

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT "THE BABA SAHEB DR.B.R.AMBEDKAR 127TH BIRTHDAY
SPECIAL MAGAZINE RELEASE" AT CLARION HOTEL PRESIDENT,
MYLAPORE, CHENNAI ON 29/04/2018**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Dr.S.M.Vijaya Kumar

Dr.Benze Saravanan

Fr. M.A.Soosai

Thiru. M.Sakthi

Dr.K.Kumar

Thiru.P.Ramesh

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am delighted to be present at the function being organized by Benze Magazine on the occasion of the release of the special issue to mark the 127th birthday of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Dr. Ambedkar is well-known for the role he played as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution of India. He was also independent India's first Law Minister.

Rising from humble beginnings Dr. Ambedkar proved his brilliance in academics by earning doctorates in Economics from Colombia University, USA and London School of Economics in UK. Few would know that Dr. Ambedkar was the first from his community to enter Elphinstons college, a prestigious institution in Bombay. After completing his graduation there, he completed his Post Graduation in Economics from Colombia University, USA. It was only later that he became a barrister in the United Kingdom where he also did his post graduation at the London School of Economics before going on to work on his doctoral thesis. On his return to India, he took up employment under the Raja of Baroda as his Military Secretary. Soon his political inclinations and campaign for

Dalit rights steered him towards the legal profession and he started practicing Law in the Bombay High Court. Events followed one after another in close succession and from 1927 he launched an active movement against untouchability. There were many significant events in Dr. Ambedkar's life between this and 1946 such as the Pune pact, the establishment of a scheduled caste federation, participation in the electoral process, etc. Dr. Ambedkar also played a key role in the establishment of the Reserve Bank of India and the National Employment Exchange agency in India.

His passion for eradicating the practice of caste discrimination led him to establish the 'Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha'. The main aim of the organization was to provide education and socio-economic improvement to the underprivileged classes.

In 1946 he was elected to the Constituent Assembly from Bengal and became the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. Dr. Ambedkar made strenuous efforts to incorporate into the Constitution such provisions as would help establish a new social order. He believed that equality for all citizens should be enshrined in the Constitution as part of the fundamental rights. Article 14 which guarantees equality to all of us owes its existence to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Dr. Ambedkar's life is a clear example as to how a person with ordinary beginnings can become one of the most revered leaders in India by dint of hard work, passion and commitment to the cause and untiring dedication.

We are all assembled here on the occasion of the release of the Special Issue containing the complete biography of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar today. I hail from the place where the 'Deeksha Bhoomi' of Dr. Ambedkar is located. Every year millions of people throng to Nagpur to pay homage to this great son of India. His message to his followers remains an inspiration for all of us to follow the path of non-violence while ensuring the entrenchment of equality and human rights in society. It is through social activism and charitable initiatives that transformation in the social order can be brought about. I congratulate the award winners who

have been selected for their contributions made to societal welfare and are being given recognition before this distinguished audience today. Their efforts will prove to be an inspiration for many more to follow in their footsteps. It must be remembered however that societal change can be brought about only through constant endeavour following the path of non-violence and ahimsa. That is the way shown to us by great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Ambedkar.

I thank the organizers for having given me this opportunity to participate in a function dedicated to the memory of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. I am confident that events such as these will pave the way for a greater understanding of the need to establish a more egalitarian society.

I wish the personalities on the dais and the publishers of the Benze Magazine all success in their efforts.

Nandri
Jai Hind

Vanakkam
Jai Tamil Nadu