

# World Duchenne Day celebrated

## Express Features

In order to celebrate the World Duchenne Awareness Day, a special event was organised by Molecular Diagnostics, Counseling, Care and Research Centre (MDCRC) at Coimbatore on September 7.

Dr Ashokan, the chief guest of the event said, "MDCRC should indeed be appreciated for their work for children. It is also necessary that we instill confidence and appreciation among their parents, who have always stood by the organisation and their work."

Enthusiastic and optimistic parents of children affected with Duchenne muscular dystrophy bore testimony to the work carried out by MDCRC.

Sharing similar views, Ramesh adoni, founder of the Noble Foundation, mentioned that MDCRC is doing an excellent job and that the Noble Foundation is always there to help them.

Dr BR Lakshmi, director of MDCRC welcomed the participants and ensured that their 'vi-

sion 2020' aims at making Tamil Nadu, a state where no kid with Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) will go unidentified. She pointed out that, for every 3,500 children born globally, one is afflicted by the disorder.

"The seventh day of the ninth month is celebrated as the World Duchenne Day because it symbolises the 79 exons in a dystrophin gene. It is every individual's duty to help children affected with DMD and spread awareness about the same," she said.

This year marked the 5th edition of the event. The organisation started commemorating Duchenne Awareness Day in 2014.

The event witnessed the participation of 18 children afflicted with the disorder. They dressed up like renowned Tamil poet, Subramania Bharathiar, and sang the popular song '*Nenjukku needhium...*'. Other cultural events included children dancing to the tune of '*Bum Bum Bole*', a song from the Hindi movie *Taare Zameen Par* and a humorous skit by mothers.



Globally, one in 3,500 children is afflicted by Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a rare inherited disorder that leads to progressive muscular weakness