

**Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Chief Guest at the "Thiruppavai Thiruvempavai Recitation Competition Award Ceremony" and Unveiling the Plaque "Thiruvempavai Building" organised by Ramakrishna Spiritual and Cultural Academy**

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu participated as Chief Guest at the "Thiruppavai Thiruvempavai Recitation Competition Award Ceremony" and Unveiling the plaque "Thiruvempavai Building" organised by Ramakrishna Spiritual and Cultural Academy at Auditorium, Sri Saradha College, Perambalur today (19.07.2019) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "It gives me great pleasure to be here today at Sri Saradha College, Perambalur for the Thiruppavai Thiruvempavai Recitation Competition Awards function being organised by Ramakrishna Spiritual and Cultural Academy.

Perambalur district which has nearly 80% of its population living in the rural areas is one of the developing districts of the state. This institution named after Sri Saradha Devi is performing a noble role by working for the cause of education with dedication and patriotism.

It is always a joy to be amongst bright, young, students with radiant faces seated in the audience with hope in their minds and idealism in their hearts.

As you are aware, the Thirupavai is a collection of verses written by Andal, in Praise of the Lord. It is a part of the Divya Prabandha, the compilation of the works of the twelve Alvars and forms an important part of Tamil literature.

Manikkavasagar wrote the Thiruvambavai, which is a collection of twenty hymns sung in praise of the Lord. These songs were composed in Thiruvannamalai Temple in the month of Marghazhi. In fact, both the sacred works are connected with the holy month of Marghazhi. Andal also performed her vratham, during the holy month of Marghazhi and composed the Thirupavai which consists of 30 Stanzas.

The first five stanzas provide an introduction to the main theme, its principle and purpose.

In the next ten stanzas she describes the importance of community participation. She invites her friends to gather flowers. She elaborates on the

ambience at her village, the chirping of birds, the musical sound of butter-churning, herds of cattle with tinkling bells and the sound of the conch from the temple.

The next five stanzas describe her visit to the temple where she desires to render the Suprabhata gently to wake up the Lord.

The last nine stanzas are on the glories of the Lord Vishnu. On receiving his blessings Andal lists her demands; milk for the vrata, white conch, lamps, flowers, and rich costume and jewellery, plenty of ghee and butter. In the concluding stanza she identifies herself as the daughter of Perialwar and says that those who recite the Thiruppavai with devotion will receive the Lord's blessings.

The "Thiruvempavai" – consists of early morning wake up songs sung in praise of Lord Shiva and is part of the Thiruvasakiyam.

The Thiruvasakiyam is full of visionary experience, divine love and earnest striving for the truth. Manikkavasagar was the King's Prime Minister and renounced his post in search of divinity. The King sent his minister with gold and money to buy horses. But, he spent the entire sum of money in building the temple at Thiruperunthurai, considered an architectural marvel among Hindu temples. From that time, the saint poet wandered to various temples composing hymns on Shiva.

G. U. Pope who was born in Canada and is acknowledged as a great Tamil Scholar translated the Thiruvasakiyam around the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Dr. Pope found the utterances of sincere devotion in the verses to be divine and therefore extolled Manikkavasagar to be a true devotee of God. It is in honour of the Thiruvempavai that a new building in the college has been inaugurated today.

I am happy to see the importance attached to moral values and character building in this college.

This is indeed reflective of the teachings of Swami Vivekananda who when referring to the right kind of education pointed out.

"We need education through which character is formed, strength of mind is increased and the intellect is expanded so that one can stand on his own feet".

The most well know disciple of Swami Vivekananda was Sister Nivedita who is considered to be the mentor of Mahakavi Bharathi.

Sister Nivedita was born as Margaret Noble in Ireland in an aristocratic family.

She was a close associate of the Holy Mother Saradha Devi after whom the college is named.

The Holy Mother Saradha Devi recorded her impressions about Sister Nivedita as follows: 'What sincere devotion Nivedita had. She never considered anything too much that she might do for me. She would often come to see me at night. Once seeing that the light struck my eyes she put a sheet of paper on the lamp. She would prostrate herself before me and with great tenderness, take the dust of my feet with her handkerchief. She did not even hesitate to touch my feet'. Though a foreigner by birth, that was the level of attachment, Sister Nivedita had for the Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa Movement.

There are 64 award winners here who have been recognized for their recitation of the Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai. I congratulate them and wish them well. They will serve as an inspiration for many more thousands of youth who pursue education not only for material good but also for spiritual upliftment.

In India, we believe in the concept of Nari Shakthi or Women Power. The concept of Durga as the protector of the human race is embodied in the celebrations of Navarathri, during which period we narrate hymns on her victory over the evil forces. Navarathri is celebrated all over India and in Nagpur from where I hail, the celebrations of Vijayadasami the tenth day of victory, are organized on a grand scale, year after year.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to the office bearers of the Ramakrishna Spiritual and Cultural Academy and the management, Faculty, Staff and Students of the Sri Saradha College. May success smile on you in all your endeavours".

On this occasion, Thirumathi. V. Santha, I.A.S., District Collector, Perambalur, Dr. M. Sivasubramaniam, President, Ramakrishna Spiritual and Cultural Academy, Thiru. M.S. Vivekanandan, Secretary, Ramakrishna Spiritual and Cultural Academy, Dr.M.S.Vijayanand, Treasurer, Ramakrishna Spiritual and Cultural Academy and other dignitaries participated.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai -22

Sd/-

Date : 19.07.2019

Joint Director (PR)