

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR  
OF TAMIL NADU AT 14<sup>th</sup> ISHA GRAMOTSAVAM, (CELEBRATING THE SPORTING  
SPIRIT OF RURAL INDIA) AT TEX VALLEY, ERODE, ON 09.12.2018 AT 4.00 P.M**

**Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam**

**Sadhguru**

**Thiru. K.A. Sengottaiyan,**  
Minister for School Education

**Thiru. P. Thangamani,**  
Minister for Electricity, Prohibition & Excise

**Thiru. S.P. Velumani,**  
Minister for Municipal Administration & Rural Development

**Thiru. K.C.Karuppannan,**  
Minister for Environment

**Tmt. Karnam Malleshwari**

**Distinguished Invitees**

**Ladies & Gentlemen**

I am delighted to be here today at the Gramotsavam being organised by the Isha Foundation. I am informed that the Foundation is encouraging sports and games in more than 3000 schools and that the children of these schools actively participate in their sports activities.

Sports and games enable the child to become more self confident and be bold and strong to protect one's dignity. Schools are the centres for inculcation of skills. It is therefore necessary that sports and physical training, cultural pursuits, communication skills, vocational skills and creative skills are honed along with the learning of subjects such as history, geography, mathematics, etc. in schools.

Swami Vivekananda said "Strength is life and weakness is death". He eloquently propounded that you cannot believe in God unless you learn to believe in yourself. He called upon Indians to arise, awake and stop not until the goal is reached.

The talent and energy in youth is like a river gushing forth with force and fury. If left unchannelised the water gets spread over large areas with no useful result. Channelising the energies and purposefully using the talents in a manner similar to the way the waters of a river are led through canals for irrigation will alone yield productive results.

Poet Kalidasa stressed the importance of good health by saying “Shareeram AadyamKhalu Dharma Saadhanam”. The body and the mind are means of doing dharmic action’.

Sports and games help to nurture a healthy body and a healthy mind. Sports form an essential component of the growth and development of young individuals. Sports activities promote physical, mental and emotional growth and support a healthy lifestyle and ensure that the youth are engaged productively. Participation in sports can inculcate the values of competitiveness, time management, organizational skills and teamwork which help in the holistic development of the youth.

The power of the human will to compete and the drive to excel beyond the body’s normal capabilities is most beautifully demonstrated in the arena of sport. And I am happy that there have been so many thousands of sports enthusiasts who have actively participated in Gramotsavam.

The Gramotsavam by focusing on Sports and Games encourages Students to concentrate on exploring their talents in sporting activities. It also helps to build up a spirit of friendship and camaraderie among students and teachers of the various schools who are represented here. In fact, each one of the forty thousand children who has participated in Isha Gramotsavam, from the village-level matches to the district-level matches, and now the state-level finals, is an example of how much transformation can happen through sports.

I would like to congratulate Sadhguru and the volunteers of Isha Foundation for creating this movement of bringing sports into everyone’s lives.

It is not a small task to physically reach out to so many thousands of villages in all 32 districts of Tamil Nadu and provide the equipment, training and inspiration needed for such an endeavour. It is a magnificent achievement.

And the way in which this whole event has been conducted, with music and dance, it is a wonderful celebration of sports.

Kabaddi is the state sport of Tamil Nadu. The word “kabadi” is derived from the Tamil word “Kai-pidi” (கைபிடி) meaning “to hold hands”. It is also known as sadugudu.

Volley ball has been a part of the Olympic Games since 1964. It is a popular game played all over the world. Few in the audience may know that throw ball which is highly popular in Asia was first played in India as a Women’s sport in Chennai during the 1940’s. Gramotsavam at present encompasses competitions in these three games namely Kabaddi, Volley ball and Throw ball. All the three have a lot in common. They are easy to play. The rules are simple. The costs of setting up the playing area are cheap. And they all help in keeping the team players physically fit and mentally agile. No wonder all the three games are very popular in the rural areas. The Isha Foundation has correctly identified games with a rural character when celebrating the Gramotsavam.

I am happy that this function is being held in Erode. Erode which is known as “Turmeric City” is one of the finest examples of rural living. Here dairying, agriculture and industries which can be carried on with minimum skilling of labour are the main occupations of the people. Indeed the city serves as an ideal destination for awarding sports persons excelling in rural sports.

I would like to inform you that the Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing the World Beaters Talent Spotting Scheme. Under the scheme, the motor qualities of students studying in VI, VII and VIII standards in all the Schools throughout the State are identified to assess their ability in sports activities. They are then inducted into specialized academies based on their motor qualities and provided opportunities to participate in competitions. A district level residential coaching camp for 15 days is held for the identified talents of 30 boys and 30 girls from each Educational District from the world Beaters Talent Spotting Scheme competition. They are also imparted training during summer holidays every year.

I am the Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University. The University is designed to engage in relentless pursuit of Excellence in the promotion and development of Physical Education and Sports through innovative programmes in teaching, coaching, research and outreach activities so as to evolve a holistic approach to the betterment of human resources through a harmonious blend of body, mind and spirit. The University will be pleased to train budding talent that manifests itself at the Gramotsavam. I request the organizers of Gramotsavam to be in touch with University for training sports persons who display promise.

I am pleased to see Karnam Malleshwariji here today. Her presence will certainly encourage many more youth from the rural areas to excel in sports and games. She, by winning the bronze medal at the Olympic games held in Sydney in 2000 became the first Indian Women to win an Olympic medal. She has been conferred with the Arjuna award and Padma Shri. Till today she remains the only Indian women weight lifter to have won a Olympic medal.

I am sure that there are many sports persons with exceptional talent amongst you. Gramotsavam helps to bring out the best in you. I extend my best wishes to the Isha Foundation who have organised the Gramotsavam so meticulously. May their efforts be rewarded with greater success in the coming years.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....