the Tripura Government gave them shelter.

That was 1997 and since then these people are living there as a Refugee Camp. Those days Union Home Minister L.K.Adwaniji went there and assured them that within few days they will be taken back to their

places and given their Land and houses but so far nothing has happened. After that Mr. Shivaraj Patil, Mr. P. Chidambaram had been there, but they couldn't help them too. (Few days before in Chip Ministers meeting in Delhi Mr. Shushil Kumar Shinde, Home Minister of India has said one sentence about it- Tripura and Mizoram have some problem and that has to be solved by them only, we (Gov. of India) can not interfere in it. It is clear that Gov. of India does not want to interfere, because then all Mizos will not be happy).

Then I have asked Mr. Gyan Ranjan Chakma- How do you people (Chakmas) manage to be here? There is no Government support and no safety for you people also? He said *"We do not want to leave our home-land. Though they (Mizo-People) say that we (Chakmas) are not natives and are foreigners, how is that possible? Because now also we can see the old monuments of Chakmas and in Bangladesh and here also we can see the Forts of Chakama Kings. The Mizoram Government and Mizos are giving us hard time. Every day the police and other people are torturing and harassing us. You have seen that since last two days one dead*

body is lying in our village, but no police man has come to our village and suppose without post-mortem we do the cremation then the police will come here and take at least 10 people from this village and put case on their name. Each and every week at least one or two people are killed and kidnapped; no action is taken by Government of Mizoram neither by Government of India. Whatever happens, we will not give-up home land, we will fight against them and we are asking Riyong people also, just come together, we will fight for our rights, don't run away."

Next day morning around 50 Chakma people from Rajiv Nager and neighboring villages came to meet us and expressed their gratitude for coming all the way to see them and requested us to come again. They have put a special request to Aim for Seva and specially to Pujya Swamiji - **"Please take our children to Aim for Seva Hostels"**. These people have seen Pujya Swamiji in Gauhati in 2006 when Pujya Swamiji was the Chief Guest of the All India Tribal meet .

Swami Aishwaryananda Saraswati
Indore, M.P.

"See life objectively, just as it is, so that you will be able to make use of the time that is available in your hands right now. Available time is precious time. Make use of it - consciously, alertly. Consciously use your time for your activities and pursuits. Work. Play. Sleep. Eating, relaxing, walking, make use of time consciously and then you won't find one day that time has passed over you and suddenly you are old. If you make use of time alertly, consciously, you are a Swami of time, a master of time"

.....Dayananda