

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE YUVA MILAN - 2018 ORGANISED BY VISHVA HINDU
VIDYA KENDRA GROUP OF SCHOOLS AT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM,
CHENNAI ON 31.08.2018 AT 10.00 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Thiru. K. Pandiarajan,
Minister for Tamil Official Language &
Tamil Culture & Archaeology

Thiru. P. Balakrishna Reddy,
Minister for Youth Welfare & Sports

Thiru. S. Vedantam,
President, Vishva Hindu Vidya Kendra

Dr. Girija Seshadri,
General Secretary, Vishva Hindu Vidya Kendra

Distinguished Invitees

Teachers & Students

Ladies & Gentlemen

It is a matter of great happiness for me to be here today at the Yuva Milan 2018 which is a Sports and Cultural Meet among the schools of Vishva Hindu Vidya Kendra. The aim of the meet is to inculcate leadership qualities, a patriotic spirit and to rekindle the moral and ethical values among youth so as to enable them to flower into responsible citizens of India.

I am informed that what started as a single school in West Mambalam, in 1975 has grown into a Kendra of 17 Schools spread across Tamil Nadu.

Today the student strength of Vishva Hindu Yuva Kendra schools is about 20,000, and the staff strength is more than 700.

The motto of the Vishva Hindu Vidya Kendra, is 'Saa Vidyaa Yaa Mukathaye' means 'Knowledge is that which Liberates'. The students are guided by the principles

“Coming together is a boon

Staying together is progress

Achieving together is success”

The Kendra thus seeks to impart learning in a manner that is comprehensive and includes building attitudes, values, skills and leadership qualities by integrating fine arts and sports along with academics in the curriculum. The aim is of providing an education that does not stop with text book learning but involves the children in nation building and integrates cultural and social activities in the process of learning.

We are celebrating the completion of 125 years from the date Swami Vivekananda delivered his famous address at the parliament of Religions in Chicago. Millions of Indians look up to him and are inspired by his teachings and philosophy for he played a highly significant role in the growth of Indian nationalism in the 19th & 20th centuries which culminated in the achievement of freedom from the British in 1947. According to Swamiji “faith in ourselves and faith in God” is the secret of greatness.

Swamiji preached to the young and old to maintain one's own dignity, to be bold and to be strong. He said strength is life and weakness is death. He eloquently propounded that you cannot believe in God unless you learn to believe in yourself. He called upon Indians to arise, awake and stop not until the goal is reached.

I am sure that everyone here understands the importance of self-confidence that Swami Vivekananda emphasised for being successful in today's competitive world. The talent and energy in youth is like a river gushing forth with force and fury.

If left unchannelised the water gets spread over large areas with no useful result. Channelising the energies and purposefully using the talents in a manner similar to the way the waters of a river are led through canals for irrigation will alone yield productive results.

I say all this to emphasise the importance of imparting the right kind of training in schools. Schools are the centres for inculcation of skills. It is therefore necessary that sports and physical training, cultural pursuits, communication skills, vocational skills and creative skills are honed along with the learning of subjects such as history, geography, mathematics, etc.

Good Education is linked to good teachers. Our ancient spiritual texts explain the relationship between the teacher and student and as to how both have to grow together in the process of learning. In this context let me quote to you the relevant portions:

SahaNaaVavatu (May the Supreme Lord protect us – the teacher and the student)

SahaNauBhunakthu (May the Supreme Lord nourish both of us)

SahaVeeryamKaravaavahai (May we do great deeds together)

TejaswiNaavadheethamAsthu (May our learning illumine us)...

MaaVidvishavahai...Let us not quarrel but instead grow together in the process of learning.

The greatness of a civilisation lies not in what people enjoy but it lies in what people can provide for the betterment of mankind and continued civilisation in a sustained manner. Mere enjoyment and economic prosperity without sustainable development will be short-lived and short-sighted.

Our ancestors knew the practice of sustainable development. That is the reason India has had a continuing civilisation for more than 5000 years. The agricultural practices were sustainable. The needs of the people were limited and contentment was the principle that was admired, appreciated and propagated. The Tamil proverb "*pothumendra maname pon seyyum marundhu*" bears ample testimony to this.

Today globalization has ushered in a lifestyle, which relies on the use of petrol and petroleum products, the use of plastics and the mindless dependence on artificial chemicals, is causing an adverse environmental impact. Global warming is emerging as a major problem and threatens to wipe out large populations if left uncontrolled.

Let me therefore exhort all the young minds here to take a pledge to reduce levels of consumption and instead recycle resources and promote the use of renewable sources of energy. In this context, let me recall to you the words of Mahatma Gandhi – “Nature has enough to satisfy every man’s need but not enough to satisfy every man’s greed.”

Character building goes beyond being good. To be able to distinguish between good and evil and to stand on the side of goodness in the first step towards character building. One must have the courage of conviction in the greatness of goodness, rise above jealousy, suspicion and other petty failings and have the strength to support all those who are doing good. This is the true essence of character building. Academic brilliance,

combined with a robust body in a healthy mind and character embellished with a nationalistic spirit is what a student must aspire for. And institutions which provide schooling should focus on guiding and leading the students on this noble path.

Poet Kalidasa stresses the importance of good health by saying “Shareeram AadyamKhalu Dharma Saadhanam”. The body and the mind are means of doing dharmic action’.

Sports and fine arts help to nurture a healthy body and a healthy mind. The Yuva Milan by focusing on Sports and Culture encourages Students to concentrate on exploring their cultural talents and sporting activities. Milans Such as these also build up a spirit of friendship and camaraderie among students and teachers of the various schools who are represented here.

I Congratulate the President, the General Secretary and other office bearers of the Kendra and the Principals and teachers of the various schools taken the efforts to organize this Yuva Milan.

I am sure that in the coming years the schools will grow from strength to strength and rise to a position of greater eminence.

I wish the management, the teachers and the Students success in all their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam

Jai Hind