

**SPEECH OF HON'BLE GOVERNOR ON THE OCCASION OF INAUGURATION OF
RESOURCE CENTRE CUM COMPUTER LAB IN THE FERRANDO SPEECH AND
HEARING CENTRE ON 3RD MAY, 2016**

It is my honour to address all of you and I am grateful for this privilege given to me. To begin with, I remain indelibly impressed and appreciative of Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre. Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre is a charitable organization working for the Empowerment of person with hearing impairment through early intervention, education, rehabilitation and manpower development. These children, the future of our nation fills me with joy, hope and inspiration.

It brings me much happiness to be amidst everyone as we inaugurate the resource centre cum computer lab sponsored by CBM India Trust. I am glad to learn that the new computer lab will cater for the educational needs and skills training of children with disabilities and those living under the poverty line, with the aim of promoting inclusive education and to support them to participate in mainstream education. This computer lab is going to be a place where dreams are realized, shaped and nurtured in this threshold of knowledge revolution. I am confident that many will be benefited and enhanced through this centre.

Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre has caught my attention as one of the best institutions for children with hearing Impairment in North East India. Six Batches of Class XII have passed out from this institution. I value that the students passed out from this institution are followed up and encouraged to continue their studies and work in this institution.

Hearty congratulations to the management, staff and all who are associated with this centre for your dedicated service to these children. As per my observation you are the alchemists of this young people who turn gold out of everything. With your laborious commitment, dedication and patience you have enabled these children to transcend their inabilities and live wholesome life like any other child and have developed them from the margins of the society.

I extend a great appreciation for enhancing the lives and education of our children through the provision of this computer lab and I am convinced that its vision will be reached. These computers are the need of the hour in this technology age where by our lives are dependent on software. I wish all the success and look forward to our children being computer literate. My dear children these computers are mend for you to broaden your knowledge, so make the best use of them to widen your horizons in information technology. Keep up your good performance and dream big to bring positive changes in the society. Educate the world that disability is not simultaneous with incapability. The future is in your hands and ball is now in your court.

I sincerely laud the efforts made by the working staff of this centre. I would like to

refer to an incident which reflects the commitment and perseverance of a lawyer. A very eminent lawyer from Mumbai went to visit Chhattisgarh to make a survey about the economic conditions of the tribal people living in that area. During his survey he went to a hut and knocked. He wanted to meet the person and asked the person to open the door. The lady inside the hut cried out in a feeble voice and requested the man to wait for some time. The lawyer's ego was hurt. According to him, he was a very important man and the lady should not make him wait outside like an ordinary person. The lady then said that she had only one sari which she has washed recently and kept to dry it. She did not have any other dress to wear so the person outside has to wait till her sari gets dry. After that she would wear that sari and come out. This information shook the lawyer's superiority. At once, his ego was shattered and he was deeply hurt. He had no idea about the pathetic conditions of the people there and was deeply touched by the lady's words. He suddenly had a transformation in his mind and heart and he resolved to devote his life for the betterment of the poor people. He decided to quit his job. From then on his life was only committed for the cause of upliftment of the tribals of that region. He started schools, hospitals, vocational training centres and also gave employment facilities to everyone. In a nutshell, he took care of the overall development of the entire village.

It is this attitude of devotion that is required in order to work for others and I can see this effort in all of you who have been a role-model in changing the lives of these children. It is you people who have made sincere efforts and have undergone immense sacrifices to give a new life to them and encourage the students to do well in future.

Dear students, you have a very good environment here and very lovable and caring teachers to look after you. But you also have certain duties to follow. The teachers can try and you have to stand along with them to make their efforts successful. Disability is not inability. It is not our disabilities but our abilities that count. The only disability in our life is a bad attitude. So you should inculcate a positive attitude in you. You should have the zeal to succeed and the faith in yourself. There are many people in this world who have certain physical disabilities, but they have a strong mind which makes them successful.

For example, we have John Milton, the famous English poet. Milton's eyesight had been steadily declining for many years, most likely the result of untreated glaucoma. By February 1652, he had gone completely blind. At a time before Braille, recorded books or any of the technologies that assist visually impaired people today, blindness was like an intellectual death sentence. Milton was determined not to let that happen. He dictated his business correspondence to transcribe for as long as he could, and insisted that his daughters read to him. The twist in Milton is that he went blind before he wrote his best works, including the immortal epic poem *Paradise Lost*.

Sudha Chandran, an accomplished Bharatanatyam dancer and Indian film and television actress lost a leg following a road accident while coming back from Madras with her parents in June 1981 near Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu. She did not however let this deter her from goal to continue dancing, and subsequently went on to become one of the best Bharatanatyam dancers of her time. She is well known for her roles as 'Ramola Sikand' in *Kaahin Kissii Roz* and as 'Yamini' in *Naagin* and also for playing Anand's first wife in *Hum*

Paanch. She is now a famous actress on silver screens and television. She has acted in more than 30 movies and also got several awards such as Special Jury Award for *Mayuri* in 1986, The Great Indian Television Academy Awards Best Actress for *Tumhari Disha* in 2005, Vijay Television Awards 2014 for Best Supporting Actress in *Deivam Thandha Veedu* and Vijay Television Awards 2015 for Best Mother in Law in *Deivam Thandha Veedu*.

Arunima Sinha is the first female amputee to climb Mount Everest. She is also the first Indian amputee to climb Mount Everest. She was a national level volleyball player who was pushed from a running train by thieves in 2011 while she was resisting them. As a result, one of her legs had to be amputated below the knee. Her aim was to climb all the continents' highest peaks and put the national flag of India. She was inspired by cricketer Yuvraj Singh, who had successfully battled cancer, "to do something" with her life. She excelled in the basic mountaineering course from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi, and was encouraged by her elder brother Omprakash to climb Everest with a prosthetic leg, which was arranged by raising funds with the help of a swami of Ramakrishna Mission, Vadodara. She contacted Bachendri Pal, the first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest, in 2011 by telephone and signed up for training under her at the Uttarkashi camp of the Tata Steel Adventure Foundation. She has done five peaks: 1. Everest in Asia, 2. Kilimanjaro in Africa, 3. Elbrus in Europe, 4. Kosizko, Australia and 5. Aconcagua in Argentina.

Thus nothing is impossible. The word impossible itself says "I am possible". All it needs is the courage and dedication to face the world and make yourself a winner. Winners never quit and quitters never win.

May the institution continue to spread its wings of transforming the lives of the hearing impaired over Meghalaya and North East India. I wish everyone a fruitful work with the new computers.

I make an appeal to the people of Shillong to come and participate in the service of kindness. Kindness is one of the keys that unlock many doors. The power of kindness is gentle, loving and is indeed a language that the deaf can understand and the dumb can speak. Let us strive hard and make every effort to make them happy and strong.
