

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR
OF TAMIL NADU AT THE 2ND CONVOCATION OF NIEPMD – NBER
AT THE TAMIL NADU DR.M.G.R. MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, SILVER
JUBILEE AUDITORIUM, GUINDY, CHENNAI
ON 06.03.2019 AT 11.00 AM**

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu participated as Chief Guest at the 2nd Convocation of NIEPMD – NBER at Silver Jubilee Auditorium, The Tamil Nadu Dr.M.G.R. Medical University, Guindy, Chennai on 06.03.2019 and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "Its gives me happiness to be taking part in the 2nd Convocation of the National Institute of Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities being organised jointly with the National Board of Examinations in Rehabilitation.

The National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (DIVYANGJAN), (NIEPMD), serves as a national resource center for empowerment of persons with Multiple Disabilities and plays an apex role in the areas of human resources development, teaching, research, and extension programs for the empowerment of persons with disabilities. The institute also renders various services such as issue of Disability certificates and organizes training and support in Physiotherapy, Speech therapy, Behaviour Modification, Clinical Psychology, besides running Special Schools for the Disabled. Rural camps are organized to identify poor disabled people as part of early intervention initiatives and assistive devices distributed for the welfare of the differently abled persons.

The National Board of Examination in Rehabilitation which is an adjunct body of the Rehabilitation Council of India is responsible for conducting examinations for various Diploma and Certificate Courses.

Both the agencies come under the Department of Disability Affairs which is housed in the Ministry of Social Justice.

It has been estimated that more than one billion people in the world live with some form of disability. Of these, nearly 200 million people experience considerable difficulties in their day to day activities.

With regard to India as per the Census of 2011 there are about 27 million people living with some form of disability. These include persons with Seeing, Hearing, Speech, Movement, Mental Retardation, Mental Illness and other disabilities.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 which came into force with effect from 19th day of April 2017 aims at empowering persons with disabilities by adhering to the following principles : –

- i. Respect for inherent dignity and individual freedom to make one's own choice and independence of persons with disabilities;
- ii. Non-discrimination;
- iii. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society; and
- iv. Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity.

A number of International commitments and guidelines have also come into effect in the recent past for the welfare of the disabled persons. India is a signatory to the 'Declaration on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asia Pacific Region'. India has also ratified the 'UN Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities'. We are a part of the 'Biwako Millennium Framework' which provides for action towards an inclusive, barrier free and rights based society.

The Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific has provided us with the first set of disability inclusive development Goals.

Education is the most effective vehicle of social and economic empowerment. Therefore legal prescriptions are in place in India to make free and compulsory education available to all children with disabilities up to the minimum age of 18 years. I am informed that a development plan has been prepared so that the rehabilitation strategies do not suffer from lack of manpower. The courses for which this Convocation is being held not only build professional skills but also produce thousands of men and women who are possessed with a missionary zeal to serve those who are differently abled.

The Government of India has also been assisting persons with disabilities in procuring durable and scientifically manufactured, modern aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological independence by reducing the effect of disabilities. Private, public and joint sector enterprises involved in the manufacture of

high tech assistive devices for persons with disabilities are being provided financial support by public sector banks.

The Persons with Disabilities Act also provides for 3% reservation in employment in the establishments of Government of India and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) against identified posts.

Considering rapid growth of employment opportunities in the service sector, persons with disabilities are being encouraged to undertake skill training suitable to the market requirement. Self-employment of persons with disabilities is also being promoted through vocational education and management training. Further, the existing system of providing loans at softer terms from the NHFDC is being improved to make it easily accessible with transparent and efficient procedures of processing.

In Tamilnadu the state Govt. has also been implementing a number of schemes for the well being of the specially abled persons.

The Government runs Early Intervention Centres for Infant and young children with hearing impairment in all the districts.

The Government is also providing Laptop computers to the Specially abled persons pursuing higher secondary education in Government and Government aided schools free of cost.

The Government has been conducting a number of vocational training courses in the fields of computer applications, multimedia, animation, Digital Photography, Fitter, Book Binding etc. for the benefit of the Differently abled persons through recognised institutes.

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 Govt. jobs for persons with disabilities.

This initiative to have a Convocation is the first of its kind in the country. In the coming years this will become one of the biggest convocations in India considering that it will have over 10,000 recipients. I extend my hearty congratulations and best wishes to those who are receiving their academic honours and diplomas at this convocation.

And to be part of a ceremony, to honor these future crusaders and pillars of service providers for persons with disabilities in the country, is a special experience that I cherish from the bottom of my heart.

I wish to conclude by reminding you that good performance leads to recognition. Recognition leads to respect. Respect leads to power.

I take this opportunity to wish you all well in the pursuit of knowledge and its application in the work that you are doing. The path to progress is illuminated by the lamp of education. Prosperity knocks at your door when people in society acquire the asset of education.

You must always remember that this institution has given you a passport for a better life for yourself. You can show your gratitude to your alma mater by working hard to make sure that many more differently abled people are enabled to lead a better life.

The organizers deserve a special word of praise and appreciation for their noble efforts towards organizing a Convocation of this nature. This I am sure is going to be a trendsetter not merely for the Continent of Asia, but for the whole world. My best wishes and greetings to them and to all of you assembled in the audience. May success greet you in all your endeavours.”

On this occasion, Tmt. TCA. Kalyani, Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thiru. Sankara Raman, General Council Member, National Institute of Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Dr. Himangshu Das, Director, National Institute of Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Dr. Prof. Jayanthi Narayanan, General Council Member, National Institute of Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities and other dignitaries participated.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai -22

Sd/-

Date : 06.03.2019

Joint Director (PR)