

ADDRESS BY THIRU CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT 'SAMRUDDHI' AT NARADA GANA SABHA, ALWARPET, CHENNAI AT 06.30 PM ON 12th August 2017

Sangita Kalanidhi Tmt Sudha Ragnathan, Founder and Managing Trustee, Samudhaaya Foundation, **Thiru S. Gurumurthy**, Chartered Accountant, Columnist, Political & Economic Analyst, **Thiru N. Gopalaswami**, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India, **Thiru M.C. Ragnathan**, Managing Director, Amutham Music, **Thiru Mohan Parasaran**, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Former Solicitor General of India, **Thiru Arun Krishnamurthy**, **Thiru Dr V Viswanathan**, **Thiru Sundar Ramachandran**, Secretary, Hamsadhwani, Distinguished Invitees, music lovers, friends from Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me immense pleasure to participate in 'Samruddhi' marking the 18th year of service of 'Samudhaaya Foundation'. I was pleased to know about the social work of Samudhaaya Foundation. It is commendable that Smt. Sudha Ragnathan, the leading Carnatic Vocalist who has captured the hearts of many rasikas through her melodious voice, has also set an example of giving back to society through the 'Samudhaaya Foundation'.

I congratulate the Foundation for dedicating itself to the cause of promoting education and health and extending infrastructural support for the cause of upbringing underprivileged children.

I am pleased to learn that the Foundation has disbursed funds to the tune of Rs. 4 crore for varied causes focusing primarily on children, pediatric cancer, pediatric heart surgeries, palliative care, mentally challenged, destitute, visually and hearing impaired children and so on. It is really commendable that despite her busy schedule, Tmt Sudha Ragnathan finds time to be with the mentally challenged and differently-abled children.

I congratulate the Samudhaya Foundation especially for taking up two projects – one for those affected by Muscular Dystrophy and the other to restore ponds in this year. May I also place on record my appreciation of eminent personalities like Thiru N. Gopalaswami, Thiru Mohan Parasaran and others, who have joined hands with Tmt Sudha in this mission.

Ladies and gentlemen,

There is a traditional proverb which says, **"Rivers do not drink their own water. Trees do not eat their own fruit. Clouds do not swallow their own rain. What great ones have, is always for the benefit of others."**(unquote)

I think human life is incomplete if there is no aspect of 'giving' to one's personality. 'Giving back to society' is a Samskara and I do feel that we must imbibe this Samskara on every child, every student and every youth.

Our ancient Puranas mention several instances of benevolence involving philanthropy. Our scriptures have praised the munificence of Karna. Indian ancient texts have hailed the selfless

benevolence of Satyavadi Harishchandra. The 21st Century has given birth to many voluntary and social service organizations.

Today we have a national legislation that mandates Corporates and large business organizations to spend 2 per cent of their profits for social work. There is need to evolve a synergy between the government, private sector, the public sector organizations, NGOs and committed individuals to ensure effective social outcomes of various social programmes and welfare schemes.

Time has come for us to go beyond Corporate Social Responsibility and practice Individual Social Responsibility - from CSR to ISR. It is reassuring that Young India is keen to discharge Individual Social Responsibility and contribute to the social agenda of the country.

There are many causes that are awaiting assistance from people. The children of today are the future of tomorrow. Every child needs to be provided safe and enabling atmosphere to grow and blossom into an ever fragrant flower. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has given the slogan of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'.

Then there are disadvantaged sections of society who need special consideration from each one of us. In this connection, the initiative taken by Dr V. Viswanathan, Founder President, Muscular Dystrophy Association of India to design special wheel chairs for children suffering from Muscular Dystrophy is commendable. It will create a barrier-free access to classrooms and restrooms.

Likewise, I commend Thiru Arun Krishnamurthy, Environmentalist and Activist for initiating the campaign to clean various lakes across India and for cleaning 17 lakes in our country. It is high time we create awareness among the people and the youth on the importance of water and conservation of natural resources, especially in Tamil Nadu.

I was extremely pleased to note that many people of this great city are giving back to society in the form of charity. We need more such people to contribute generously for the welfare of the needy and deserving. However, it is not enough to contribute for social causes only in the form of money. If one wants to give back to society in the best possible way, one must dedicate quality time and serve to the social cause dear to one's heart. Thousands of years ago, great poetess Avvaiyaar mentioned in her Aathichudi : Arambu seiya Verumbu. We must take the spirit of this verse to do good to others.

I congratulate and commend the work of Tmt Sudha Ragunathan and wish the Samudhaaya Foundation success in its future endeavours.

My Greetings to you all.
Jai Hind. Jai Tamil Nadu.