

**Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Chief Guest at the book release function "Value Education for Self Development" organised by Vivekananda Kendra Prakashan Trust**

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu participated as Chief Guest at the book release function "Value Education for Self Development" organised by Vivekananda Kendra Prakashan Trust at Amrita Vidyalayam School, Ramapuram, Chennai today (05.10.2019) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "It gives me great happiness to be here today to participate in the book release function organised at the Amrita Vidyalayam School by the Vivekananda Kendra Prakashan Trust.

The Vivekananda Kendra which was founded by Sri Eknath ji Ranade is a "spiritually oriented service mission" to carry forward and propagate Swami Vivekananda's vision for a glorious India.

Service with spiritual orientation results in man-making which is invariably and inseparably connected with nation building. This is the core of the thoughts behind the Vivekananda Kendra.

For actualizing this vision, the Kendra has over 863 branch centres spread over 24 states of India. These centre are engaged in the task of nation building through a variety of constructive activities.

The Vivekananda Rock memorial the crown jewel in the Kendra's achievements is located at the meeting point of the three seas, at the southern tip of India where Swami Vivekananda meditated and gained enlightenment. Close to it is the Bhagawati Amman Temple which is more than 3000 years old. The place symbolizes the cultural unity of India and propounds to the world that the Mother Goddess who is worshipped as Vaishno Devi in Kashmir is offered prayers as Bhagawati Amman at Kanyakumari. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari there is a cultural unity which our ancient seers, philosophers, thinkers and teachers have spoken about.

Swami Vivekananda's teachings have been a source of inspiration for millions of people. His greatness lay in his ability to lead from the front. He lived in the times when the whole of India was reeling under the onslaught of British imperialism.

When Swami Vivekananda spoke at the Parliament of Religions at Chicago the audience felt inspired and impressed by this youthful personality who proclaimed to the world India's position as the spiritual guru of the world.

That speech of Swamiji was inspired by the blessings of Bharat Mata who revealed to him the true essence of life and the position of India in the world, when he meditated on the rock which is now the Vivekananda memorial.

Today India is free and the world listens to India. 125 years back Swami Vivekananda's powerful speeches made the world listen to India. When Swamiji spoke at the Parliament of Religions at Chicago, the audience listened with rapt attention. At that historic address he stated and I quote "I thank you in the name of mother of religions for it fills my heart with joy for having been so warmly and cordially welcomed. I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world tolerance and universal acceptance and to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and nations. He went on to say that religious unity will come not by the triumph of any one of the religions but by assimilating the spirit of other religions while preserving the individuality of one's own religion. Assimilation and not destruction, harmony but not dissension. This was the message of Swamiji.

Swamiji preached to the young and old to maintain one's own dignity, to be bold and to be strong. He said strength is life and weakness is death. He eloquently propounded that you cannot believe in God unless you learn to believe in yourself. One another excellent message of Swamiji to Indians who were afraid, cautious and weak was "take risks in life, if you succeed you can lead, if you fail you can guide". He called upon Indians to arise, awake and stop not until the goal is reached. The sayings of Swamiji resonate all through the Indian nation and are a source of strength for all of us.

Nation building is a long and arduous task and it is important that truth and honesty, selfless service and total devotion and dedication towards the nation become watchwords in this tremendous effort.

No nation has become great without a patriotic spirit among its people. No nation has become great if the common people are not provided with opportunities for education, employment and enterprise in a honest and transparent manner. No nation has become great unless the poor and downtrodden are served by the better endowed people with a sense of brotherhood and selflessness. These are all

lessons which the book of Shri. Govindaraj, "Value Education for Self Development" which I have released today, expounds.

The aim behind his effort is to promote the right values systems in society. The pride in being an Indian is sought to be inculcated in the reader. The book has more than 2000 episodes, anecdotes, mini stories etc., covering more than two hundred and twenty different values, which have been painstakingly collected. I am sure that the book is going to be of great use to all those who believe in the greatness of India.

Great thoughts originate in great minds. And great minds propel great actions. Not everyone can be blessed with self propelled greatness of thought and action. By reading about the lives of great personalities, and about the great events of India's past and inheritance we can ascend to greatness if we choose to follow that path.

It is important for us to resolve unto ourselves that we will strain every nerve and muscle to ensure that India rises to a position of preeminence. Let us try to make our nation the jagat guru by following the path of Swami Vivekananda who more than a 100 years back awakened a people in slumber to the spiritual greatness of India.

Our spirituality is based on tolerance. It is based on acceptance of other people's ideas. The fact that institutions based on spirituality are progressively gaining prominence gives me the hope that the road ahead is going to be bright and sunny.

I am happy that this function is being held at Amrita Vidyalayam School. The mission of Mata Amritanandamayi Devi has been one of spreading love and peace all over the world. The essence of her teaching is simple – "the creation and Creator are not different. Since we all are created by the same Creator, it is necessary, to make a little space in our hearts for others".

I extend my best wishes and greetings to the Vice President and other office bearers of the Vivekananda Kendra Prakashan Trust who have taken painstaking efforts to organize this function in a befitting manner. May success greet them in all their endeavours."

On this occasion, Thiru. Hanumantharao, Tresurer, Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, Padmashri Dr. Nalli Kuppaswami Chetty, Thiru. T.Chakravarthy, President, Vidya Bharathi, Tamil Nadu, Br. Vinayamrita Chaitanya, Correspondent,

Amrita Vidyalayam, Thiru. M.N. Venkatesan, Secretary, Vivekananda Educational Society, Thiru. B.Govindaraj, Author of the Book and other dignitaries participated.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai -22

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Joint Director (PR)