

**ADDRESS BY THIRU CH.VIDYASAGAR RAO, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL
NADU AT 'SWACHHATA HI SEVA'-PROGRAMME AT, ANNA UNIVERISTY,
CHENNAI ON 27.09.2017 AT 04.00 PM**

Thiru K.P.Anbalagan, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Thiru Sunil Paliwal, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department and Convenor, Convenor's Committee, Anna University, Thiru Ramesh Chand Meena, IAS, my Principal Secretary, Dr. R. Palaniswamy and Dr. T.V. Geetha, Members, Convenor's committee, Anna University, Dr. S. Ganesan, Registrar, Anna University, Faculty, Staff, and Students, distinguished invitees, friends from Media, **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are proud and blessed to have born in India, which is the largest democracy in the world. Our nation's economy is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. India is known for its rich culture and tradition and has many first to its credit. We are the first in the world to be successful in our first attempt to send a space probe orbiting Mars. We have created a world record by launching 104 satellites in a single mission. Thanks to the Indian Space Research Organisation.

Today our nation is among the leaders in Information Technology and is an automobile hub and a destination for quality health care. We have many good things to be proud of, equally it is our onerous responsibility to create a clean, healthy and new India. Each one of us should be in the forefront and lead in the decisive battle for the cause of cleanliness and hygiene. Lack of sanitation, cleanliness and unhygienic practices not only cause filth and pollution but also pose serious social and economic consequences. That is why our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had mentioned about this subject in his first speech given on 15th August, 2014 from the Red Fort.

Mahatma Gandhi not only fought for our nation's freedom, but also he wanted to develop India into a clean Nation. He had cleanliness and sanitation close to his heart. Gandhiji observed that our cleanliness was largely limited to daily bath and keeping our homes clean at the expense of our neighbours. He started cleaning toilets to motivate others. Now we have to take it as a social movement. We see the streets not walkable, piled with wastes, our rivers are polluted and open defecation prevalant even today. Unless and until we build in us a true spirit of cleanliness and determination to keep our place and surroundings hygienic, we cannot make our nation disease free.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Mission is to make India clean and open-defecation-free country by October 2, 2019 on the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhiji. The Swachh Bharat Mission is a national movement. People of all walks of life, children and youth should play an active role in building a clean India. This should turn into a 'Jan Andolan'- a People's movement.

The 'Swachhata Hi Seva' Campaign seeks to mobilize people to come out and directly involve themselves in the Swachh Bharat mission. Each one of us should offer Shramdaan for Swachhata in the fortnight leading to Gandhi Jayanthi on 2nd October.

Developing "Cleanliness as our responsibility" among all, especially the youth, is the need of the hour. Immediately on assuming office as Governor - Chancellor of Universities, I had addressed all the Universities in Tamil Nadu to upkeep the campus and toilets, to construct adequate toilets, and to promote green cover in the universities and affiliated colleges. I appeal to the Vice-Chancellors of the Universities to take it as a drive to ensure cleanliness. This should not merely be a one day or a fortnight event, but this should be made as a part of daily routine.

Cleanliness should begin from each home and should expand to every street, every Panchayat, every village, every town, every district, every State and the Nation as a whole.

Lack of sanitation, stagnation of water, and unhygienic conditions have led to mosquitoes breeding centers which are major cause for many communicable diseases. Washing of hands properly before taking food is imperative. It should be cultivated as a habit in the young children. It will help to prevent spread of disease to a great extent. The Universities & Educational institutions should make available handwash, soaps or Dettol at wash basins.

Dear students, you have to educate the people on cleanliness and hygiene. You should be ambassadors of "Swachh Bharat".

You are students of engineering stream. Anna University students have the pride of designing "ANUSAT"- the first satellite designed and developed by an Indian University. It is also the first satellite in India to be built and operated by any organization other than ISRO.

I appeal to you to come out with cost-effective toilets which will consume less water and be more hygienic. Your innovation will help a lot to upkeep and maintain toilets, construct more toilets in villages and make our villages open defecation free.

Maintaining cleanliness is the responsibility of each one of us. Let us come forward and join hands in this mission to dedicate ourselves to practise and promote cleanliness and sanitation in order to develop a clean and open-defecation- free India by 2019.

My greetings to you all. Jai Hind. Jai Tamil Nadu.
