

ADDRESS BY THIRU CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF MASSIVE TREE PLANTATION PROGRAMME, RELEASE OF COFFEE TABLE BOOK ON 'FLORA OF RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI & OOTY', UNVEILING OF FOUNDATION STONE FOR SOLAR POWER PLANT RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI & TREE CENSUS PLAQUE AND OPENING OF RAJ BHAVAN CHENNAI FOR PUBLIC VIEWING AT VIVEKANANDA AUDITORIUM, ANNA UNIVERSITY, CHENNAI ON 19.04.2017 AT 05.00 PM

Thiru K.P.Anbalagan, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan, Chief Secretary to Govt., Thiru Apurva Varma Principal Secretary to Govt., Tourism, Culture & Religious Endowments Department, Thiru Vikram Kapur, Principal Secretary to Govt., Energy Department, Thiru Md.Nasimuddin Principal Secretary to Government, Environment & Forests Department, Thiru S.K.Prabakar, Principal Secretary to Govt., Public Works Department, Thiru Ramesh Chand Meena, my Principal Secretary, Thiru Sunil Paliwal , Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, Thiru V.Palanikumar, Commissioner of Tourism and Chairman & Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., Dr.H.Basavaraju, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Department, Prof. K. Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Dr.S.Ganesan, Registrar, Anna University, Chennai, Professors, Researchers, Faculty Members, Students, Officers and Staff of Raj Bhavan, distinguished invitees, friends from Media, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me immense pleasure to inaugurate the Massive Tree Plantation Programme, Release the Coffee Table Book 'Flora of Raj Bhavan, Chennai & Ooty' and Open the Raj Bhavan Chennai for public viewing. I am also very happy to lay the foundation stone for the 400kW Solar Power Plant for Raj Bhavan Chennai.

When Dr.Girija Vaidyanathan, Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu called on me on assumption of office, I had mentioned about the proposal to install a solar power plant. I congratulate her for the swift action and immediate efforts for sanctioning funds for bringing this solar power plant in Raj Bhavan Chennai to meet its energy needs. This will reduce the financial burden on the state exchequer.

Biodiversity is the very basis of the life on Earth, without which functioning of ecosystems is impossible.

Only a coordinated effort of all the stakeholders including the student community, researchers, research institutions, NGOs, corporates and the common public can provide a solution to this.

I appeal to the youth and students to join hands to promote green cover and make planting of saplings into a mass movement. This will help in preventing climate change and increase ground water level in Tamil Nadu.

In order to promote green initiative and to cultivate the habit of nurturing plants and trees the Universities and affiliated colleges have been asked to provide saplings to students. The students should plant them & nurture them. The parents of each student should come forward, support and join hands with their wards in this green initiative. Converting this into a voluntary movement is the need of the hour to combat climate change.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have seen the fury caused by cyclones like 'Vardah' which uprooted thousands of trees. It becomes our bounden duty to restore the green cover with the combined efforts of different communities. I am happy to inform that students graduating from Universities have been asked to plant sapling and nurture them during their graduation period. Launching of this green initiative in summer is to plan well ahead and get prepared to go in for massive tree plantation in the ensuing monsoon season. This activity will help us to spread the green cover on a continuous basis across the State of Tamil Nadu.

The mass movement initiated by the student community, the parents and those from industry and people of all walks of life of Tamil Nadu to preserve the natural treasure, will enter into the records of the history of Tamil Nadu.

I call upon friends from Industry to focus on increasing green cover under the Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative.

The Coffee Table Book 'Flora of Raj Bhavan, Chennai & Ooty' has come out beautifully and will serve as a heritage document comprising rich repository of plant wealth. Raj Bhavan, Chennai and Ooty stand as a miniature eco-system for preservation and conservation of Environment. The floral wealth of the Raj Bhavans in Chennai and Ooty is unique with a mixture of indigenous and many exotic species. The compendium contains variety of species, seasonal flowers and variety of roses which are found in Raj Bhavan. The gardens represent a miniature of natural vegetation giving rise to unique ecosystem of Raj Bhavan.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University's initiatives to bring out to the world the hidden wonders and priceless floral assets of the Raj Bhavan Gardens of Chennai and Ooty are laudable. The commendable efforts taken by the students and experts from the University have paved the way for creation of this valuable document. I am sure the Coffee Table Book will serve as a reliable and inspiring reference for students, scientists, nature lovers and the general public.

The first essential step in the process of plant biodiversity conservation is documentation. It has been done in Raj Bhavan, Chennai & Ooty. I am happy to unveil

the Tree Census Plaque. The next step ahead would be to disseminate this valuable information and to take the task forward to protect our precious floral wealth for the future generations.

I am glad to inform you that general public will have the opportunity to visit Raj Bhavan, Chennai hereafter as done in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi and Raj Bhavan, Mumbai. This will provide an opportunity for the public not only to see this historic place but to feel oneness with nature and enjoy the green cover. Opening of Raj Bhavan, Chennai with good green cover in the heart of the city will also help the visitors to know their tree friends and the variety of flora & fauna.

It is my pleasure to invite the public to visit Raj Bhavan Chennai. It will be opened for Public from coming Friday. All that one has to do is to go to the Raj Bhavan website and register their names.

I commend the Secretaries to Govt., Commissioner of Tourism, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for their extensive support. I congratulate Thiru Ramesh Chand Meena, my Principal Secretary to Governor and his team, Registrar, Anna University and Officials. I congratulate the Vice-Chancellor, Agricultural University and his team of Professors and students for bringing out a nice Coffee Table Book.

I thank the Principals, Deans, Students, Parents and the people for their unstinted support to promote Greenery.

Jai Hind. Jai Tamil Nadu.
