

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF 'VANAM SEIVOAM!
VAALVIYAL KAPPOAM!!' – DR. APJ. ABDUL KALAM SOCIAL FOREST AND
INAUGURATION OF THE AKSF APP & AKSF AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
VEHICLE ORGANISED BY DR. APJ. ABDUL KALAM INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION AT VEL'S UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM, CHENNAI
ON 28.03.2019 AT 10.30 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Thiru. APJMJ. Shiek Dawood

Managing Trustee,

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation

Dr. Isari K. Ganesh,

Chancellor,

Vel's University

Thiru. APJMJ. Shiek Saleem,

Managing Trustee,

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation

Thiru. S. Sree Kumar,

Regional Executive Director of Airport,

Authority of India

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here this morning at the inauguration of the “Vanam Seivoam! Vaalviyal Kappoam!!” being organised by the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation. The Foundation which has been founded by Thiru. A.P.J. Mohammed Muthu Maraikayar and other members of the family is engaged in the realisation of the goal of making India a fully developed country as was envisioned by Dr. Abdul Kalam.

Dr. Abdul Kalam’s excelled as a scientist, as a patriot and as a leader among men. He was conferred the ‘Bharat Ratna’ - India’s highest civilian award. His life voyage is truly a lesson for all of us to learn from. Starting from humble beginnings at Rameswaram Dr. Kalam completed

his schooling at the Schwartz Higher Secondary School in Ramanathapuram before proceeding to St. Joseph's College, Trichy where he completed his graduation in Physics. He then gained admission into the Madras Institute of Technology where he obtained a degree in aeronautical engineering. Space research beckoned him and soon Dr.Kalam was making a mark as space scientist. He earned laurels for his work in ISRO as the project director of India's first satellite launch vehicles – SLV III. With an intention to develop military weaponry using space applications Dr. Kalam joined the DRDO.

As a scientist at the DRDO, Dr. Kalam worked on the Integrated Guided Missile Development

Programme (IGMDP) under which Agni, an intermediate range ballistic missile and Prithvi, the tactical surface-to-surface missile were developed. Dr. Kalam thus came to be known as the Missile Man of India.

He later served as the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister and Secretary of the Defence Research and Development Organisation from July 1992 to December 1999. The Pokhran-II nuclear tests were conducted during this period in which he played an active technological role.

In 1998, along with the cardiologist Soma Raju, Kalam developed a low cost coronary stent, named the “Kalam-Raju Stent”.

As a mark of recognition of his services to the nation he was elected as the 11th President of India in 2002.

He served as the President of India till 2007, during which period he earned a place in the hearts and minds of all Indians. He toured the length and breadth of the India talking to students in schools and colleges about realizing his vision for India.

Dr. Kalam had outlined his vision for India in the new millennium in his book India 2020.

The vision has an agenda for India which included doubling the present agricultural production with attendant food processing, capabilities, focusing an environmental protection

and climate change mitigation, ensuring literacy, social security, and overall health and reducing the levels of poverty by encouraging the purchase of Swadeshi goods.

As a beginning towards realizing his vision Project Green Rameswaram was inaugurated by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at a public function in 2014 with the objective of creating examples for the nation in (i) water management, (ii) waste management, (iii) renewable energy, (iv) new merchandise and livelihoods, (v) landscaping and beautification, (vi) green health, (vii) heritage, (viii) eco-tourism & green transport and (ix) marine biodiversity. The noble initiative of Dr. Kalam is now being carried forward by this Foundation.

The foundation has devised a strategy to plant more than one crore tree saplings. Nurseries are planned in all the districts of the state. The species of trees planted in each district will depend on the local weather and soil conditions. 25 native varieties including neem, banyan, casuarina, jamun trees etc are proposed to be covered under this Social Forestry Mission. The saplings grown would be distributed to the citizens, specifically to students of schools and colleges, and employees of Government and private establishments.

An unique feature of the social foresting initiative is the development of an app for monitoring the growth of every sapling that is being distributed.

The plantation drive will start on July 27th 2019 and will go on till the Dr. Abdul Kalam's Vision year of 2020.

As a novel way to create awareness about the project throughout the state, a campaign vehicle is being flagged off today.

I congratulate the founders of the Foundation and all those who are supporting the project for having shown their concern for the cause of environmental protection.

I was at a function in Rameswaram on 12th of January 2019 for dedicating the rejuvenated theerthams under the Green Rameswaram project. It was a matter of great joy for the local residents to see the holy theerthams of

Rameswaram coming back to life. In the same manner, I am certain that these one crore saplings will immensely benefit the State and be a source of joy for the people of Tamil Nadu.

Our ancestors knew the practice of sustainable development. That is the reason why 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.

Owing to various technological changes and change in life styles, global warming is today emerging as a major problem and threatens to wipe out large populations if left uncontrolled.

It is important to be conscious of the delicate balance in Nature and contribute our mite towards maintaining the balance. We must always remember that “Nature is not an inheritance from our ancestors but a borrowing made from succeeding generations.” It is our duty to preserve Nature and bequeath its resources to succeeding generations in a manner that is sustainable, by following an eco-friendly path.

“Nature has enough for everyman’s need but not enough to satisfy everyman’s greed” so said Mahatma Gandhi. Great personalities like Gandhiji have shown us the way for following the principle of simple living and high thinking. I exhort all of

you to follow in their footsteps, so that we may live a life close to Nature.

I wish to conclude by expressing my admiration for the work being done by the trustees of the APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation. May they be greeted with success in all their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam...

Jai Hind....