

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Guest of Honour at the 150th Birth Anniversary celebration of Dharmamurthi Rao Bahadur Calavala Cunnan Chetty organised by Dharmamurthi Rao Bahadur Calavala Cunnan Chetty's Charities

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Guest of Honour at the 150th Birth Anniversary celebration of Dharmamurthi Rao Bahadur Calavala Cunnan Chetty organised by Dharmamurthi Rao Bahadur Calavala Cunnan Chetty's Charities at Centenary Auditorium, University of Madras, Chepauk, Chennai today (24.08.2019) and addressed the gathering. Hon'ble Vice President of India, Thiru. M. Venkaiah Naidu participated as Chief Guest.

Hon'ble Governor said, "It is a matter of great pleasure for me to be here today at the 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Dharmamurthi Rao Bahadur Calavala Cunnan Chetty for which we are privileged to have the Hon'ble Vice President of India as the Chief Guest.

Coinciding with these celebrations are the centenary celebrations of the charity organisation run in the name of Dharmamurthi Rao Bahadur Calavala Cunnan Chetty which has also completed a 100 years of service to society. The Golden Jubilee Celebrations of two educational institutions started by the trust in 1969 are also being celebrated today.

Pujyashri Calavala Cunnan Chetty who was a great philanthropist and a well-known prominent citizen of the then Madras Presidency firmly believed that 'Service to Humanity is Service to God'. He was of the unflinching view that providing quality education alone can raise the standard of life of people and this enthused him to establish two schools, viz. Dharmamurthi Rao Bahadur Calavala Cunnan Chetty's Hindu Higher Secondary School in Thiruvallur and Perambur which have now completed 128 years of existence.

He also established a Sanskrit College at Triplicane, a primary school and a middle school for girls at Chintadripet besides extending financial aid to many schools in and around Chennai. He also established a library for the benefit of the students in Chintadripet in the City of Madras. He dreamt of a disease-free India and therefore started Ayurvedic Hospitals in Triplicane, Nungambakkam and Nellore.

The Ramakrishna Mutt at Mylapore was provided an annual grant from his trust. He also established evening schools for adults in the economically backward areas.

His passion for charity and more particularly to the cause of education was so deep rooted that he bequeathed his properties through a Will in 1920 for the purpose of running educational institutions and for other charitable activities.

True to the prescriptions in the Will left behind by the Founder, the Charity Trust named after him established the Seetha Kingston House Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kilpauk in 1969. A co-educational College, Dharmamurthi Rao Bahadur Calavala Cunnan Chetty's Hindu College was also established at Pattabiram, Chennai in the same year as a Government aided college. These two institutions have completed fifty years and on this auspicious occasion today their Golden Jubilee is also being celebrated.

Social service, which is synonymous with helping people in distress, has always been a part of our tradition. Service to the poor is therefore considered by us to be equivalent in importance and piety to service to God. That is why Swami Vivekananda when referring to the concept of Daridra Narayana said and I quote, "It is a privilege to serve mankind, for this is worship of God. God is here, in all these human souls. He is the soul of man."

That social service has always been a part of our way of thinking is evidenced by our literature. Ancient Tamil classics have particularly eulogized the lives of great kings who have considered the welfare of their subjects as more important than their comforts. We are all aware of the legendary greatness of King Pari who provided his chariot to a creeper plant that needed support to spread out and grow. The munificence and generosity of kings like Karna are legendary and find place in our epics.

A complete life is experienced when an individual goes beyond the intellectual and analytical level to the feeling of oneness and compassion which can spring only from the altruistic heart.

A nation can become great only if its citizens are willing to serve the nation with a sense of selflessness. Men and women of character can alone successfully lead society towards glory and prosperity. All of you assembled here have the ability to contribute to society in a substantial manner. Your actions should be free from attachment and be only guided by the benefits they will confer on your society, the state and the nation.

The mission of the Dharmamurthi Rao Bahadur Calavala Cunnan Chetty's Charities is to provide care for the betterment of the poor, disadvantaged and the deprived, irrespective of caste, creed or religion, by extending educational support and providing medical succor.

I congratulate the President, the Managing Trustee and the Trustees of the Dharmamurthi Rao Bahadur Calavala Cunnan Chetty's Charities for pursuing their quest with total commitment. They have been following the path laid out by Calavala Cunnan Chetty with true loyalty and dedication.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to them and applaud the selfless contributions of all those who have enabled the educational institutions and the various other institutions of the trust to successfully pursue their mission all these decades. May they be greeted with greater success in their endeavours in the coming years”.

On this occasion, Thiru. D. Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries and Personnel & Administrative Reforms, Thiru. M.Sampath, Chief Postmaster General, Tamil Nadu Circle, Thiru. M.Venkatesaperumal, President, Dharmamurthi Rao Bahadur Calavala Cunnan Chetty Charities, Thiru. M.V.Cunniah Chetty, Managing Trustee, Thiru. V.Sethuram, Trustee, Thiru. C.Venkatachalam, Trustee, Thiru. Vummidi Sreehari, Trustee, Thiru. V.R.Bakthavatsalam, Trustee, Dr.Pravin Tellakula, Trustee and other dignitaries participated.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai -22

Sd/-

Date : 24.08.2019

Joint Director (PR)