

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF SHAHEED MANORANJAN SINGH MEMORIAL STATE OPEN FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT, 2017 ON 4TH APRIL, 2017 AT MAIN STADIUM, KHUMAN LAMPAK SPORTS COMPLEX, IMPHAL.

Shri Vikram Sahgal, Inspector General of Police,

Shri Mohinder Kumar, Deputy Inspector General of Police,

All the rank and file of CRPF,

Friends from Media,

All the participating teams,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I consider myself privileged to be associated with today's Closing Ceremony of the Shaheed Manoranjan Singh Memorial State Open Football Tournament, 2017, organized by the Group Centre, Central Reserve Police Force, Langjing in memory of Shaheed Manoranjan Singh who sacrificed his life for the Nation in 2009. It is immensely satisfying that the Centre has been organizing this Tournament every year since 2010 in honour of a gallant son of the country who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Unfortunately, I could not attend the inaugural function of the tournament on the 23rd instant as I was occupied with urgent affairs of the state.

The tournament is a befitting tribute to Shaheed Manoranjan Singh and also to promote sports in Manipur and motivate the youth to join the armed forces. As you are all aware, Manipur is known to the world as the powerhouse of sports. The youths of the state have excelled in different fields of sports bringing laurel to the state and the country and such tournaments will further motivate their sports interests. The CRPF which is the largest Paramilitary Force of the World also holds a significant position of excellence in the sports arena. I am happy that the sports personnel of this Force have excelled in both National and International Sports and won many laurels for the country.

The tournament will also have a positive impact on the minds of the young people of the state for joining the armed forces in more and more large number. Large number of young people are getting employed in the armed

forces through sports quota and now there is better scope for the sportspersons to become professionals for earning their livelihood. Sports not only keep the body and mind healthy but also wean away the youths from antisocial and undesirable activities.

In a game of sports, there will be winners and there will be losers. After this tournament also, some of you will be obviously pleased with the result while some will be disheartened. Here I would like to reiterate that games is not only of winning but also taking part too, the essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well. Even of one loses in the games, he should not be disheartened but strive more so that he can succeed next time. Further, if you fight well, there is no reason to be sad; you should hold your head high as you have fought well.

All the teams who participated have contributed towards the success of the tournament. The contribution of every single team has been immense and I am sure each and every team played in the true spirit of sportsmanship. I would also like to compliment the officials conducting this tournament as without them the tournament would not have happened and also those who worked silently without rewards. I commend you all.

While congratulating the CRPF authorities who have sponsored this event annually, I am also looking forward to more teams participating in future so that the tournament is made more attractive and competitive. With the participation of more teams, this tournament will become popular like any major football tournament in the state. Apart from remembering the brave departed soul, I am confident that with the fresh initiative taken up by the CRPF authorities in the field of games and sports, the future is good for all sports loving people in the state.

My best wishes to all of you who have participated in the tournament and I thank the organisers for inviting me to this function.

Thank you,
Jai Hind.