

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT THE 20<sup>TH</sup> YEAR CELEBRATION OF SEVABHARATHI  
TAMILNADU AT CHINMAYA HERITAGE CENTRE, CHETPET, CHENNAI  
ON 19.10.2019 AT 10.30 A.M**

**Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam**

**His Holiness Swami Mitrananda Ji,**  
Acharya, Chinmaya Mission

**Thiru. B. Rabu Manohar,**  
State President,  
Sevabharathi Tamilnadu

**Thirumathi J.C. Indumathi,**  
State Secretary,  
Sevabharathi Tamilnadu

**Thiru. K. Padmakumar,**  
South India Seva Pramukh,  
R.S.S.

**Distinguished Invitees**

**Ladies & Gentlemen**

It is a matter of happiness to be here at the 20<sup>th</sup> year celebrations of Sevabharathi Tamilnadu being held at Chinmaya Heritage Centre.

The spirit of compassion and love and the intension to extend all possible help to the poor and needy coupled with a feeling of attachment and pride to the nation made likeminded people join hands for a noble cause, giving birth to the organization that is Sevabharathi.

Selfless service for society is held up as the highest virtue in our Country. The principle of placing service above self lies at the core of India's psyche. Viewing the humanity of the world as one family is fundamental to our way of thinking and

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is the driving force behind India's spirituality.

I am informed that the projects of Sevabharathi have five service dimensions which are Education, Health Care, Self Reliance, Social Welfare and Disaster Management and Rehabilitation.

Through these five activities, the 'Pancha Kaarya', Sevabharathi brings about an all-round development of individuals, families and thereby, the nation.

The primary objective of Sevabharathi is to provide free education to the deprived section of the society. Towards this Sevabharathi is conducting free education centers in 115 locations in Tamil Nadu alone. Children in the age group from

8 years to 15 years who attend these classes are enabled to not only do well in academics but also learn moral values. Monthly orientation classes are also conducted for teachers who are to be motivated and see themselves as change agents.

Next to education, health is perceived to be the vital area to be addressed by Sevabharathi. The organization operates two free mobile medical vans equipped with complete infrastructure in various parts of Chennai. Yoga and naturotherapy treatment also conducted by Sevabharathi to promote better health care.

One another area of focus is that of providing shelter and care for needy children. These centres are called as Anbu Illams or Abodes of Love.

Sevabharathi was particularly appreciated for the relief activities during the 2004 Tsunami, 2015 Chennai Floods, 2018 Kerala Floods and at the time of Gaja Cyclone.

A complete life is experienced when an individual goes beyond the intellectual and analytical level to the feeling of oneness and compassion which can spring only from the altruistic heart.

Swami Vivekananda said and I quote,

“It is a privilege to serve mankind, for this is the worship of God. God is here, in all these human souls. He is the soul of man.”

Swami Vivekananda also said and I quote

“India will be raised, not with the power of flesh, but with the power of the spirit, not with the flag of destruction but with the flag of peace and love.” Love is the strongest and yet the subtlest force of mankind.

A nation can become great if its citizens are willing to serve the nation with sense of selflessness. Men and women of character can alone successfully lead society towards peace and prosperity. All of you assembled here have the ability to change society. Your actions should be free from attachment and be only guided by the benefits they will confer on your society, the state and the nation. Therefore plan carefully before you

act. Once you have decided to act, please do not look back.

A Sanskrit verse gives the essence of such merit in two simple words, 'Paropakaraaha Punyaaya' (परोपकारह पुण्याय).

Translated it means that helping others brings the greatest good to the person who helps.

The greatness of a civilisation lies not in what people enjoy but it lies in what people can provide for the betterment of mankind and continued civilisation in a sustained manner. Mere enjoyment and economic prosperity without sustainable development will be short-lived and short-sighted.

India is a large country with a population of about 125 crores. We are the largest democracy in

the world and follow processes that are based on consultation and majority selection. It is only by mobilising people to follow the right track and by opening out our hearts in acts of generosity that we can build an all-inclusive society. Trusts and institutions such as yours who are engaged in social service help us to achieve the goal faster.

Today's function is certain to serve as an inspiration for well intentioned individuals to dedicate themselves in greater measure for the welfare of the needy and underprivileged.

At today's function two outstanding persons have been honoured with special awards in recognition of their services.



Thiru. R. Siva, worked in the State Government in the “National Leprosy Eradication Program”.

Out of passion and commitment, apart from official duty, he co-ordinated the ‘Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured but Deformed Persons’ through Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai for nearly 32 years and is at present a full time co-ordinator for Rehabilitation of Leprosy cured persons at the Ramakrishna Math Chennai.

He has coordinated Research on wounds in leprosy patients along with KINGS Institute and CLRI to bring about vaccination for eradication of leprosy. He has serviced nearly 1600 Leprosy cured persons and rehabilitated them in a shelter at Semenchery.

The other awardee, Thiru. R. Rajendran started “Kongu Arivalayam” a school for mentally retarded children at Erode during 1987. The objective of the school was of serving the children with intellectual disabilities, to teach and train them to tackle their personal/social problems, to exhibit their talent to the society, to get them job opportunities that would help them to make their living.

The success of this school can be attributed to the single minded pursuit of purpose of Thiru. Rajendran for which he richly deserves the award.

I congratulate both the awardees and wish them well.

Inspired by the achievements of the two awardees, I wish that many more should follow in

their footsteps and win laurels for themselves, the state and the nation.

My special words of appreciation and greetings are reserved for the office bearers and the members of Sevabharathi who have been contributing tirelessly towards the objective of promoting societal welfare. I am sure that their efforts will be rewarded with bountiful success. May the blessings of God be showered on them in abundant measure.

Nandri Vanakkam.....

Jai Tamil Nadu.....

Jai Hind.....