

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Chief Guest at the Rajya Puraskar Award Rally – 2019

Thiru.Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, participated as Chief Guest at the Rajya Puraskar Award Rally -2019 organised by The Bharat Scouts and Guides, Tamil Nadu at Raj Bhavan, Chennai today (26.9.2019) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said that "It gives me great pleasure to be here amongst you for the distribution of the Rajya Puraskar Awards to outstanding Scouts and Guides who have done our nation proud.

The tradition of the Rajyapuraskar Awards for scouts and guides started in 1961 when the first President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad associated himself with the Bharat Scouts & Guides Association.

Since then, lakhs of Scouts and Guides have joined the Association to engage themselves in nation building activities. The fact that this training begins at an impressionable age is a matter of great satisfaction. Through their participation in the scouting movement these young men and women become individuals who promote national integration and the protection of the fabric of societal harmony.

Scouting is today the largest youth movement in the world. But few may know that, initially it was open only to European and Anglo Indian children in India. That was in 1909 when Captain T. H. Baker established the first Scout unit in Bangalore and got it registered with the imperial Headquarters in London.

The Scouting movement for Indians was spearheaded by Justice Vivian Bose, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Pandit Hridayanath Kunzru, Girija Shankar Bajpai, Annie Besant and George Arundale who began their indigenous scouting units from 1913 onwards. In 1916, a Cub section was started, followed by the Rover section in 1918.

Today the Bharat Scouts and Guides has a membership of 5.7 million and is one of the largest non-governmental, educational, non-political, voluntary youth organisations in our land. This is a large resource pool that can make for remarkable transformation in our society.

The Tamil Nadu wing of the Bharat Scouts and Guides has a total membership of 2,79,004 with 1,76,812 scouts and 1,02,192 guides. This makes Tamil Nadu the 3rd largest in the country in terms of the total enrolment of Scouts and Guides.

Chennai then known as Madras has a great history of the scouting movement. Dr. Annie Besant started the scout movement for Indians at Chennai in the year 1916. It is a proud achievement that since 1925, the headquarters of the scout office has been functioning in the same premises in the city, for almost a century.

You should all be proud to know that the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi visited the Chennai State Headquarters and addressed the Scouts at that office in Triplicane, on 4th September 1927.

The mission of the Scouting movement is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

There is a wide spectrum of activities that the Bharat Scouts and Guides have been engaged in the last 68 years. Such efforts have encompassed humanitarian aid during natural calamities, social campaigns to combat disease and debilitating habits, community workshops for skill-development, activities related to Millennium Development Goals and participation in international meets.

Scouting provides opportunities for the personality development of children, along with the training in leadership which may not be fully achieved by classroom instruction alone. It endows the student with self confidence, the desire to explore and to discover the joy of life provides training in leadership and teaches the values of team spirit, punctuality and an ability to accommodate and adjust. In short it enables the manifestation of the human potential latent in the individual with full vigour and spirit.

The patriot saint Swami Vivekananda's words on human potential, are enlightening

"All power is within you:

You can do anything and everything;

See for the highest, aim at the highest and

You shall reach the highest"

The future leadership of the nation is in the hands of youth like you. It is therefore necessary that the right virtues are sown in the young minds. By giving youth a sense of devotion to their motherland, a sense of attachment to their society and a sense of responsibility towards their fellow citizens we are laying the foundations for peace, prosperity and progress in the future.

The best cadets are honoured annually through the Rajya Puraskar award and Rashtrapati awards.

Today, 12,206 Scouts, 8,624 Guides, 83 Rovers and 35 Rangers have received the highest State award of the Scouts and Guides Association.

I congratulate them on their achievement. The award is a recognition of the sterling human qualities that lead towards the making of an ideal individual.

A nation can become great if its citizens are willing to serve the nation with sense of selflessness. Men and women of character can alone successfully lead society towards peace and prosperity. All of you assembled here have the ability to change society. Therefore plan carefully before you act. Once you have decided to act, please do not look back.

This is amply elaborated in couplet 467, of the Thirukural where Thiruvalluvar says,

"Think, and then dare the deed! Who cry,

'Deed dared, we'll think,' disgraced shall be."

I am sure that this thought will guide you all through life leading to success and greatness.

I wish to conclude by quoting what Dr. Annie Besant said about the scouting movement. As Dr. Annie Besant said, "If I had a dozen sons and daughters, I would send each one of them for Scouting and Guiding".

I congratulate the State Chief Commissioner and other office bearers of the Bharat Scouts and Guides, Tamil Nadu for their quest to bring about an improvement in societal welfare.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to all the awardees who have toiled hard to become eligible for this historic recognition. May they be visited with success in all their endeavours".

On this occasion, Thiru. K. A. Sengottaiyan, Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Thiru. Pradeep Yadav, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, School Education Department, Dr. P. Mani, State President, The Bharat Scouts and Guides, Tamil Nadu, Dr. S. Kannappan, Director of School Education, Dr. R. Elangovan, State Chief Commissioner, The Bharat Scouts and Guides, Tamil Nadu, Dr. Harish L. Metha, State Commissioner, Scouts, and other dignitaries participated.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai -22

Date: 26.9.2019

Sd/-

Joint Director (PR)