

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF "MANOHAR RAJ KAMALA
KANKARIYA KINDERGARTEN & PRIMARY SCHOOL BLOCK" AT THAKKAR
BAPA VIDYALAYA PREMISES, ON 18/03/2018 AT 10.00 AM**

AnaivarukkumKaalai Vanakkam

Prof. Sankar Kumar Sanyal,
President, All India HarijanSevakSangh

Shri ManoharrajKankaria,
Founder Manoharraj Kamala KankariaCharitable Trust

Dr. S. Pandian,
President, Thakkar BapaVidyalayaSamithi

Shri JayanthilalChallani,
Managing Director, ChallaniJewellery Mart

Shri Sudhir Kumar Lodha,
Member, Minorities Commission

Swati Rajesh Nahar
President, RCC Diva

Distinguished Invitees
Friends from the Media
Ladies & Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here at the Thakkar BapaVidyalaya for the inauguration of the Manohar Raj Kamala Kankariya Kindergarten & Primary School Block. We are all assembled here at the place where Mahatma Gandhi had laid the foundation stone and had also given the name of a dedicated and noble soul, Thakkar Bapa, for the Vidyalaya. Shri. Thakkar Bapa was a qualified engineer. After seeing the difficulties of the people who were working in the scavenging profession, he started helping them in his own humble way. Recognizing his services, Mahatma Gandhi picked him up as the Secretary of the Harijan Sevak Sangh.

It is indeed a privilege for me to be associated with this institution which has had such great people associated with it.

The Thakkar Bapa institution was badly hit by the floods in 2015. The Cyclone of 2016 did further damage by uprooting trees, blowing off the roof tops etc.

The buildings were thus in need of renovation. The RCC DIVA family club, managed by ladies is a part of the Rajasthan Cosmo Club fraternity. They are helping the Thakkar Bapa institution by renovating the structures and creating additional infrastructure for the school children.

The nation requires lakhs of young men and women who can contribute in various fields – be it technology, be it medicine, be it armed forces, be it the teaching profession and so on. India is fast emerging as one of the leaders of the international community. It has all the resources to become the *Jagath Guru* of the world. For that to happen, it is necessary that the country is strong, economically prosperous, culturally vibrant and socially united. It is the ideals inculcated in schools that remain with a person all his life and enable him to chart out his path in a manner that is useful to his family, his society and his nation.

Education is the basic requirement for a person to make himself economically and socially useful to society. Education brings out the best skills available within a person, hones them and enables him to achieve perfection in the field of his aptitude. It moulds his personality and gives him an identity. That is why Swami Vivekananda said “Education is not being but becoming”.

Swami Vivekananda rightly pointed out, and I quote

"We need education through which character is formed, strength of mind is increased and the intellect is expanded by which one can stand on his own feet".

Twenty first century is characterized by the emergence of multiculturalism due to industrialization, urbanization and globalisation. Since education is an instrument for 'societal change' it should develop cognitive capabilities, tolerance to withstand multicultural impulses and understanding of diversity. It

should also prepare the younger generation to face the complex realities of globalisation.

I am happy to see here that the initiative for supporting the Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya has been taken by the RCC DIVA Family Club, managed by ladies.

We believe in the concept of Nari Shakthi or Women Power. The concept of Durga as the protector of the human race is embodied in the celebrations of Navarathri, on which day we narrate hymns on her victory over the evil forces. Navarathri is celebrated all over India and in Nagpur from where I hail, the celebrations of Vijayadasami the tenth day of victory, are organized on a grand scale.

While we celebrate the power of Skakthi in religion and culture, history also speak about the great women leaders who adorned our illustrious array of thinkers, poetesses and warriors. *Avvaiyar* was one of the most famous and important female poets of Tamil Sangam. Karaikkal Ammaiyar a great philosopher has sung devotional hymns which inspire the soul. Women like Rani Laxmi Bai, Ahilyabai Holkar, Rani Mangammal, Kittur Chennamma and Velu Nachiyar are some of the important generals who fought with courage and bravery to defeat the oppressor. In recent times also some outstanding women leaders in Literature, Medicine and politics shine as examples of glory to womanhood and women power. I can recall the services of Sarojini Naidu, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, Ambujammal, Indira Gandhi, Mother Teresa and Kalpana Chavala in this context. Among the living icons one may mention Saina Nehwal, P.V.Sindhu, Sania Mirza, Malleswari, Mary Kom, Geeta Phogat, Dipa Karmakar, Mithali Dorai Raj as some of the outstanding personalities who have done us proud in the field of sports. Music and dance have also witnessed many famous personalities among women such as Rukmini Devi Arundale, Dr. M.S. Subbulakshmi and Balasaraswati.

While there are leading women achievers, it is also true that hundreds of years of foreign rule in India starting from the beginning of 13 Century till

almost the middle of the 20th Century have created a number of factors in society that suppressed women and kept them confined to the kitchen. Hence, India witnessed disparities in development which affected women adversely. After Independence there has been an improvement in the conditions of women in a gradual manner only.

I have touched upon two major points today. The association of Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya in the past has been with illustrious personalities such as Mahatma Gandhi and Thakkar Bapa. Mahatma Gandhi not only brought freedom to our nation, he was a social leader, religious guide, a moral chieftain, economist and philosopher all rolled into one. It was our fortune that we lived in the same times of Mahatma Gandhi and breathed the same air.

For the future this institution has the support organisations such as the RCC DIVA Family Club. The existence of such philanthropists to support education generously and wholeheartedly augurs well for the future.

I wish to congratulate Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya for having got back the institution to its earlier levels of eminence by re-establishing the structures that were damaged. This is a tribute to Thakkar Bapa and Mahatma Gandhi. I join them in paying respect to these great souls and I am sure that institutions such as this will help to transform the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi into reality for the present and succeeding generations.

Nandri

Vanakkam

Jai Hind

Jai Tamil Nadu