

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT UNIFIED SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2019 ORGANISED BY MADRAS  
WEST ROUND TABLE 10 & MADRAS LADIES CIRCLE 2 AND SPECIAL  
OLYMPICS BHARAT AT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM, CHENNAI  
ON 09.2.2019 AT 11.00 AM**

**Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam**

**Thiru. Vikash Nahar**  
Chairman, MWRT-10

**Thiru. Simon Koh**  
MD, Special Olympics Asia Pacific

**Thiru. Venkataramani Nadarajan**

**Padma Shri Thirumathi Meenakshi Chittaranjan**

**Distinguished Invitees**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am delighted to be here today at the Unified Special Olympics 2019 being organised by the Madras West Round Table 10, Madras Ladies Circle and Special Olympics Bharat.

The presence of a large number of participants at the event is indicative of the enthusiasm and the sense of togetherness that sports has been able to generate.

Sport helps children to develop mental and physical toughness and hones their motor and cognitive skills.

Participation in sports teaches teamwork, cooperation, the desire of working towards objectives and the ability to handle defeats and disappointments with equanimity.

A stronger self-esteem and sense of personal worth which alleviates depression and anxiety is also created through sports events.

I applaud the efforts taken by Madras West Round Table 10 in hosting the special Olympic Unified Sports for the last 27 years.

The event establishes the fact that disabilities of any kind, physical or mental need not stand in the way of achievement. Professor Stephen Hawking, the famous Astro-physicist used to say “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 achieving greatness and fame.

Stalwarts with disabilities like Gayathri Sankaran a Padmashri awardee, Dr.Aiswarya, J. Anuradha winner of the wheel chair race in Chennai marathon, K. Radhabai the first visually disabled woman to receive a Ph.D degree in south India have never let any form of disability come in their way of success and have left an unforgettable mark in their respective fields.

Mariyappan Thangavelu who hails from Salem District in Tamil Nadu is another notable achiever. He won the gold medal in the Paralympic games held in Rio in 2016. Recognising this glorious achievement the Government of India honoured

him with the "Padma Shri" award. In the same year he was also conferred with the Arjuna Award.

I understand that Athletes who will be travelling to Abu Dhabi for the World Summer Games of the Special Olympics in March 2019 are present here today and I take pride in wishing them the best for their competitions ahead.

MWRT10 has been supporting many noble projects aimed at community service. Their free dialysis treatments for the last 20 years under the 'Dialysis a day' program are praiseworthy. A state-of-the-art facility in Porur is coming up at a cost of over Rs. 5 crores to help the needy thanks to their efforts.

Special Olympics Bharat the official representative of Special Olympics international who are partners in today event are making a great contributions towards uplifting the mental health, emotional spirits and physical condition of Special children. I wish the Madras West Round Table 10, Madras Ladies Circle and Special Olympics Bharat all success in their endeavours.

The special children who have come here to participate in the sports event and those who have come to cheer them are deserving of the highest level of praise from all of us. Let us cheer them on the road to victory. They are indeed pioneers in showing other people in society as to how challenges should be overcome. I pray and wish

that the Almighty God should shower all his grace  
and blessings on these children.

Nandri Vanakkam...

Jai Hind...