

**RAJ BHAVAN, TAMIL NADU - PRESS HIGHLIGHTS**

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS AT THE**  
**THIRUVARUTPRAKASHA VALLAR 200TH JAYANTHI**  
**CELEBRATIONS AT VADALUR, CUDDALORE DISTRICT TODAY**  
**(21.06.2023)**

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu in his presidential address said, I am not only delighted but also blessed to be part of this 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of the greatest saints of this Bharat, Ramalinga Swamigal Vallalar. As a student of Sanatan Adhyatm, which is Sanatan Dharma I have been studying various Rishis and Saints of Bharat, and in that regard, I had the opportunity to read about the great Rishi Vallalar. When I read about the teaching philosophy and darshan of Vallalar, I realised that the ancient tradition of the country started almost 10,000 years ago, and he is one of the brightest sons. Unfortunately, out of negligence or out of their lack of knowledge, some people have the wrong idea about Sanatan Dharma. Our Rishis and Sages realised the ultimate truth of creation, and they explained it in simple terms for common people to follow. To summarise the Sanatan Adhyatm, it means the fundamental truth that there is one creator, one Parmeshwara, who created the whole creation, and after creation, he is present in every element of creation. So, every element of creation means humans, animals, and plants. So we are all Kutumbam, part of a family. In Sanskrit, it says "Mam-atma sarva-bhutatma or Atmavat sarva-bhutesu", we all have apparent differences, but Sanatan Dharma says I am in each of you, and in each of you, I am there. Even those people who refuse to accept or those who criticise or condemn Sanatan Dharma are part of it,

there is no exclusion in the Sanatan Dharma. There is nobody who is "other", we are all "us".

Several thousand years ago, our Rishis, Siddhars, and Yogis, realised the truth, which is one reflected in millions and millions. They said one more thing: this realisation of one in many can be appreciated by people who follow different margas (paths), that is "Ekam Sat Vipra Bahudha Vadanti", Truth is one, and people express it in different ways. Our Rishis started prayers; they did not pray only for themselves, their disciples, or human beings; they prayed for all. I have to learn it in Tamil, but in Sanskrit they say "sarve bhavantu sukhina sarve santu niramayah sarve bhadraṇi pasyantū ma kascidduḥ khabhagbhaveta", means let every being be happy, let every being be free from diseases, and let every Jeeva see goodness in others, together. When Vallalar says "Vaadiya Payirai Kanda Pothu Ellam Vaadinaaen", when I see a plant suffer, I suffer. This connection is Sanatan Adhyatm, Sanatan Dharma. There is a saying in our ancient literature that says that whenever, because of a bad environment, Dharma declines and Adharma rises, the God appears: "Yada yada hi dharmasya glanirbhavati bharata Abhythanamadharmaṣya tadatmanam srijamyaham". Sri Krishna says whenever there is a decline in Dharma and a rise in Adharma, I appear to save the Dharma. 200 years ago, when Dharma was in crisis, Ramalinga Swamigal Vallalar appeared. In 1823, when the British were ruling this country, they were exploiting and destroying this place, so much so that in 1802, the Governor Bentick of Madras Presidency wrote a report to the East India Company in which he said- we are exploiting these people with such heavy taxation that people who were once very prosperous are in miserable condition. He asked for relaxation, but they declined this request. The British were destroying our agriculture,

industry, education, and institutions for Dharma. Besides economic exploitation, their target was to destroy the selfhood and identity of the people of this place. They started reinterpreting our ancient scriptures and started despiritualising all our religious texts. They started erasing or despiritualising our spiritual leaders. They tried to destroy the identity of this place. What is the identity of the whole of Bharat! The identity of Bharat is Sanatan Adhyatm, Sanatan Dharma. We have thousands of Margas (ways), but among all these Margas (paths), which originated from this land of Bharat. There was no conflict among the Margas of Bharat. The conflict started when they started bringing their ideologies and faith from outside. Among the Indian Margas, no one says that is wrong, and you come and follow my marga, people are free to follow their marga. When they brought their faith from Europe, they said this is the only faith, and you must abandon yours. You are living in the dark ages; you are uncivilised salvages. This faith was unknown to Bharat. Bharat accepts every faith because it says thousands of Margas, and that is also a Marg. But when you say this Marga only you follow and the rest you cannot, this is not Bharatiya Sanskart because Sanatan Adhyatm does not exclude. Bharatiya Adhyatm, Sanatan Adhyatm is like a big tree; new and new branches keep coming up. We have so many branches. Imagine if someone says all branches must be cut; only this will survive; this is not Sanatan Adhyatm. To destroy this identity, they started bringing their people to suppress our Sanatan Adhyatm and come up with a new faith, like G.U. Pope, Bishop Caldwell, they are all part of the same gang that came and tried to destroy the spirituality and identity of this place. I have always held that this land, Tamil Nadu, is the spiritual capital of India. It is the place where our Sanatan Adhyatm has survived and been preserved for several thousand years in its purest form. We also encouraged people like Karl Marx. We all know about his

political philosophy. I have no quarrel; after all, our Sanatan Adhyatm has so many philosophies, why should there be any problem! But what Karl Marx did, he helped British in destroying our Adhyatm. In 1852, he started writing essays in the New York Daily Tribune (New York Times) asking the British to totally annihilate India's social order because Indians worship plants and animals. In that kind of background, when British were trying to destroy India and its identity and the society was ridden with malpractices, the great saint Vallalar appeared, and he taught us in his own simpler way, he gave us the principle of "Jeeva Karunkya". This is the essence of Sanatan Adhyatm.

Friends, we know that today the whole world is facing so many existential crises, such as climate change, war, conflicts, hunger, and poverty. It is not sustainable. It can only be saved by our country, Bharat. The climate crisis is because Humans are in conflict with nature. They believe nature is for their enjoyment, causing reckless exploitation. In our thinking, we worship them. We cut the tree only when it is needed, and before cutting it, we pray to the tree. There is a sense of "Jeeva Karunyam" a sense of compassion, in our Sanatan Adhyatm. That is why Bharat and Bharat alone can save the world. We have just seen a devastating pandemic of COVID. There was an expectation that the rich and developed countries would help the poor with vaccines against CORONA. But when they developed the vaccine, they raised the price of the vaccine. It was this country, Bharat, that helped people of more than 150 countries by providing free vaccines. This is Bharat and Bharat's Sanatan Adhyatm. But to save the world, Bharat has to be strong and capable. Our Adhyatm was there for several thousand years, unless we are strong, the rest of the world will not listen. There was a great saint Shukracharya in Shukraniti said " Balino vashgah sarve durbashya cha

shatruvah”, if you are strong, you have friends around, but if you are weak, you are surrounded by enemies. So, Bharat, to spread this message of oneness, that we are Ore Kutumbam, we have to be strong.

Today, Bharta is emerging strong. Today, at this very time, we have our Prime Minister in the United States of America, where the leaders of the world are approaching him for cooperation. Today, when the Prime Minister of India speaks, the whole world listens with attention. Today's world is accepting. Today is International Yoga Day, we are fortunate that Yoga was born in this land. Patanjali and Tirumoolar gave us the Yoga which is integral of Sanatan Adhyatm. Today, when India said, let us follow Yoga, the whole world is following Yoga. When we say India has to grow and India will grow, there is no doubt about it. India is going to be the leader of the world, not only in the material and military sense but also in the spiritual sense with the ethos of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", "Yaadhum Oore Yaavarum Kelir", For this, we need the teaching of Vallalar, who gives us strength and inspiration to be what we are. That needs to be strengthened over time. It is the teachings of Vallalar that make us who we are. We need to strengthen and spread his message. On this 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we take the pledge to spread the message of Vallalar not only through the length and breadth of India but throughout the world.

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