

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR  
OF TAMIL NADU AT THE BOOK RELEASE FUNCTION "SCULPTORS  
OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE" AT HINDUSTAN COLLEGE OF  
ARTS AND SCIENCE, NAVA INDIA, COIMBATORE  
ON 29.10.2018 AT 3.30 P.M**

**ANAIVARUKKUM MAALAI VANAKKAM**

Thiru .V.Nandakumar  
Thiru. B.K.Arumugam  
Thiru.G. Ramaswamy  
Thirumathi. Sarasuwathi Khannaiyann  
Thiru. Sulthanul Arifeen  
Thiru. P. John Peter  
Distinguished Invitees  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great happiness to be here today to participate in the book release function organised at the Hindustan Collage of Arts and Science by The Patriot and Lions Clubs International District. The book 'Sculptors of Indian Independence' has a patriotic flavour about it and an inspirational objective. The author Thiru. V. Nandakumar has written the book in simple lucid language and this makes the content easy to understand.

The lives of valiant heroes who fought for India's freedom have been systematically covered in the book. What is particularly significant is the attention the author gives even to unsung heroes among freedom fighters. There is an elaborate list of freedom fighters from Tamil Nadu whose lives have been covered by him.

One comes to know from the book that great freedom fighters from this land of Kongu Nadu like Theeran Chinnamalai, Tiruppur Kumaran, Avinachi Lingam Chettiyar, G. Lakshmana Iyer have contributed immensely for the freedom struggle. A reference to the Kappolottiya Thamilan V.O.Chidamparam Pillai's detention in Coimbatore Central Jail from 09.07.1908 to 01.12.1910 is indeed revealing. V.O.C an Advocate by profession started a shipping company which ferried passengers from Thoothukudi to Colombo. The British through devious means bought about the downfall of his company and also subsequently detained him causing great misery ad suffering to his family which descended from prosperity to utter penury.

The patriotic slogan Jai Hind was raised by Senbagaraman who hailed from Kanyakumari District. One cannot forget the great sacrifice done by Vanchinathan, a Government official who resigned his job to participate in the freedom struggle. His

assassination of the British Collector Ash Durai remains unforgettable even today. The younger generation should know about the great sacrifices done by Vellunachiar and her commandant Kuyili who destroyed a British army camp by jumping into the arms and ammunition stock yard.

The great sacrifices of Maruthu Brothers, Veera Pandiya Kattabomman, Sundaralingam, Oomai Thurai, Theeran Chinnamalai, Subramania Siva, Mahakavi Bharathi, Cuddalore Anjalai Ammal, Thiru V. Kalyana Sundaram, Jeevananadam, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, Rajagopalachariar, Kamaraj and Kakkan will make every reader feel inspired and passionate about the nation and its people.

**Mahatma Gandhi** and other notable greats of his era such as Annie Besant, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Nethaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Jawaharlal Nehru have also been covered beautifully in the book.

So also are the contributions of Chapekar Brothers Prafulla Chandra Chaki, Khudirram Bose, Madanlal Dhingra, Bhai Balmukund, Jatin Mukherjee, Kartar Singh, Ashifaqulla Khan, Ram Prasad Bismill, Chandra Sekar Azad, Sukhdev Thapar, Shivaram Hariraj Guru and Bhagat Singh.

The slogan Vande Matharam which helped to unite all Indians was coined by Bankim Chandra Chatierjee who has an important place in the freedom struggle.

Remembering and honouring their Glory is a great service, one can do to Mother India.

India is a land of unity in diversity. This was understood even 150 years ago. For this, I would like to quote from Surendra Nath Banerjee's speech made in 1878. He said and I quote "There may be religious differences between us. There may be social differences between us. But there is a common platform where we all meet, the platform of our country's welfare." Unquote.

Gandhiji the Father of the Nation has always been an inspiration to all of us. There are so many facets of his contribution to the nation which need elaboration. Millions of peoples know him as the person who brought freedom to India. A greater number is aware that the path of truth and non-violence that he practised was unique. In world history this spiritual path of virtue was never traversed before. It was a path of goodness – a path to which the common people could easily relate – a path that ensured success and above all a path that shines as a beacon light for the

whole world from which leaders like Martin Luther King (Jr.) and Nelson Mandela derived enlightenment.

The importance of book reading needs no emphasis. The Unparalleled Tiruvallur explains the nature of good quality books in the seven hundred and eighty third couplet where he says 'Navilthorum Nool Nayam'. Thiruvalluvar likens good books to good men of character and 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!

It is necessary for the youth of the nation to be aware of the sacrifices that people have made to win us freedom from foreign rule. As Barack Obama has said 'Even in the face of impossible odds people who love their country can change it. Seen in that light this, book written by Thiru. Nandakumar helps the reader to know about the lives of 152 freedom fighters of India. In addition there is the coverage of the Quit India Movement, the Civil Disobedience Movement. The Jallian Wala Bagh tragedy. The First War of Indian Independence and the Vellore Sepoy Mutiny.

The book's contents are certain to inspire every reader to engage himself in nation building activities. Nation building is an arduous and complex activity. It involves standing up for the principles of honesty transparency and efficiency besides having a passionate attachment to the welfare of the common people. A nation of 125 crores people has enormous potential. Imagine the impact that the people of our nation will have if this large population moves forward as one unified consolidated mass with the single minded goal of making the nation great. It is very well possible in our lifetime. What is required is commitment to the cause, adherence to discipline training to attain one's own full potential and the acquisition of the feeling that we are all Indians without distinction of caste creed, language or religion. At this important juncture of history it is my earnest call that more and more citizens should come forward to serve the nation with a feeling of selflessness and national pride. May more and more of this tribe increase.

Nandri Vanakkam.....

Jai Hind