

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT INAUGURATION OF "THERAPEUTIC ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY  
HALL (R&D) MRT1" ORGANISED BY THE SPASTICIS SOCIETY OF TAMIL  
NADU AT TARAMANI, CHENNAI ON 03.04.2019 AT 11.00 A.M.**

**Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam**

**Dr.V.L. Indiradutt,**  
President,  
The Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu

**Thiru. P.S.Kumar,**  
Treasurer,  
The Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu

**Tmt. L.V. Jayashree,**  
Director,  
The Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu

**Thiru. Tabler. Tarun Reddy,**

**Distinguished Invitees**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

It gives me great pleasure to be here at the function organised by The Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu for the inauguration of the "Therapeutic Enrichment Activity Hall". I am informed that the Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu which was started by a group of philanthropists, in 1981 to fulfill the need of a special school for children with cerebral palsy is now providing services to over 1174 children with cerebral palsy, mental retardation, autism and multiple disabilities and their families.

Cerebral palsy (CP) is a disorder of movement and posture which results in limitations in activities. The condition affects the ability to move, maintain balance and posture.

Autism which is another fast growing disability is a neuro developmental condition that affects a person's ability to socialize, communicate and interact with others.

Early detection of cerebral palsy and autism helps in timely intervention which can greatly reduce the impact of the worsening condition and improve the ability to function and reduce secondary problems.

Early intervention also enables Early inclusion into mainstream programs that are run by the Education, Social welfare, Health, and other departments of the Government thus enabling the Children to lead 'close to normal' lives along with others in society.

It has been estimated that more than one billion people in the world live with some form of disability. In India alone, according to the 2011 census, about 2.21 per cent of the population is affected by some form of disability.

The Central Government is implementing a multiple number of schemes for the benefit of the differently abled.

In the sphere of education, there is the scheme of National Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities under which scholarships are awarded for pursuing post-matric, professional and technical courses with a duration of more than one year.

For students with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation or multiple disabilities the scholarship is provided from Class 9 onwards.

There is also a Comprehensive Education Scheme which provides for supply of books, uniforms and stationery, specialised learning aids and scholarships for these students.

As regards employment, the Government has reserved three per cent posts in Groups A, B, C and Group D positions in Government services, public sector banks and Government undertakings. The State Government has also been implementing a number of schemes such as running Early Intervention Centres and conducting vocational training courses etc.

Students with disabilities are provided a quota of five per cent reservation in seats in Government and Government-aided educational institutions.

There is also a 4% reservation in various Government jobs for persons with disabilities.

These and many other schemes of the State and Central Government enable the differently abled to join the mainstream and contribute to society in a meaningful way.

Professor Stephen Hawking, the Astro-physicist who passed away recently used to say that “disability need not be an obstacle to success”. He was speaking from personal experience.

Professor Hawking himself had a motor neurone disease for a large part of his adult life. But it did not prevent him from becoming a famous astro-physicist.

Stalwarts with disabilities like Gayathri Sankaran a musician and a Padmashri awardee, musician, Dr.Aiswarya, J. Anuradha winner of wheel chair race in the Chennai marathon, K. Radhabai first visually disabled woman to receive a Ph.D degree in south India have not let any form of disability come in the way of their success and have left an unforgettable mark in their respective fields.

In this context, it is important to realise that endowing a person with the ability to overcome's ones disabilities is very important. It is necessary to develop the courage and the confidence in the person to overcome the disability that he faces. While supports are useful, it is the ability to kindle the spirit in the person that will provide sustenance in the long run.

I congratulate SPASTN for their multi-purpose hall being inaugurated today. It has been built through fund raising, donations from foundations, corporates, social service organizations, and individuals. The multi-purpose hall has a seating capacity of 1000 and has been made disabled friendly for ensuring easy and safe usage/movements of people with disability.

It is a flexible performance area where art, culture, dance, drama, sports, yoga, training, workshops can be carried out for

the benefit of the students and the community SPASTN is serving.

I take this opportunity to offer my best wishes to the physicians, nurses and healthcare professionals working in institutions such as SPASTN who are pursuing the work of caring for the differently abled. I would like to pay a tribute here, to the parents and families of children, affected by conditions of the brain and mind.

We recognise that you are engaged in a lifetime of constant effort, in caring for your loved ones.

A famous physician once said “we cure sometimes, control often, comfort always”! We still are in an era where total cure or total prevention remains elusive for a number of ailments. We must however, “care always”, and this tradition of “care” is something that has enriched Indian culture and our family systems for centuries. It is very important in my view that we preserve these traditions of yore and perpetuate them for global benefit.

“Strength does not come from physical capacity alone, it comes from indomitable will” I pray to the almighty that you all may be so blessed as you work towards restoring brain health and mental wellness, the two being inexorably conjoined.

Let noble goals be our quest and actions for the upliftment of mankind be our guiding spirit. The blessings of God will

definitely be showered on those people who help others to lead better lives.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to the Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu and admire them for their dedicated efforts in enabling differently abled children lead a better life. May they be greeted with success in all their endeavours.

Nandri.... Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....