

**ADDRESS BY THIRU Ch.VIDYASAGAR RAO, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT THE
GANDHI JAYANTHI CELEBRATIONS AT GANDHI MANDAPAM, CHENNAI ON 02/10/2016
AT 05.00PM**

Thiru Kadambur Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity, Thiru K.Pandiarajan, Hon'ble Minister for School Education and Sports and Youth Welfare, Thiru R.Venkatesan, IAS., Secretary to Government, Tamil Development and Information Department, Thiru J. Kumaragurubaran, IAS., Director of Information and Public Relations, Thiru S.P.Ezhilazhagan, Additional Director (Information), Officials and staff of Information and Public Relations Department, Teachers and Dear students.

I am pleased to participate in the Gandhi Jayanthi Celebrations and to give away prizes to students.

Mahatma Gandhiji was a man of values. He popularized the concept of 'Satyagraha' in the entire world. He was a man of principles and lived for those principles till the end of his life. He made an indelible mark in the history of the world as a fearless leader, a follower of Ahimsa and Truth, a staunch nationalist and an eloquent orator. It is good to see students coming forward to take part in the competitions held to promote the ideals of Gandhiji.

Dear Students,

Many countries of the world fought for their Independence in the same period when India fought for its liberation from the foreign rule. India's struggle for Independence holds a unique place in the international arena.

Mahatma Gandhi employed the powerful weapons of non-violence, civil disobedience and non-cooperation and through them consolidated all Indians and got us freedom.

We are all aware how our forefathers fought for our nation's Independence. The Nation's freedom was hard earned with a lot of sacrifice and struggle.

The Civil Rights Movement led by Martin Luther King Junior in the United States and the Anti-Apartheid Struggle in South Africa led by Nelson Mandela were inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's Philosophy.

Ladies and Gentlemen and Dear Students,

Today it is time for each one of us to see where are we drifting away from Gandhiji's principles ? We need to introspect whether are we observing the principles of Mahatma Gandhi ? I think the honest answer would be 'No'.

Let us re-dedicate ourselves, this day, to fulfill Mahatma Gandhi's vision and live up to his ideals. Gandhiji's mission was to bring about social reconstruction, make our villages self-reliant and make India clean.

The 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' is a mass movement to create a Clean India. Cleanliness was very close to Mahatma Gandhiji's heart. Building a clean India and a skilled India would be the best tribute to the Father of the Nation.

Dear Students,

On the occasion of the Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhiji, I would like to remind you what Gandhiji expected from the student community. He wanted the students to imbibe discipline, serve the nation, serve the poor and follow the principle of simple living and high thinking.

I appeal to the students to enjoy your studies. Let your mission be to march ahead from knowledge to more knowledge. Be patriotic, constructive and creative and dedicate yourself to the cause of the nation.

I commend the initiatives taken by educational institutions to propagate Gandhiji's message among the students and for organizing various competitions marking the birth anniversary of Gandhiji. I congratulate the prize winners and all students for their active participation.

Jai Hind. Jai Tamil Nadu.
