

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Chief Guest at the inauguration ceremony of Lions District 324 B1 R. Selvarajan Blood Bank organised by the International Association of Lions Clubs District 324 B1

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu participated as Chief Guest at the inauguration ceremony of Lions District 324 B1 R. Selvarajan Blood Bank organised by the International Association of Lions Clubs District 324 B1 at Lions Cabinet Secretariat Building, Coimbatore today (24.10.2019) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "It gives me pleasure to be here at Coimbatore for the inauguration of the R.Selvarajan Blood Bank which has been setup by the International Association of Lions Clubs Districts 324 B1.

Coming to Coimbatore is a matter of double delight for me. Coimbatore or Kovai as it is known is one of the fastest growing cities of India and a major industrial hub in South India. It was part of the Kongu Nadu during the Sangam Period and was ruled by the Chera dynasty. In recent times the city started experiencing economic prosperity after the textile boom in the early 19th century. Coimbatore is also known as the "Pump City" since it supplies nearly half of India's requirements of motors and pumps. The city is one of the largest exporters of jewellery, wet grinders, poultry and auto components. The "Coimbatore Wet Grinder" and the "Kovai Cora Cotton" are recognised as Geographical Indicators by the Government of India.

The function being organised by the Lions Club today reflects the spirit of compassion and love demonstrated by the people of Coimbatore. It is such desire to extend all possible help to the poor and needy and those in distress that makes likeminded people join hands for a noble cause giving birth to social service organisations of which the Lions Movements is a shining example.

In this connection I wish to recall a famous quotation of Swami Vivekananda which reads as follows,

"It is a privilege to serve mankind, for this is the worship of God. God is here, in all these human souls. He is the soul of man."

Selfless service for society is held up as the highest virtue in our Country. The principle of placing service above self lies at the core of India's psyche. Viewing the

humanity of the world as one family is fundamental to our way of thinking and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is the driving force behind India's spirituality.

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.

The Lions Movement was founded by Melvin Jones in the year 1917, with the mission to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, to encourage peace and promote international understanding through its clubs. The Lions Club movement has more than 1.4 million members today spread over more than 200 countries across the world.

The founder of the organization Melvin Jones used to say "one cannot get very far until we start doing something for somebody else". Hence the motto for the organization reads as "We serve".

Some of the important objectives of the Lions Clubs International are:

1. To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.
 2. To promote the principles of good government and good citizenship.
 3. To provide a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.
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4. To encourage service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

In India presently there are 2,90,000 members in the Lions clubs, the second largest membership in the world. In Tamilnadu alone there are about 70,000 members in nearly 1550 clubs. I am informed that this 324 B1 district which has nearly 7000 members has been engaged in a number of initiatives to ensure better medical care for the needy.

Many blood donation camps have been conducted by them and nearly 2000 units of blood are being collected annually and donated to Government hospitals, the Indian Medical Association and other private hospitals. The blood bank that has been inaugurated today has the latest Medical equipment and Testing machines with a state of art laboratory. I consider the setting up of this blood bank as a very useful addition made to the health care infrastructure of Coimbatore by the Lions Movement.

The concept of blood donation took formal shape in recent times when the Red Cross was born in 1859. It was Henry Dunant, a young Swiss gentleman, who at the scene of a bloody battle in Solferino, Italy where 40,000 men lay dead or dying on the battlefield without medical attention decided to set up the Red Cross. As the President of the Tamil Nadu chapter of the Red Cross, I have been encouraging the organization to conduct blood donation camps in all the district that I visit.

At today's function seven top donors to the blood bank have been honoured with special awards in recognition of their services to the society. These award winners have through their selfless sacrifice brought pride and glory to their families and their place of origin. I congratulate the awardees and wish them well. They will certainly serve as an inspiration for the youth to take to social service in large numbers.

I convey my warm felicitations to the office bearers and members of the International Association of Lions Clubs Districts 324 B1 and to all the generous donors who have been engaged in promoting the cause of the organization in a selfless and dedicated manner.

I conclude with the words of Thiruvalluvar. The Saint Poet said in one of his couplets and I quote,

“Smile, Charity, pleasant words and civility-These four are marks of true nobility.”

I wish you all success in your service to the society.

My greetings to you all.”

On this occasion, Thiru. S.P.Velumani, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development, and Implementation of Special Programme, Thiru. Pollachi V. Jayaraman, Deputy Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Thiru. R. Karanaboopathy, Lions District Governor, Thiru. G.Ramasamy, Past Lions International Director, Thiru. Rajamani, District Collector, Coimbatore, Thiru. Sumit Saran, Commissioner of Police, Coimbatore and other dignitaries participated.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai -22

Sd/-

Date : 24.10.2019

Joint Director (PR)