

Honourable Minister Shri Ajay Maken, Excellency Mr. Moatsos, Air Marshal Keelor and Air Marshal Goel, guest coaches and my dear friends

Good Evening to you all,

We have gathered here today to send-off the Indian Delegation to the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games at Athens, Greece from 20<sup>th</sup> June -4<sup>th</sup> July.

184 Special athletes will be representing India in 12 Summer disciplines. Our athletes will compete with 7500 athletes from 172 countries.

Earlier, we had represented India at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games and returned with 148 medals, which proves that we can also contribute to the glory of our nation.

On this occasion, I would like to take the opportunity to request everyone present here to help us ban the “Retard” word, which is derogatory and humiliating.

On behalf of all Special Olympics Bharat athletes I thank Honourable Minister Shri Maken, all the dignitaries’ present for encouraging all of us to become productive members of the society.

Thank you,