

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF 6TH ALL INDIA POLICE ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIP, 2017 ON 19TH FEBRUARY, 2018 AT KHUMAN LAMPAK ARCHERY GROUND, IMPHAL

Shri L.M. Khaute, Director General of Police, Manipur,

All members of the police fraternity,

All the Participants,

Friends from Media,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to be associated with the Opening Ceremony of the 6th All India Police Archery Championship, 2017 being held from today till 23rd February. Archery has always been a popular game in the state and the Manipur Police Department deserves praise for hosting the national level championship at Imphal.

The 5th All India Police Archery Championship, 2016 was held at the Birsa Munda Football Stadium, Ranchi from October 19 to 23, 2016 where new records were set in various Archery events. This time also, at the Imphal Championship I am looking forward to more records falling in this highly competitive field of archery. After the competition some of you will be pleased with the result while some others will be disheartened. Here, I would like to recall the words of Pierre de Coubertin, the father of modern Olympics who said "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part; the essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well". I would like to console in advance those missing the podium in this edition of the Championship not to be disheartened but strive more so that you can succeed next time.

Manipur is widely known for its rich cultural heritage and it is no less popular for the sporting talent of its people. The state has been rightly dubbed as the ‘sports capital’ of the country. The achievements and contributions by the state of Manipur towards sports in the world arena deserves the highest appreciation. Individual sportspersons including those from the Police Department have won laurels by their hard work and perseverance to succeed in various sports events at national as well as international level competitions. It is in recognition of the tremendous achievements and sports potential of the state that the Union Government has decided to open a sports university here. I have no doubt in my mind that such a university will lead to many more sports laurels for the state in the times to come.

Games and sports are considered an integral part of any individual including uniformed forces as it keeps one physically and mentally fit. It is a scientifically proven fact that for a person to perform well professionally or otherwise it is very important to de-stress from time to time. Since archery is recreational as well as a competitive sport like the golf and certainly, less expensive, the All India Police Archery Meet will help immensely in de-stressing our hard working cops. Among various disciplines in sports, Archery is considered as a great sport for boosting one’s mental and physical health because archers not only require physical strength but also mental fitness. As we are all aware, police is a very taxing profession and it is always a difficult proposition for a police person to maintain a well-balanced family life because of the various stressful situations on the professional front. The situation is more challenging for the personnel of Manipur Police as they are saddled with the additional task of counter-insurgency.

It is heartening to note that the Manipur Police is making all possible efforts to promote sports in the organization by improving sports

infrastructure, introduction of special training courses, recruitment of outstanding sports persons and coaches. I also congratulate the Manipur Police Department for successfully hosting the 6th All India Police Archery Championship and it is a great event and opportunity for the police fraternity from across the country of India to come together to showcase the innate talents that each and every individual has as sportsman and woman. An event of such magnitude also provides opportunity to promote national integration because by coming together closer we can understand each other better.

I compliment the All India Police Sports Control Board, the Organising Committee and all those involved in hosting of the Championship successfully. My best wishes to all the participating teams and I hope that the teams coming from other states will enjoy our hospitality and go back with sweet memories. I thank the organisers for inviting me to this function.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.