

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT THE LECTURE ON "GANDHI KATHA" BY DR.SHOBHANA  
RADHAKRISHNA ON THE OCCASION OF 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATIONS OF MAHATMA GANDHI AT DURBAR HALL, RAJ BHAVAN,  
CHENNAI ON 16.10.2019 AT 5.00 P.M**

**Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam**

**Thiru. R.Rajagopal, I.A.S.,**  
Additional Chief Secretary to Governor

**Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna**  
Chief Functionary, Gandhian Forum for  
Ethical Corporate Governance

**Vice- Chancellors of Universities**

**Staff and Students**

**Distinguished Invitees**

**Friends from Media,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It gives me immense pleasure to be here today to preside over at the lecture on “Gandhi Katha” by Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna.

Dr Shobhana Radhakrishna who was brought up in Mahatma Gandhi's Ashram in Sevagram near Wardha cultivated a strong ideological connect with Gandhi's ideals since her childhood.

With this as her strength. She has been engaged in spreading Mahtma Gandhi's philosophy by giving lectures on Gandhi Katha in India and abroad. For this she has travelled to nearly 30 countries in the last one year alone for the commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Dr Radhakrishna's Gandhi Katha covers different facets of Gandhiji's life. In some, she tells about Gandhi's social and political activities in others about his Constructive programs and in a third about his life and message. But in all her talks she talks about voluntary restraint through the practice of Ekadasha Vratas and the joys of simple living. She has thus rendered more than one hundred Gandhi Kathas.

Mahatma Gandhi stands as the role model for all times!

Gandhiji successfully demonstrated to the world that adherence to truth and non-violence is not meant for individual causes alone but for

global affairs also. In this context the Mahatma said and I quote,

“We must refuse to meet hatred with hatred, violence with violence, evil with evil, but must love even our enemies, for in reality there are no enemies.”

Gandhiji brought about social cohesion among the people of India by vigorously working against untouchability. He gave an economic philosophy that focused on self-sufficiency at the village level. He propagated the concept of trusteeship and wanted people to abhor the accumulation of wealth for themselves and their families. All these were the outpourings of the wisdom of Gandhiji which went beyond the political spectrum. His

thoughts and deeds encompassed the whole gamut of activities of human existence.

As a spiritualist, he urged social reform, not through legislation but through self-discipline, moral restraint and persuasion. He denounced intoxicating drugs and drinks as brutalizing men and doing violence to their human nature. Gandhiji's views on education were also inspired by the consideration for forming a sound character. Education should not only help in acquiring knowledge and arousing intellectual curiosity, but should also inculcate the right ideals, he emphasised.

Gandhiji's contribution to India is immeasurable. Gandhiji's contribution to the world

is also immeasurable, for leaders like Martin Luther King Jr and Nelson Mandela followed in the footsteps of Gandhiji to bring emancipation to their followers who were otherwise oppressed and enslaved. Gandhiji's message of ahimsa is a powerful signal to mankind that stockpiling of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles will only lead to destruction.

Gandhiji often used to say "My life is my message". Indeed it is the message that we should all respectfully followed propagate for the benefit of succeeding generations. It is important for us to try and practise the ideals of Gandhiji in our life.

Gandhiji's life and message will be remembered and will serve as a guide for millions

of people for several thousands of years in the future.

Albert Einstein the greatest scientist of the 20th Century had this to say about Gandhiji “Generations to come will scarce believe that such a person in flesh and blood ever walked upon the earth”.

The true essence of democracy should be understood in the sense that the common people are the masters of the nation. Mahatma Gandhiji wrote a Article in young India on 22nd October 1925 and cautioned against seven deadly sins that can destroy a Nation. They are:-

1. Wealth without work,
2. Pleasure without conscience,

3. Knowledge without character,
4. Commerce without morality,
5. Science without humanity,
6. Religion without sacrifice and
7. Politics without principle.

It is important for us to identify the people who practice these sins in our midst and reform them without any further delay.

I congratulate Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna who has been vigorously propagating the message of the Mahatma. I am sure that the lecture on “Gandhi Katha” will motivate many millions of people to follow in the footsteps of the Mahatma and practice his ideals. I request the members of the audience to pick up the threads



from this lecture and propagate the message of Bapuji far and wide. By doing so, we will be performing a great service to the nation, our society and the succeeding generations. I am sure that all of you assembled here will do your utmost to help transform the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi into reality for the present and succeeding generations.

Nandri Vanakkam.....

Jai Tamil Nadu.....

Jai Hind.....