

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF OHM SARAVANA  
BHAVAA, AT ISLAND CHENNAI ON 29/04/2018**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Thiru. Dinesh Karthick

Thiru. Aathmananda Swamigal

Pujya Shri Pramod Joshi Ji

Pujya Shri Mahant Dinendra Das Ji

Pujya Shri Sri Sendalangara Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamigal

Pujya Shri Raja Sekhar Ji

Thiru. Sasi Kumar

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me great joy and happiness to be here at the Yagnyam being organized by the ISOBAVA society. The aim of the Yagnyam is to promote welfare and prosperity of the people of Tamil Nadu. The main havan being performed today is in the form of an offering to Maha Rudhra or Lord Shiva.

Shiva is worshipped all over India. The form of worship varies from place to place. The origin of the worship of Lord Shiva in India can be traced to times immemorial. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Dwaraka to Arunachala Pradesh, devotion to Shiva is universal and deep rooted.

I have been in Tamil Nadu for almost 7 months and have noticed that the worship of the Shiva Lingam in Tamil Nadu takes different hues. Shiva is seen as the manifestation of the five elements of fire, water, air, earth and ether. At Madurai He is known by the name of Chokkanatha, while in Thanjavur He is Brihadeeswara. In Chidambaram He is Nataraja and in Tiruvannamalai He is worshipped as Arunachala. The names are different but they refer to the single supreme deity Shiva.

Shiva represents life and energy. In His manifestation as Rudhra, He assumes special significance as the supreme savior who can come to the assistance of his devotees, faster than the wind or lightening. He is also the omnipotent deity who can destroy all evil forces arraigned against the forces of good.

Tamil Nadu, particularly, can take pride in the worship of Lord Shiva.

'Then Nattudayya Sivane Potri

Ennatavarkkana Eraiva Potri'

is a famous prayer uttered in all the Shiva temples. The great saint Adhi Sankara toured the whole nation by foot and established the mutts of Shankar at Sringeri, Dwaraka, Badrinath and Puri before coming to Kanchipuram to settle down in the last stages of his life.

The Saiva Siddhandha philosophy deeply embedded in the minds of Tamils is a highly spiritual concept that evolved through the centuries based on the philosophical insight of the Siddhars. This religious devotion to Shiva was further enshrined and nurtured by Nayanmars such as Appar, Sundarar, etc. Their devotional hymns are outpourings of bakthi to the supreme deity and are recited in the temples and places of Shiva worship.

Today we are all assembled here for the Maha Rudhra Yagngyam. The offerings made at the havan today, I am sure will bring greater prosperity to the people of Tamil Nadu by rewarding them for their prayers and hard work. The mantras being recited will travel as waves of energy and life, across the State propagating welfare and goodness for all. I am sure the devotees assembled here have already benefitted immensely by their presence at the Maha Rudhra Yagnyam. Their message of goodwill will be a harbinger of peace across the whole of Tamil Nadu. I am confident that the ISOSBAVA society will continue this spiritual mission of holding Yagnyam in many more places all over the country. The blessings of the Sankaracharias, the enthusiasm of the followers and the piety of the devotees are bound to bring success peace and prosperity in

society. May God bless the organizers of the Yagnyam and may the objectives and the mission of ISOSBAVA be fulfilled in all respects. I wish them well in all their endeavours.

Nandri

Vanakkam.