

# 'Professional words should not be gender identified'

DI PR/STAFF REPORTER

**IMPHAL:** Governor of Manipur Dr Najma Heptulla said that professional words should not be gender identified and as such, professions should not have different names based on gender.

She made the statement during celebration of "Girls in Aviation Day" organized jointly by Women in Aviation International (WAI), India Chapter and Lockheed Martin at Classic Grande, Chingmeirong here Wednesday.

Addressing the gathering as chief guest of the celebration, DR Najma said that women and girls should be trained in every field including those considered mainly as domain of men. She added that the celebration of "Girls in Aviation Day" would introduce girls of the state to the wonderful careers and opportunities that aviation offers.

The governor pointed out that prior to 1970, women were restricted to serving in support fields like flight simula-



tion training, air traffic control and as flight attendants in the aviation industries. However, after 1970, they were allowed to take part in military training, fly commercial airlines, etc. Their strength has considerably increased in comparison with the global number of women airline pilots, she added.

Lauding the talent and potential of Manipuri girls especially Lt S Vijaya Devi of Indian Navy who had been awarded

Nari Shakti Puraskar, Dr Najma said that Manipuri women and girls continue to excel in different spheres of life, sports, art and culture, hospitality and many other sectors.

The girls of the state could do much more if given the opportunities through training in every avenue and livelihood programme which is in line with the Prime Minister's vision of "Beti Ki Udaan, Desh Ka Swabhimaan", she added.

Mentioning about air connectivity and convenience of direct flight between Imphal and Delhi, Dr Najma assured that she would extend all possible supports to help connect Imphal with other Metro cities such as Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, etc. through direct flight. This will facilitate students of the state who are studying or working in these metro cities, she stated.

Meanwhile, Lockheed Martin

India chief executive officer (CEO) Phil Shaw conveyed that Lockheed Martin has been providing assistance to shaping the future engineers, doctors, aviator, etc.

On the other hand, Imphal Airport APD S K Panigrahi said that owing to high growth rate of air passengers in recent times with 17% last year, aviation industry has become a big scope for youths in the country. With the launch of UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) scheme of Government of India, with the objective of "Let the common citizen of the country fly", the aviation industry will continue to provide many opportunities to the youths and, thus, they should be trained to make use of these opportunities and be ready to get a foothold in this industry.

Similar celebration was also held at Imphal Airport by Women in Aviation International (India Chapter) and Lockheed Martin India and it was attended by Lockheed Martin CEO Phil Shaw; Members of Women in Aviation International (India

Chapter) and school students. Later, a short movie on WAI India Chapter was screened.

## Addition to Women in Aviation

For the airport event, Women in Aviation International (India Chapter) invited 50 students from various schools for a tour of Imphal Airport. They were given an opportunity to explore, learn, and discover the various aspects of aviation and aerospace such as air traffic controller, airline dispatch, pilot, aviation maintenance technician, aeronautical engineer or aviation management.

In addition, the girl students were given a tour of the ATC Tower, Airside, Terminal Building and AOCC and all their queries were answered by officials working in the respective departments.

Speaking on the occasion, Women in Aviation International (India Chapter) president Radha Bhatia said, "This is the third year that the WAI India Chapter is celebrating 'Girls in Aviation Day' and we are delighted to host the same

at Imphal. With this celebration, our aim is to see girls from the state of Manipur explore exciting careers available to them as engineers, air traffic controllers and dozens of other jobs within the aviation."

"We will continue our endeavour to introduce young girls to role models and educate them in a fun and supportive atmosphere. We are very fortunate to be able to collaborate with Lockheed Martin India and Airport Authority of India for this event.

Their efforts in leading youth into STEM careers is truly commendable", added Mrs. Bhatia. Post the airport tour, the students were given a small presentation about the industry and its intricacies. In addition, an impromptu quiz competition added to the delight of the students who also won small tokens as prizes. Students also received an opportunity to interact with Governor of Manipur Dr Najma Heptulla and Imphal Airport, Airport Director S K Panigrahi.