

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE SCOUTS & GUIDES RAJYA PURASKAR AWARD DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION ON 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2017 AT RAJ BHAVAN, IMPHAL.

Shri Th. Radheshyam Singh ji, Hon'ble Minister of Education,

My dear Puraskar Winners,

All the distinguished Invitees,

Friends from Electronic and Print Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am glad to be with you all particularly with my young Award Winners. Congratulations to all of you. It is of great personal satisfaction to me to learn that the Bharat Scouts and Guides movement has been playing an active and important role in shaping the character of the youths in Manipur. The movement has helped in strengthening the bond of communal harmony, brotherhood and secularism so that the state marches ahead on the path of progress and prosperity in a peaceful manner. It is a very efficient and effective voluntary movement that has engaged purposefully in building an enlightened and progressive society.

The Manipur State Bharat Scouts and Guides Association came into being in the year 1988 by merging different Scouts and Guides associations working under different banners in the state. It is very encouraging that at present, the movement has covered almost all the districts of the state with 6782 Scouts and Guides population. The Association is a voluntary, non-political, educational movement for young people, open to all without distinction of origin, race or creed, in accordance with the purpose, principle and methods conceived by the founder Lord Baden Powell in 1907. The targeted purpose is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of the Local,

National and International communities. The movement is based on the principle “Duty to God, Duty to others and Duty to Self”. The Scout and Guide method is a system of progressive self-education through “Promise and Law, Learning by Doing”.

The Scout and Guide training is graded to suit the psychological needs of boys and girls of different age groups. The training is divided into three sections of boys and girls of age 5 to 10 as Cubs and Bulbuls, boys and girls of age 10 to 17 as Scouts and Guides and boys and girls of age 16 to 25 as Rovers and Rangers. A boy or girl who is a citizen of India and who has completed 10 years but not completed 17 years of age is eligible to become a Scout and Guide aspirant. These are the formative stage of a young student and lasting impressions are left in the mind of the good teachings derived from the movement. I was also a young scouts volunteer during my school days and a great enthusiast for the movement. There was never a dull moment during my Scout days and many an important lesson of life, I imbibed during that period.

I am told that this year the State Association is honouring 16 Scouts and 13 Guides who are all deserving awardees for their performance, hard work and service for the community. I, once again, congratulate the Rajya Puraskar recipients for proving themselves as worthy and capable Scouts & Guides qualitatively and further urge them to live up to the standards expected of such awardees. I urge all other Scouts & Guides volunteers also to strive towards achieving excellence.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.