

**Address of Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu at the
'Sankranti Sambaralu' at Nellore on 12.01.2018**

Pongal is a day of joyous celebrations. On the occasion of Pongal and Sankranti, I am delighted to be participating in the Sankranti Sambaralu being organised by Swarna Bharat Trust at Venkatachalam, Nellore District. It is a privilege to be invited here today at this function where the Honourable Vice-President of India is the Chief Visionary.

India lives in its villages and it is necessary that the people residing in the villages have access to all the facilities that are available to the people in urban areas. Towards this end, the Swarna Bharat Trust is trying to bridge the gap between the urban and rural India by positively intervening in the sectors of health, education, employment, skill development, etc.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Indian economy. It is the surplus that is generated from agriculture that fuels the growth in the industries and services sector. The agricultural growth that India witnessed since Independence has ensured that the country has become self-sufficient in food grain production. In fact, India is the largest exporter of rice in the world and Nellore is one of the main rice-growing areas of India. The word Nellore is derived from the rice crop. 'Nel' in Tamil means paddy and Nellore is the place where paddy is grown in plenty. With the fertile plains being irrigated by

the Krishna river, Nellore abounds in a variety of agricultural produce that is unrivalled. Its proximity to Chennai has resulted in the movement of abundant agricultural produce to the city of Chennai for consumption. As a resident of Chennai I am thankful to the people of Nellore district who have been providing food to the residents of Chennai for many generations.

Development can take place only when the various basic requirements of day-to-day living such as water supply, health and sanitation, education and employment, roads and transport, housing and civic amenities are available to the common people. Swarna Bharat Trust has been doing yeoman service by trying to bring the basic necessities of life to the common people of Nellore district through its innovative practices and schemes.

I am happy to see the initiative of Swarna Bharat Trust blossoming in the last 15 years. This venture, started by the people who originated from Nellore and prospered by dint of their hard work in Andhra Pradesh and outside have chosen to give back to Nellore, as a small token of their gratitude, service to the people, who made them famous and prosperous. It is necessary to have similar initiatives all over India so that we give back to the land of our birth at least a small token of our contribution as a thanksgiving.

The Indian diaspora is one of the largest in the world and is now spread over 189 countries of the world. A sizeable population of Indian origin are found in USA, UK, the Middle East and Africa. With this large Indian diaspora can be made to look back to its traditional roots and give back to their place of origin their contributions in the manner Swarna Bharat Trust has done. It will make a big difference to the levels of prosperity of our people.

The Swarna Bharat Trust is the brain child of Hon'ble Vice President of India, who has been the chief guiding spirit behind these activities. It is a matter of great satisfaction and happiness to see that the Managing Trustee, Smt. Deepalmmmani is the daughter of our beloved Vice-President of India and is managing the activities efficiently and diligently. I am sure that in the coming years she will be able to lead this Trust to greater levels of success to make it a shining example for the whole of India.

My best wishes are with the Swarna Bharat Trust for a glorious future.

Jai Hind.
