

**Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as chief guest at the valedictory function of SAKSHAM 2021 organised by Petroleum Conservation Research Association along with Oil Industry**

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu participated as chief guest at the valedictory function of SAKSHAM 2021 organised by Petroleum Conservation Research Association along with Oil Industry at Hyatt Regency, Chennai today (16.02.2021) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "I am delighted to be here on the occasion of Valedictory ceremony of the month-long Oil & Gas Conservation programme. Under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, this campaign is held from 16<sup>th</sup> January to 15<sup>th</sup> February every year and is observed as SAKSHAM (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) by Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) and the Oil Industry, to create awareness about the efficient use of Petroleum products, in the minds of the consuming public. I am glad that the theme for SAKSHAM 2021 is "Green and Clean Energy", aptly matching the nation's drive towards Green fuels.

India is the third-largest energy consumer in the world after China and the United States. In 2016, the country consumed 724 million tons oil equivalent of commercial energy. India's energy-mix is dominated by coal and oil, which accounts for 57% and 30% respectively of total primary energy supply in 2016. The share of natural gas was only 6.2%.

Economic development of a nation is hugely determined by its energy needs and is directly proportional to its share in the global energy consumption. In the present world energy scenario, the market share of natural gas is quite less as compared to coal and oil in the energy-mix.

India is a fast-developing country and the energy requirement of our country is increasing day by day. It is predicted that the energy consumption in India will double by the year 2040. A similar increase is also expected for Petroleum products. But such a growth in energy requirement is a matter of concern as we import more than 84% of crude oil. Considering oil security of our country, The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri

Narendra Modi Ji had given a clarion call to bring down our oil import dependence at least by 10%.

The Prime Minister said, India's Energy Plan aims to ensure energy justice while fully following India's global commitments for sustainable growth. This means more energy is needed to improve the lives of Indians with a smaller carbon footprint. He envisioned India's energy sector to be growth-centric, industry-friendly and environment conscious.

Hon'ble Prime Minister said that like the seven horses driving the chariot of Sun God, India's energy map will have seven key drivers:

- Accelerating our efforts to move towards a gas-based economy;
- Cleaner use of fossil fuels particularly petroleum and coal;
- Greater reliance on domestic sources to drive bio-fuels;
- Achieving the renewables target of 450 GW by 2030;
- Increasing the contribution of electricity to decarbonise mobility;
- Moving into the emerging fuels including hydrogen;
- Digital innovation across all the energy systems.

I request all of you to contribute meaningfully to make India a gas-based economy.

It is heartening to note that PCRA and Oil Companies had conducted 47,000 programmes across the country, enriching 8.9 crore people with better energy conservation knowledge. In the last one year, SAKSHAM has conducted various energy conservation activities which resulted in the estimated savings of 6.7 lakh metric tonnes of Oil equivalent for 2019-20.

"Oil is like time... once gone, it will never come back." This thought should resonate in all our actions in day to day life to achieve meaningful contribution towards petroleum conservation. I believe, SAKSHAM will create further awareness in all age-groups about the judicious use of petroleum resources, which will help in bringing about the behavioural and social changes and in sustaining the scarce resources. Conservation of oil and gas will help us channelize our financial resources to other important sectors of the economy. We also have to adopt enthusiastically habits like using public transport like Metro Railway for commuting, using bicycles whenever possible, car-pooling, and safe and eco-friendly driving skills and use of energy-efficient equipments. This will help to create a cleaner & better India.

Together we should start acting on bringing about small changes in our everyday life as “Small actions by a lot of people can bring a sea of change”.

The Covid-19 pandemic posed unprecedented challenges and disruptions across the sectors. Responding to the pandemic, new methods and behaviour in work place was quickly put in place by the Oil industry in Tamil Nadu that encompassed all aspects of revised Health, Safety & Environment protocols and operating procedures. Uninterrupted supply of Automotive fuels and Cooking Gas was ensured across the Supply Chain by the OMCs. The credit for this seamless delivery of service should be given to the superb collaborative effort across the Supply Chain and by people at all levels. I thank all of them. Please give them a big hand.

The Oil Industry in Tamil Nadu is working tenaciously towards transforming the energy landscape from liquid fuel to gas based endeavour. The City Gas Distribution projects for several geographical areas assigned for Tamil Nadu are proceeding well on track and in the near future, Tamil Nadu can look forward to getting an abundant supply of LNG, CNG and PNG for multiple industrial, automotive and domestic applications.

The need of the hour is to conserve petroleum by its judicious use, substituting it by other resources wherever feasible and restricting its use only to the essential needs. Petroleum Conservation becomes our joint responsibility, be it the industries, individual citizens, organisations, Oil Companies and the Government. “Each drop of oil conserved is equal to a drop of oil produced.” This noble thought should resonate in all our actions in day to day life to achieve meaningful contribution towards petroleum conservation.

I am delighted to note that the Government of Tamil Nadu has won the Best Overall Performance award and the State Level Coordinator for Oil Industry. Tamil Nadu also has received the All India Best Performance Award for the maximum number of conservation activities. My heartiest congratulation to all the team members who made it possible.

I once again appreciate the laudable work that Oil Marketing Companies are doing in the process of spreading awareness on Oil & Gas conservation and on the means of shifting towards creating a harmonious ecosystem on this occasion. I request the public in general to leverage the opportunities provided by Oil & Gas companies and play their role as responsible citizens ensuring a sustainable energy scenario for posterity. We must remember that we owe a moral responsibility to our

future generations and co-inhabitants of the earth to provide them a healthy environment and a sustainable future.

SAVE OIL SAVE INDIA, should be our slogan all the time.”

On this occasion, Thiru. P.Jeyadevan, SLC, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, ED & State Head, Tamil Nadu State Office, IOCL, Thiru. Inderjit Singh, Head (Retail), Southern Region, BPCL, Thiru. Sandeep Maheshwari, Zonal Head, South Zone, HPCL, Thiru. K. Ashok, DGM, Petrochemical Marketing, GAIL and other dignitaries participated.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai-22

Date : 16.02.2021

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Addl. Director (PR)