

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS – VALEDICTORY
FUNCTION ORGANISED BY INBA SEVA SANGAM, SEVAPUR,
KARUR DISTRICT ON 07.09.2018 AT 10.00 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

**Thiru. M.R.Vijayabhaskar,
Minister for Transport**

**Thiru. R.Rajagopal, I.A.S.,
Additional Chief Secretary, Raj Bhavan**

**Thiru. T.Anbalagan, I.A.S.,
District Collector, Karur**

**Dr.M.Pathamuthu,
President, Inba Seva Sangam**

**ThavaThiru. Aathmananthaswamigal,
Sri Sarada Niketan Ashram, Kanavaiputhur**

**Thiru. K.M.Natarajan,
President, Tamil Nadu Sarvodaya Mandal**

**Thiru. Geert Groessens,
President, SAWES**

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am happy to be here today on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Inba Seva Sangam. I extend my warm greetings, felicitations and best wishes to all of you who are assembled here for the function.

The Inba Seva Sangam was established under the VISION and MISSION of Gandhian thoughts and Acharya Vinobabave's ideologies by the Founder President Mother Lea Provo to help impoverished Families and make them Self Sufficient through Agriculture, Village industries and promote a spirit of mutual respect and co-operation so as to enable them to grow towards an integrated society where no distinction or discrimination will subsist. Though Mother Lea Provo is no more, her VISION & MISSION are being carried forward by her followers in the villages of Sevapur and Vinobajipuram who are steadfast in Gandhian philosophies and Acharya Vinobabave's ideologies.

It is heartening to note that Sevapur the first village to be created came out of desert like land, sloping on all sides, and covered with stones, and thorny bushes, surrounded by low hills. It is now home to more than 140 houses constructed using bricks and cement mortar.

I also find that the other village, Vinobajipuram was established during 1983 to rehabilitate 210 families and 210 houses were constructed for there. The road from Ayyalur to Palaviduthi passing through Sevapur has also been black topped and now carries buses plying from Dindigul to Karur.

I am elated to observe that in these villages inter religious prayers (***Om Tat Sat, 11 Vows of Gandhiji and Anbye Pradanam***) are being sung every day both in the morning and evening by reciting divine words from Holy Bhagaved Gita, Holy Bible and Holy Koran followed by spiritual meditation, Yoga & Dhyana in accordance with our cultural inheritance and oneness of all human beings. The Om temple, standing here is a universal symbol of secularism. The annual Village festival (Thiruvizha) happens every year on 25th December which is the day of Christmas.

I appreciate the efforts in of the Inba Seva Sangam in promoting organic farming through “**Anna Lea Biodynamic College**” a Community College for Biodynamic Farming that empowers small farmers.

I wish to record my appreciations for the efforts in the promotion of a Community Centre with rooms and dormitories for stay where simple vegetarian food is served. There is also a home for children with a multipurpose study hall to accommodate about 150 students, a Health Education centre which accommodates 150 students; a common kitchen for N.S.S camps and seminars, a farmhouse and a cattle shed called “Organic and Biodynamic Agriculture Farm (OBDAF)”.

The centre has also developed an agriclinic equipped with the required equipment to serve as a Applied Research Laboratory called as “Bio dyne Research Institute” funded through research projects of Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) Government of India.

It's heartwarming to know that Inba Seva Sangam is a part of the United Nation (UN)'s programme for promoting Sustainable Food Systems.

The villages of Sevapur and Vinobajipuram are ideal examples for the rest of our country as to what should be the future of rural India.

Swami Vivekananda 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.

Mother Lea Provo began this initiative 50 years back. I am informed that Mother Lea Provo and Mother Theresa were friends and Prime Minister Indra Gandhiji took personal interest for the development of Vinobajipuram by causing necessary orders and blessings from Prime Minister's office.

Peace prevails when we love our neighbours. Our strength is faith in God and doing service to our neighbours. Joy will flow in our heart when we follow the footsteps of Mother Lea Provo and her mentors Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhaveji.

Mother Lea Provo's life of service for more than about thirty years in a land far away from where she was born is a Saga of love.

That love remains with you today when you sing your prayer song 'Anbe Pradanam' meaning Love is Supreme. Each one of us must resolve to serve our brethren, especially those who are poor and destitute and improve their lot.

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

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

The values of simple living and high thinking are of great relevance and need to be followed diligently. Only then will sustainable development become a reality. Mahatma Gandhi used to say 'Nature has enough for every man's need but not for every man's greed. The villages of Sevapur and Vinobajipuram

are standing examples which proclaim to the world how sustainable development can be practised.

We in India have taught the language of Satyagraha and non violence to the world. It is important for mankind to remember that violence begets more violence and that love creates more love. This is the message of all religions. Just as all rivers lead to the sea all religions lead us towards God. It is important to be devoted to God and to tread the path of morality. I now wish to mention to you the seven sins about which Mahatma Gandhi cautioned against. They are :

1. Wealth without work,
2. Pleasure without conscience,
3. Knowledge without character,
4. Commerce without morality,
5. Science without humanity,
6. Religion without sacrifice and
7. Politics without principle.

Let us identify the people who practice these sins in our midst and reform them without any further delay.

I congratulate the village leaders and executive members of the two villages of Sevapur and Vinobajipuram who have kept the message of Mother Leo Provo close to their hearts and are following in her footsteps. I admire the men and women and children who are practising the path of communal harmony, love, friendship and development with zeal and passion. My best wishes and greetings to all of you assembled here and my advice to the Collector that this model be propagated widely for all other villages to follow.

Nandri Vanakkam

Jai Hind