

ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT THE COMMENCEMENT FUNCTION OF THAMIRAPARANI PUSHKARAM ORGANISED BY TAMIRAPARANI PUSHKARAM SEVA SAMITHI, AT THIRUPPUDAIMARUTHUR, TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT ON 11.10.2018 AT 7.15 P.M

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Thiru. M. Ramanathan,

Singampatti Raja Theerthavari Muruga Das

Thiru. Sundaresalyer,

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here at Thirupudimarudur for the function being organised by the Thambraparani Pushkaram Seva Samithi, on the banks of river Tambraparani.

We are all now assembled to pay our respects to the great Tambraparani, which is not just a river but an embodiment the Divine Power.

The perennial river is believed to be the embodiment of Adiparasakthi herself who in her long journey upto PunnaKayal in Tuticorin District supports millions of people and provides the means to sustenance.

This village – Tirupudaimarudur, is a Blessed one. The historical “SRI NARUMBUNATHAR नरम्बुनाथर् TEMPLE”, is located here. The greatness of this temple is vividly described in a special epic, Sri Narumbunathar Puranam नरम्बुनाथर्पुराणम्. I am informed by the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, that a great scholar from Brahmadesam, a nearby village adorned the seat, as the head of the Mutt with the deeksha name, Sri. Sarvajnatman सर्वज्ञात्मा. He was selected by Adi Sankara himself to adorn the holy seat. He presided over the Mutt for more than 40 years from 407-364 B.C. I am also informed about the visit of the divine personalities, SRI CHANDRASEKARENDRA SARASWATHY SWAMIGAL, SRI JAYENDRA SARAWATHY SWAMIGAL AND SRI SANKARA

VIJAYENDRA SARAWATHY SWAMIGAL of Sri KanchiKamakoti Peetam to this village, in recent times.

Tamil God Lord Muruga and Thamirabharani share the same birth day of Vaikasi Visagam showing the close link between Tamil and Thamirabharani. Sage Agasthya was the first one to create grammar for Tamil followed by his disciple Tholkappiar. So it may be apt to describe the age of Tamil is same as that of the age of Thamiraparani. We also find references of Thamirabharani in Ramayana, Mahabharata, Kalidasa's Raghuvamsa, works of Varahamihira and in sangam Tamil Literature.

The Thamirabarani River originates from the peak of the Pothigai hills on the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats at an elevation of 1,725 metres above sea-level. The river descends down the mountains near Papanasam, where it forms the Kalyanatheertham falls and Agasthiar falls.

The numerous waterfalls and cascades of Tamirabarani forms Kutralam falls, located at an elevation of about 550 feet in the Western Ghats attracts tourists from all over the world.

Because of its medicinal properties, these falls are also popularly called as the "Spa of the South India".

As most of its extensive catchment areas lie in the Western Ghats, the river enjoys the full benefit of both the monsoons, which make the river perennial. The river with its tributaries drains an area of about 4,400 square kilometres. Agriculture flourishes along the banks of the river in Tirunelveli and Tuticorin Districts and it supplies drinking water to Virudhunagar District.

Pushkaram festivals were originally designed to conserve and preserve the rivers. Probably the Pushkarams are the pioneering concept for Swachch Bharat or Clean India Mission in general and Namami Ganga or Clean River Mission in particular.

I am thankful to the organisers for having provided the opportunity to pay my tributes and offer my prayers at this holy spot in a very holy day. I am sure that by the grace of god this district and the state of Tamil Nadu will witness a bountiful harvest and enjoy unparallal prosperity this year

Nandri Vanakkam