

Dignitaries present and all Sports Enthusiasts,

It is indeed a great pleasure to be present at the inauguration of this unique sports event.

Since the modern Olympics began in 1896, our country has a very poor record when it comes to medals. Most of the medals won so far have been in Hockey while other team sports and individual disciplines are hardly represented. Though the situation has changed a bit in the past decade, still we are no where near the performance expected from a country of 130 crore people. All this is a result of lack of importance given to sports in our lives.

It is said that “A sound mind in a sound body” makes a strong society. Thus it is not enough to be focused only on studies but having a healthy body is also essential. Sports make it possible as the participant learns competitiveness, team spirit, deals with achievements & loss and learns to overcome challenges of different types.

It is my sincere suggestion to all parents that they should ensure enough exposure to sports for the children enabling the building of a strong society and country.

I am thankful to the organizers for inviting me today and I wish the event a grand success.