

HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU THIRU R.N.RAVI
INAUGURATED SARVODAYA STUDENT'S GIRLS HOSTEL
(WEST BLOCK) AT CHETPET, CHENNAI, TODAY (17.10.2022)
ON THE EVE OF 90TH YEAR OF HARIJAN SEVAK SANGH

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru R.N.Ravi accompanied by Tmt. Laxmi Ravi, Lady Governor participated as Chief Guest and inaugurated Sarvodaya Student's Girls Hostel (West Block) at Chetpet, Chennai, today (17.10.2022). He distributed the Harijan Bandhu Awards to donors for their support for building the hostel block for the good cause.

The Governor in his Address, hailed the Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi and his unmatched understanding of the Nation. Governor added how when the British were dividing the Country on every conceivable line. Gandhi looked upon the Country as one family and resisted the colonial design. How he campaigned against untouchability and injustice to our brothers and sisters of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and created Harijan Sevak Sangh for social mobilisation to uplift the socially and economically downtrodden. Gandhi's model of development was bottom up starting from the villages and the extremely marginalised people.

Hon'ble Governor explained how the development model has almost become Darwinian model driven mainly by power politics which further widened the gaps among the communities.

While appreciating overall achievements of Tamil Nadu in terms of health, education, infrastructure and industry, the Hon'ble Governor highlighted the growing disparity at the grass roots. He explained how GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) of Tamil Nadu is among the highest in country almost double of our National average, and at the same time, the GER among Scheduled Castes and Tribes is just about the half of the

National average. He questioned the model of development and stated that the macro picture conceals the reality of deprivation and suffering among the SCs/STs who constitute about 24% of the State's population.

Hon'ble Governor expressed his anguish and pain over continuing social discrimination of untouchability. Even the criminal justice system needs to be sensitised and fair to them. He quoted the conviction rate in cases relating to atrocities on Scheduled Castes is hardly 25% and heinous crimes like rape against Harijan women is just about 14%. The sad and shameful reality must be dealt with conviction and the onus is on all of us, individually and collectively.

The Governor emphasised the dire need to provide quality education to people from the Harijan community to bring justice in its true sense. India can only become a developed country by addressing such gaps, comprehensively. It is only possible by assuring the necessary ingredients to bring our Harijan brothers and sisters to par.

He applauded efforts made by Harijan Sevak Sangh, working tirelessly with their meagre resources for making society of Mahatma Gandhi's dream. Hon'ble Governor urged the people to consider their contributions as their duty than a charity as they are part of our family and extend their best possible help and support to dedicated institutions like Harijan Sevak Sangh for the comprehensive resurgence of the Nation.

On this occasion, Prof.Dr.Sankar Kumar Sanyal, Chief General Manager, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Thiru.Shashikant B Kalyani, National President, Harijan sevak Sangh, Dr. S. Pandian, Advisor, Dr. K.S Babai, Vice President, Thiru. P. Maruthi, State President, Thiru. R.Srinivasan, Secretary, Tamil Nadu Harijan Sevak Sangh, Distinguished Invitees, Dignitaries, Students and officials were in presence.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai - 22

Sd/-

Date : 17.10.2022

Joint Director (PR)