

**ADDRESS BY THIRU. BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT TRIBAL'S COMMUNITY MEET, BY VANAVASI SEVA  
KENDRAM AT THIRUVALLUR ON 31.03.2018**

**ANAIVARUKKUM MAALAI VANAKKAM**

**Thiru. V. A. Subramaniam  
State President, Vanavasi Seva Kendram, Tamil Nadu**

**Thiru. V. Vittal Rajan,  
State Special President, Vanavasi Seva Kendram, Tamil Nadu**

**Dr. Karthikeyan,  
Presiding Person**

**Thiru. Vairavan  
Advocate**

**Thiru. Gopi**

**Tmt. Valli**

**Distinguished Invitees**

**Friends from the Media**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am happy to be here at the meeting of tribal communities organised by the Vanavasi Seva Kendra of Thiruvallur. I am sure that this meeting will serve to bolster the Self-Confidence of the tribal groups of Tamil Nadu and more specially Thiruvallur district.

The major tribal communities of Tamil Nadu have been identified to be the Todas, Kotas, Kattunayakans, Irulars, Paniyans and Kurumbas. I have also been informed that Irulas constitute the majority of tribals of Thiruvallur district. Tribal groups have their characteristic life style, culture and history. But large numbers of them are still to adapt to the modern ways of living, on par with other communities. I am sure that this situation will change soon.

It is heartening to see that the organizers of today's function are well educated and leading people in society. In today's world they serve as role models for the tribal communities who are represented here. These are role models since they have prospered by utilising the benefits of education and employment specially made available to the tribal communities under our Constitution.

I am aware that tribals of Tamil Nadu have rich cultural and some special abilities. I am told that some of them were engaged by the Government in the United States of America to catch pythons in a major park in Florida and thus a serious problem that was threatening the visitors there was solved. While these are random occurrences, the general upliftment of a community is possible only through education.

It is a matter of concern to note that the literacy levels of tribal groups in Tamil Nadu are far lower than the literacy levels of the rest of the population. The access to education is still to improve. Child marriages are prevalent even now. Deliveries are taking place in a non-institutional manner resulting in higher maternal mortalities rates. It is important to make rapid strides in health and education for a better future to emerge, we must.

I am told that the Vanavasi Seva Kendra in Tamil Nadu has covered 10 districts with its full-time service. It runs three hostels for tribals in the state; one in Coimbatore, one in Tiruvallur and the third in Karumaandurai in Salem district.

The Kendra also runs three tribal schools in Karumaandurai and Navampattu, both in Salem District, and in Vallimalai in Villupuram District. All the three schools are affiliated to National Institute Of Open Schooling under the Ministry of Education, Govt of India through Vidya Bharathi, an all- India body engaged in promoting Indian culture and a sense of patriotism among students.

The Kendra also runs a Medical Centre at Karumaandurai. Every month, a free medical camp is held in a tribal village in and around all major towns.

The Kendra also organises socio-cultural activities in Tiruvallur like a weekly Bhajan Kendra Sathsangh in tribal blocks and conducts vilakkku pooja (lamp pooja) once a month. The Kendra also has 44 sports centres to give a fillip to the tribal potential for games and sports.

Many steps have been taken by the Kendra for the social and cultural integration of the tribals with the rest of the population. Every year Pongal Vizha is celebrated in different tribal villages. Raksha Bandhan is also being celebrated. In 2017, the “TIRUMALA TIRUPATI KALYAN UTHSAVAM” was celebrated in a grand manner at Tiruvallur with the participation of Tribals in and around Tiruvallur District.

There are a number of schemes run by the Government for the benefit of tribals. Some of the important ones include the provision of residential hostels for education, provision of scholarships for students, special financial assistance for higher education and allotment of residential houses in a preferential manner. In addition, reservation is also provided not only in education but also for employment in Government. It is important that these and other facilities are fully utilized by tribal communities, using them as rungs of the ladder to move up socially and economically in society. I will also advise the administration to be considerate in the provision of civic amenities in localities inhabited by tribals. Greater attention should be paid to the improvement of infrastructure such as roads, provision of bus facilities, lighting facilities, etc. I have been informed that one another area where tribal communities encounter problems in the matter of obtaining community certificates. I am sure that the Government, particularly the District Collector will direct concerned authorities to do the needful without delay.

It is this function of the Vanavasi Seva Kendram that has brought me to Thiruvallur district. I thank the organizers of this function for the opportunity. They are all engaged in a noble mission. While attempting to uplift tribals, they are also conscious of making them a part of the national mainstream. In this manner they have been patriotic and nationalistic in their approach. I applaud them for that.

I have always endeavored to uplift the common people and I wish to assure you that Raj Bhavan will always be receptive to the needs of the under-privileged and down trodden, particularly the tribals, we shall leave no stone unturned to ensure the benefits of development reach the people living below the poverty line as early as possible.

Nandri Vanakkam.