

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR**  
**OF TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF**  
**'NEYVELI BOOK FAIR – 2018' AT LIGNITE HALL,**  
**NEYVELI ON 29/06/2018 AT 4.30 PM**

**Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam,**

**Dr. Sarat Kumar Acharya**  
**Chairman & Managing Director**

**Thiru. Rakesh Kumar**  
**Director, Finance, NLC**

**Thiru. R. Vikraman**  
**Director, Human Resources, NLC**

**Thiru. Subir Das**  
**Director, MINES, NLC**

**Thiru. V. Thangapandian**  
**Director, POWER, NLC**

**Thiru. N.N. Maheswar Rao**  
**Director, Planning & Project**

**Distinguished Invitees**

**Ladies & Gentlemen**

It gives me great joy to inaugurate the 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the Neyveli Book fair, which has always been known for its popularity and a tradition of bringing together books on a set of wide ranging topics at a common point.

A book fair is a celebration of books; it is a celebration of the reading habit. It is a celebration of authors and thinkers; it is a celebration of knowledge itself.

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the Second President of India once said "Books are the means by which we build bridges between cultures".

When children develop love of reading at an early age, their language skills grow, their imagination is enriched, their world becomes a world of wonder

and they later easily adapt to the reading-focussed learning environment of their classrooms.

For books are friends that open themselves to us at our will and convenience sharing all that they have! What would many of us be without the values and sense of adventure that books bequeathed us! Books give us the wisdom and strength to face the challenges of life!

Great men change the world, but it is books that change great men. Take Gandhiji for example. His life was profoundly changed after he read John Ruskin's 'Unto This Last' on a train ride from Johannesburg to Durban in South Africa on October first, 1904.

Influenced by the book, he established the Phoenix Settlement where he and his co-workers practiced the ideals put forth by 'Unto this last'!

Steve Jobs who gave the cell phone company 'Apple' to the world was deeply drawn to the Indian spiritual tradition; Paramahansa Yogananda's 'Autobiography of a Yogi' influenced him profoundly. In fact, at his memorial service it was copies of this book that were distributed!

At a book fair, there is a joy of finding all the books from the publishing industry right at our doorstep. There is the possibility of meeting a favourite author at the fair and getting one's books autographed by him. That would forge a direct connection with the source and inspiration of one's ideas! There is the occasion of finding a book-lover friend at the fair and making a foray into the world of books with him or her.

At the root of all great books, are exemplary human qualities like hard work, selflessness, social concern, truth, sincerity and the like. Such qualities are reflected by great biographies, and by great fiction and inspired poetry as well, and by self-improvement works too. It is the reader's challenge to find the author who will truly lead him forward to greater horizons.

The unparalleled Tiruvalluvar gives the nature of the quality of good books in his seven hundred and eighty third verse, 'Navil thorum Nool Nayam'. In this

verse, he uses good books as a comparison to good men of character. He says that one's experience of such persons is like the reading of good books. As we keep associating with great men of substance, we learn greater dimensions of their nobility even as good works keep yielding newer and deeper thoughts with every reading!

In India, we have hoary and beautiful traditions connected with the writing of great works and the making of masterpieces. Lord Ganapathi takes upon himself the challenge of writing down the extensive Mahabharatha even as Sage Vyasa dictates it. And the Valmiki Ramayana is borne out of the compassion that flowers in Sage Valmiki's heart when he sees a bird of a pair of lovebirds being brought down by a hunter's arrow!

This book fair is conducted by Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited, a Government of India 'Navratna' Enterprise, under its Corporate Social Responsibility efforts. It is a tribute to the excellent way that it is being conducted that the Neyveli Book Fair has become an event and institution in itself.

A pioneer among the Public Sector Undertakings in energy sector, The Neyveli Lignite corporation operates four Opencast Lignite Mines with a capacity of 30.6 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) at Neyveli and Barsingsar, Rajasthan, Five lignite based pithead Thermal Power Stations with an aggregate capacity of 3240 MW – at Neyveli and Barsingsar and a 1000 MW Coal based Thermal Power Station at Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu through its subsidiary company, NLC Tamil Nadu Power Limited (NTPL).

The Company has also forayed into renewable energy sector with commissioning of a 140 MW Solar Photo Voltaic Power Plant at Neyveli and a 51MW Wind Energy Plant in Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu. The Company is also setting up Solar Power Projects at various places in Tamil Nadu (500 MW). NLCIL is aiming to achieve a total Renewable energy capacity of 4251 MW.

I wish to conclude by mentioning about a pithy saying that I came across when I was reading a book on the way to Neyveli. The saying ran thus "If you

only read the books that everyone else is reading you can only think what everyone else is thinking". From this one can infer two things namely that books spur on your thoughts and that you should be careful about the books that you choose to read. As they say if consumed in excess even nectar works like a poison. The same is true of books also. We should not only be selective about the books that we choose to read, we should also not cram our brains with too much of material. Excessive crowding in the brain stamps out creativity.

I compliment the efforts of the CMD of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation and all the officials working under him for having organized such a grand book fair today. I am sure the people of Neyveli and book lovers from all over Tamil Nadu and beyond will make the best use of the fair. I call upon all the book lovers assembled here to spread the word about good books found in the fair. So that they get widely propagated. Let us not forget the maxim " Book are our best companions".

Nandri Vanakkam

Jai Hind.