

SPEECH OF SHRI LA. GANESAN, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> GOVERNOR'S TAEKWONDO CUP, MANIPUR, 2022 AT INDOOR STADIUM KHUMAN LAMPAK, IMPHAL ON 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2022.

Shri Heikham Dingo Singh ji,  
Hon'ble Minister, Social Welfare, Skill, Labour & Employment,  
Shri Lourembam Rameshwor Meitei ji,  
Hon'ble MLA, Keirao Assembly Constituency,  
Friends from Electronic and Print Media,  
Distinguished Invitees,  
All the participating players,  
Brothers and Sisters,

I am very happy to be with you all here today on the occasion of the opening function of the 16<sup>th</sup> Governor's Cup Manipur, Taekwondo, organized by the All Manipur Taekwondo Association.

As you all are well aware, what is Taekwondo, a sports discipline? I do not intend to dilate much on this as everybody must be eagerly waiting to witness the opening competition. However, I intend to share something with you about Taekwondo. Taekwondo means, the way of the foot and the fist. It is a form of self defense using only your bare hands and feet. No weapons are ever used in Taekwondo. It is similar to Karate using many jumps and kicks. Taekwondo dates back over 2000 years but has become one of the most popular sports in the world over the past more than five decades. Taekwondo is participated by more than 40 million people in more than 142 countries in the world.

Taekwondo is now an official Olympic event and was introduced at the Sydney Australia Olympic games in the year 2000. The first person to win an Olympic Gold medal in the Taekwondo heavy weight division was a women, her name is Arlene Limas from the United States.

Sometimes young kids are accused of not having discipline and respect towards our elders. Taekwondo helps us to concentrate and to become more self confident and respect towards our elders.

Some of you may know the name Chuck Norris. He is one of the famous masters of Taekwondo and is a television and movie star. In 1996 Chuck Norris was awarded an 8<sup>th</sup> degree Black Belt which is the highest level in Taekwondo. The most important lesson Chuck Norris learned was discipline and respect and I think these are great qualities to have. Everybody, I am sure, must have heard the legend name “Bruce Lee” popularly known as “Bruce”. He was the king of Martial Art just like Taekwondo. Once he said **“Martial Art is not meant to attack, it is an art to defend yourself and others”**. This discipline should always be maintained by you forever.

I have been given to understand that originally Manipur has a rich heritage of martial arts traditions such as Thang-ta (Sword and Spear) of its various ethnic communities which constitute a significant component of the culture of the people. In other words, Manipuri martial arts have been a characteristic attribute of the history and civilization of the State. However, in the modern society, Taekwondo is also becoming more and more popular in

the State and the State has also produced many talented Taekwondo players. It will not be out of place to mention that Taekwondo demand very high moral character and discipline from all who are practicing them. This should always be kept in the mind that the knowledge of Taekwondo is dangerous if the high moral character and discipline are not maintained by its practitioners. In the past, emphasis was given not only to the development of strength and skill but also to the self-discipline and personal character of the practitioners of Taekwondo. Respect for the opponents and human values were also treated as equally important by the Gurus.

As you know that in the present day world various form of Taekwondo are practised for physical fitness, recreation, self-defence, etc., besides many being recognized as competitive sports. This permits the old tradition to survive in this highly competitive modern world.

The aim and object of sports and games, apart from bringing glory and laurels for the country, is primarily to instil the idea of discipline, orderliness, team spirit, qualities of leadership and patriotism to young and delicate minds, so that they may become an asset not only in their future life, but also for the country. It is my firm belief that if youths are properly associated with games and sports, they will make use of their qualities of sportsmanship in their every day life which will in turn make our Nation a vibrant one.

I hope that the organization of this Cup will certainly help in studying in detail its philosophy and also in finding out any requirements for further development of the art. Efforts made by All Manipur Taekwondo Association in this regard deserve encouragement and support. I am confident that the Cup will help in popularizing and promoting Taekwondo in the State. I would also like to congratulate the winners and the losers should not get disheartened as you should always remember "Failure is the pillar of Success".

I thank the organizers for inviting me to this function and with these words I feel honoured to have an opportunity to open the 16<sup>th</sup> Governor's Cup Manipur (Taekwondo), 2022.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.