

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR
OF TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF AUDITORIUM AND GOLDEN
JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF S.D.N.B VAISHNAV COLLEGE FOR WOMEN AT
AUDITORIUM, COLLEGE CAMPUS, CHENNAI ON 17.12.2018 AT 5.00 P.M**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Thiru. Chandrakanth M.Tolia
Secretary and Trustee

Thirumathi. Mamta D.Bhatt,
Chairman and Trustee

Thiru. Shashikant N. Bhatt
Chairman, Cork Industries Charities Trust & Trustee

Thiru. Nimish C.Tolia
Joint Secretary & Trustee

Thiru. Dhananjay S. Bhatt
Trustee

Thirumathi. R. Geetha
Principal

Distinguished Invitees

Members of the faculty

Students and Friends from media

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am happy to be here for the golden jubilee celebrations of the SDNB Vaishnav College. I am informed that the institution was established as a women's college in the 1960s, to cater to the needs of the southern suburbs of Madras.

Starting from humble beginnings the college has more than 6,000 students today and offers a variety of courses for study. The growth of the college has been concurrent with the growth of education and the greater enrolment of women in institutions of higher learning in the last few decades.

The College has been accredited with 'A' grade status by NAAC and Autonomous Status conferred by UGC and confirmed by the University of Madras in June 2006 and further extended in March 2013. The College has also been sanctioned funding by the Government of India under the STAR College Scheme for Under Graduate Basic Sciences courses for interdisciplinary studies.

The bright and cheerful faces of young women who are on the verge of completing their courses successfully that will pave the way for a new life gives me the hope that India is going to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend. Swami Vivekananda said and I quote "Give me a hundred youth and I shall transform India". Today India has one of the youngest populations of the world with more than 60 crore people below the age of 30. This huge asset if properly trained and deployed in the service of the people of India can bring about a major transformation. Colleges such as these are performing that noble role of training and skilling the youth so that they may lead gainful lives.

In India, we believe in the concept of Nari Shakthi or Women Power. The concept of Durga as the protector of the human race is embodied in the celebrations of Navarathri, during which period we narrate hymns on her victory over the evil forces. Navarathri is celebrated all over India and in Nagpur from where I hail, the celebrations of Vijayadasami the tenth day of victory, are organized on a grand scale.

While we celebrate the power of Shakthi in religion and culture, our history also speaks about the great women leaders who adorned our illustrious array of thinkers, poetesses and warriors. *Avvaiyar* was one of the most famous and important poetesses of the Tamil Sangam. Karaikkal Ammaiyar a great saint has sung devotional hymns which inspire the soul. Women like Rani Laxmi Bai, Ahilyabai Holkar, Rani Mangammal, Kittur Chennamma and Velu Nachiyar have commanded armies and fought with courage and bravery to defeat the oppressor. In recent times also some outstanding women leaders in Literature, Medicine and politics shine as examples of glory of women power. I can recall the services of Sarojini Naidu, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, Ambujammal, Indira Gandhi, Mother Teresa and Kalpana Chavala in this context. Among the living icons one may mention Saina Nehwal, P.V.Sindhu, Sania Mirza, Malleswari, Mary Kom, Geeta Phogat, Dipa Karmakar, Mithali Dorai Raj as some of

the outstanding personalities who have done us proud in the field of sports. Music and dance have also witnessed many famous personalities among women such as Rukmini Devi Arundale, Dr.M.S.Subbulakshmi and Balasaraswati. I am sure that the personalities I have mentioned have been a source of inspiration for many of you.

The achievements of the State of Tamil Nadu in the field of education have been exemplary. The dropout rate is extremely low. The teacher-student ratio in schools is about one teacher for 30 to 40 students. Nearly 48% of the children who finish school education take up higher education. The large number of arts and science colleges and professional colleges available in the State speak for the enthusiasm among the youth to take up skilled jobs in the manufacturing and services sectors. Another striking achievement that has been recorded is that women in higher education account for nearly half of the total student strength. Acquisition of knowledge and learning has thus become a matter of habit for the people of Tamil Nadu.

At this juncture, I would like to specially stress the importance of character building in educational institutions. Albert Einstein once said, 'Most people say that it is intellect which makes a great scientist. They are wrong. It is character.'

Education in colleges should lay stress on inculcating moral values and a national spirit in the students. The teachers here have extensive knowledge about their subjects and enormous experience in various facets of life. Their skill, learning and experience provide them with the necessary capability to mould the student in a manner that is helpful to him, his family and to the society. A society properly educated is always progressive, peaceful and prosperous. With this as our strength, we should be the torchbearers who lead other peoples of the world from darkness to light. 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.

“Thamasoma Jyothirgamaya” is the saying in our spiritual texts. I am only echoing those words of wisdom.

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. Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa used to say “As long as I live, so long do I learn”.

All well-meaning entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu in the field of education, such as the SDNB Vaishnav College management should put their shoulder to the wheel and lay stress on expanding the availability of education and in improving the quality of education so that Tamil Nadu becomes the unsurpassed leader in education not only in India, but also in Asia.

I congratulate the trustees, the teachers and well wishers of the SDNB Vaishnav College for having achieved the glorious record of completing fifty years in the service of providing higher education. I am sure that with your untiring efforts the college will rise further to attain the highest levels of eminence. May you all be greeted with success in the coming years.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....