



**Speech of**  
**Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh**  
**Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan**  
**at**  
**The 16<sup>th</sup> event of the "Dibyanga Mahotsav" on 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**December, 2019 at 3.40PM at Bhubaneswar .**

Guests on the dais, Ladies and Gentlemen, friends from media, a very good evening to you all.

I am glad to be here amongst these wonderful and loving kids. I feel it a privilege to be here, to enjoy my moments with such amazing people who have gathered here from across the state.

It gives me immense pleasure to learn that NANDINI, the daily newspaper and BRING SMILE, the social organization are jointly organizing this wonderful "DIBYANGA MAHOTSAV" which is 16th such event being organised. I appreciate the efforts made by the organisers to bring smile on the faces of thousands of people through this mahotsav. This weeklong celebration is to mark the occasion of International Day of people with disability.

Since the year 1992, the international day of people with disability is being observed every year on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, around the world. This celebration aims at increasing public awareness, understanding and accepting people of disability and celebrating their achievements and contributions. For the year 2019, the theme is 'Promoting the participation of persons with disabilities and their leadership: taking action on the 2030 development agenda.'

It is worth mentioning here that people might be disabled physically but it is seen very often that they prove themselves to be first among equals. Thousands of example show that their level of confidence, hard work and determination is on par with a normal person, if not more.

It is proved in several instances that physical disability cannot stand in the way of achieving success in life. Some of them possess extraordinary talent

from early stages of their life. As you all know, Hellen Adams Keller is a world famous name. Helen Adams Keller was an American author, political activist, and lecturer. She was the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. Sudha Chandran, Rabindra Jain, Girish Sharma, Shekar Naik, H Ramakrishna, Preeti Srinivasan are among the few Indians who have overcome their disabilities became champions in their chosen field.

Almost every year the results of secondary and that of higher secondary examination highlight the brilliant academic performance of the some of the differently-abled students.

Stephen Hawking was regarded as one of the most brilliant theoretical physicists in history. His work on the origins and structure of the universe, from the Big Bang to black holes, revolutionized the field. Hawking was diagnosed with motor neuron disease at the age of 21. He was not expected to live more than two years. Yet, Hawking defied the odds, went on to live up to 76 years and achieved immense success in his career. His brilliant quote was that "Disability need not be an obstacle to success."

I conclude by recalling what the great scientist Stephen Hawking said on disability,

"My advice to other disabled persons would be, concentrate on things your disability doesn't prevent you doing well, and don't regret the things it interferes with. Don't be disabled in spirit, as well as physically."

So in my opinion disability is only a matter of perception and nothing prevents you from achieving what you desire to achieve in life.

Jai Hind