

SPEECH OF SHRI LA. GANESAN, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE NORTH EAST REGIONAL SPORTS WEEK 2022 IN CONNECTION WITH THE CELEBRATION OF AZADIKA AMRIT MAHOTSAV COMMEMORATING 75 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE ON 3RD MAY, 2022 AT MAIN STADIUM, KHUMAN LAMPAK SPORTS COMPLEX, IMPHAL.

Shri N. Biren Singh ji,

Hon'ble Chief Minister,

Shri K. Govindas Singh ji,

Hon'ble Minister, Works, Youth Affairs and Sports Departments,

Shri Ajay Kumar Mishra ji,

Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Home),

Distinguished Invitees,

All the participated teams,

Friends from Print and Electronic media,

Brothers and Sisters,

I am pleased to be here with you all at the Closing Ceremony of the North East Regional Sports Week in connection with the celebration of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**, held at Imphal from 28th April till today. I hope that the participants from our neighbouring States except Meghalaya have pleasant stay and also had a good competition.

After the competition some of you must be pleased with the result while some 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 those who had lost in this edition of the Games not to be disheartened but strive more so that you can succeed next time. Further, if you had fought well, there is no reason to be sad; you should hold your head high as you have fought well.

I congratulate all the successful teams as well those who had participated without winning, because you all have made contribution towards the success of the Sports. I would also like to compliment the technical officials who had conducted the various competitions as without them, there can be no Games. To all those who had worked silently without rewards, I commend you all. Unfortunately, this time all the disciplines could not cover except Boxing, Football, Archery, Badminton and Table Tennis. I am fully confident that more disciplines will be covered in the next edition of the Game.

Games and sports are considered an integral part of any individual including uniformed forces as it keeps one physically and mentally fit. I am fully confident that the Department will make all possible efforts to provide better infrastructure and training to help the players improve upon their performance in future. It is also gratifying to note that the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports 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 etc. I also congratulate the Sports Department for successfully hosting this Regional Sports Week and it is a great event and opportunity for the sports fraternity from across the host State to come together to showcase the inept talents that each and every individual has as sportsman and woman.

As you are all well aware, the North East is slowly inching up in the field of sports and I am glad to say with Manipur leading in the region. Today, this tiny State is proud of producing 19 Olympians, 1 Padma Bhushan Awardee, 5 Padmashree Awardees, 19 Arjuna Awardees, 3 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardees, 1 Dronacharya Awardee, 1 Dhyanchand Awardee, 24 Asian Games Medalists, 27 Common Wealth Games Medalists. Now-a-days, Manipur is popularly known in the country as the "Power House" of sports. Historically, Manipur being sports loving State, the youths are following it vigorously and relentlessly to excel despite various bottlenecks and resource constraints. We should build up on our strengths so that we can become world beaters. I am confident that with the fresh initiative taken up by the Government of India in the recent past in the field of games and sports, the future is good for all including the sports persons. The State and the corporate sector must patronize more if we have to achieve more, as without funds there is no hope and the last few years is very encouraging.

I compliment all of you who had competed well and I offer my best wishes in your future endeavour. I congratulate the overall team Champion for their success.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.