

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT INFORMATION OFFICER, CHURACHANDPUR

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PRESS RELEASE

**FOOTGAL 2018 BEGINS IN A GRAND NOTE**

**CCPUR, OCTOBER 8 (DIO):** Footgal 2018 — 5 Girls A-side night Futsal tournament — got off to a colourful start in an electric atmosphere in front of a capacity crowd here this evening at Rayburn High School premises.

Footgal 2018 is the noble initiative of Churachandpur District Administration to celebrate the girl child in furtherance of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Abhiyan and its endeavour to garner support from electors towards accessible and inclusive elections through purification of electoral rolls with the objective 'No Voters to be Left Behind.'

The gala opening ceremony, which was marked by assorted items, was attended by Shri J. Suresh Babu, Chief Secretary, Manipur as the Chief Guest. Shri P.K Singh, CEO, Manipur; Smt Jacintha Lazarus, Secretary (Social Welfare), Manipur; Shri Shyam Lal Poonia, DC, Churachandpur, Shri Solomon Kumar, IG, STC, BSF Churachandpur; Shri L Khongsai, Addl SP, Ccpur; Rev. Dr. Khen P. Tawmbing, Principal, Rayburn College, and hordes of District Level Officers also attended the programme.

The opening ceremony also witnessed release of BBBP Anthem, presentation of skit on the theme of BBBP, presentation of dance by students, distribution of prizes to different competitions on BBBP theme, display of colourful fireworks etc. Presentation of BBBP Anthem by Christina Shakum and children of Happy Hearts School, Bethel and all-time great artist Muan Hangzo was another attraction of the programme.

The event is being held by the District Administration in partnership with Lamka Core, a non-political organization founded with a motive of providing platform for the talented and skilled youth of the district.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Churachandpur Shri Shyam Lal Poonia, the event is being staged with the objective to empower and educate the girl child and spread voters' awareness and education to the masses. The DC also announced Miss Chingkhawlkim of Lungthul village as the 'Ambassador of BBBP' in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. J Suresh Babu said that girls of Manipur are doing wonders in all aspects. In fact, there is so much women empowerment in Manipur. But at the same time, there are so many to be done, he said.

"We are more worried about what is happening in our society, especially the women trafficking, drug trafficking and the way lot of people are cheating the young girls from our society," he underlined. While expressing serious concern over unwarranted instances coming from the district and elsewhere in the State in recent times, Dr. Suresh Babu stressed the need to join hands by all concerned – be it the society, Social Welfare Department and all stake-holders, to show solidarity for the promotion of the girl child and take it forward.

The Chief Secretary also lauded the efforts of the Election Department in their campaign to spread voter awareness and education. He exuded strong confidence that the efforts of the Election Department such as 'I Am Ready' campaign would go a long way in electing one's leaders who are able to lead the society forward and take the women's causes forward.

Smt. Jacintha Lazarus, who also had an illustrious stint as the DC of Churachandpur, said Churachandpur can lead the rest of the State in women empowerment. She also stressed the need to empower girls economically. She further encouraged the women to empower themselves by using their talents and skills to their advantage.

Stalls of the Election Department ('I Am Ready'), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Childline were opened at the venue.

A total of 24 teams will vie for the title of the tournament which will culminate on October 19, 2018. The tournament was kick started by Ms Vunglawmching, U-16 Indian National Football team.

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