

**ADDRESS BY THIRU. BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU ON THE OCCASION OF MEELAD-UN-NABI AT AMIR MAHAL,  
CHENNAI ON 02/12/2017 AT 07.00 P.M.**

Thiru. M.M. Rajendran  
Former Governor of Odisha  
Thiru. Gopalkrishna Gandhi  
Former Governor of West Bengal  
Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali  
Prince of Arcot  
Begum Sahiba Sayeeda Abdul Ali  
Spouse of Prince of Arcot  
Members of Diplomatic corps  
Family Members of Prince of Arcot  
Senior Officials  
Distinguished Invitees  
Friends from Media  
Ladies and Gentlemen

On the joyous occasion of "Meelad-un-Nabi" (मिलादउलनबी) the birthday of Prophet Mohammed, I extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all our Muslim Brothers and Sisters.

It is a pleasure to visit Amir Mahal, the official residence of the Nawab of Arcot.

India is the largest democratic country in the world with 125 crore people living in harmony. Unity in diversity is the hall mark of our nation.

Our nation is home to many religions. And all religions have their unique and special festivals. Festivals are occasions for joy and celebrations. They also serve to promote the spirit of brotherhood and harmony. Whether it is the matter of praying in the mosque or the assembling of lamps that light up homes on Diwali or the good cheer of Christmas or the brotherhood of Baisakhi - they all signify unity and sharing of happiness and joy. They bring people together and make them transcend barriers. The common thread of people celebrating their festivals with their families, relatives and friends runs through India giving it a unique flavour of unity in diversity.

Let us pledge to strengthen this bondage of brotherhood and promote peace and harmony.

All religions preach the goodness of truth and moral living, love and compassion. Their rituals may be different but the goal is one. We should respect all religions, in the same manner, as we respect our own religion, since the underlying message of all religions is the same. That is why the ancient Indian Texts talk of a single family for the whole world of humanity.

**'VasudhaivaKutumbakam' is our guiding principle.**

We need to understand this universal approach of religions. The following Sanskrit sloka expounds it fully and forcefully.

"Om Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah

Sarve Santu Nir-Aamayaah

Sarve Bhadraanni Pashyantu

Maa Kaschid(कश्चिद्)-Duhkha-Bhaag-Bhavet

Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih".

Translated into English, this means,

“May we all be prosperous and happy  
 May we all be free from illness  
 May we all see what is spiritually uplifting  
 May no one suffer  
 Om peace, peace, peace”.

Islam means submission to the will of God and obedience to His Law. It underlines peace, purity, submission and obedience. It stresses on values such as compassion, benevolence, wisdom and justice.

Holy Quran states that

“And Allah invites to the Home of Peace and guides whom He wills to a straight path”.

The verses of the Quran lay emphasis on the importance of being kind and developing the quality of forgiveness.

Bible says, “Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love”.

Saint Guru Gobind Singh said that we should try to see the creator in every human being.

Gautama Buddha said,

“The thought manifests as the word; the word manifests as the deed; the deed develops into habit; and habit hardens into character. So watch the thought and its ways with care and let it spring from love born out of concern for all beings”.

Jainism says, “Live and let live... Love all and serve all”.

Be it Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism or any other religion, all of them preach love and compassion. All religious saints, seers, scholars and social thinkers have only spread the message of love and peace.

May we resolve to practise love and compassion and promote unity and peace so as to build a harmonious world and nurture in the young the spirit of oneness.

I convey my warm felicitations to Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali, Prince of Arcot, Begum Sahiba, Sayeeda (सईदा) Abdul Ali and their family members for inviting me and my wife for this auspicious occasion.

My Greetings to you all.

Jai Hind. Jai Tamil Nadu.

Nandri, Vanakkam.