

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT GRADUATION DAY AND THE INAGURATION OF THE  
GURU AMAR DAS BLOCK, CHENNAI ON 05/05/2018**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

The Chief Guest of the day,  
The Hon'ble President of India

Respected First Lady

Thiru. K.C. Veeramani  
Hon'ble Minister for Commercial Taxes

Thiru. Harbans Singh Anand,  
President, Guru Nanak Educational Society

Thiru. Manjit Singh Nayar,  
General Secretary & Correspondent, Guru Nanak Educational Society

Dr. M. Selvaraj,  
Principal, Guru Nanak Educational College

Thiru. Balbir Punj,  
Ex-MP, Rajya Sabha

Thiru. N.Gopalsamy  
Thiru. Gurumoorthy

Distinguished Invitees  
Ladies & Gentlemen

Teachers & Students

It is a matter of great happiness for me to be participating in the Graduation Day function of Guru Nanak College today.

We are all honoured by the presence of the Hon'ble President of India who is here as the Chief Guest to inaugurate the Guru Amardas block and the Shaheed Baba Deep Singh auditorium.

The Guru Nanak College was set up in 1971 to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Sant Guru Nanak Devji, the first of the revered Sikh Gurus. The Guru Nanak Educational Society set up the college to be run as a minority community institution. Since then the college has grown considerably and now offers courses from the Under Graduate to the Ph. D level. It has also been elevated to the status of an autonomous college under the University of Madras. This place called Velachery which was in 1971 counted among the suburban of the city has now become the heart of the city and is now recognized as one of the largest conglomerations in India.

The college was always seen as a versatile institution which encouraged sports along with academics, elocution, along with experimentation and moral values along with knowledge creation. I am sure that with the untiring efforts of the well wishers of the college and the dedication and service oriented contributions of the faculty members and the office bearers of the educational society, the status and esteem of the college will rise further to attain the highest levels of eminence.

Tamil Nadu has always been known for the special focus given to education. The State was a pioneer in promoting the concept of aided schools. This enabled the rapid spread of education particularly in the rural areas. The State has the highest percentage of students taking up higher education, after the 12<sup>th</sup> Std. About primary education when it was realized that many families could not afford to send their children to schools, provision of midday meals was done on a universal scale along with the provisions of uniforms, footwear, textbooks, bus passes, etc. free of cost.

It will be therefore no surprise if the Guru Nanak college which is a leading educational institution in Tamil Nadu fully utilizes the benefits that are available in the State's infrastructure to rise to a stellar position in the nation.

The college is paying its homage to two great souls - Guru Amardas and Shaheed Baba Deep Singh today. Guru Amardas was the third of the revered

Sikh Gurus and is particularly remembered with fondness for the emphasis he laid on ethical living combined with compassionate approach towards fellow citizens. The Guru Kalangar concept acquired special significance during his time since he ensured that all visitors who came to see him were given a free meal irrespective of caste or creed at the community kitchen. 'First Pangat, then Sangat' was his teaching to the devotees. Shaheed Baba Deep Singh is honoured as a martyr in Sikh history. He is particularly remembered for the courageous role he played in repulsing the Afghans leading to the restoration of Harmandir Sahib to its pristine status.

The greatness of institution such as the Guru Nanak college lies in the special importance that they devote to moral values with the inculcation of the national spirit. Albert Einstein once said, 'Most people say that it is intellect which makes a great scientist. They are wrong. It is character.'

The greatness of a civilization lies not in what people enjoy but it lies in what people can provide for the betterment of mankind and continued civilization in a sustained manner.

Let me conclude by reiterating that the path to progress is illuminated by the lamp of education. Prosperity knocks at your door when people in society acquire the asset of education.

The Guru Nanak College is doing yeomen service in the field of education by making it available to the common people of the city in a manner so as to raise their levels of prosperity. I wish them well in their endeavours. May success greet them at every step and may God bless with bountiful development in the coming years.

Nandri      Vanakkam  
Jai Hind