

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE FUNCTION "CAUVERY CALLING" FUNCTION
ORGANISED BY ISHA FOUNDATION AT CENTENARY AUDITORIUM,
MADRAS UNIVERSITY, CHENNAI ON 15.09.2019 AT 4.00 P.M**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Sadhguru

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,
Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. O.Paneerselvam,
Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Dr.Prathap C Reddy,
Chairman,
Apollo Hospitals Group

Thiru. G.K.Vasan,
President,
Tamil Maanila Congress

Thirumathi Suhasini Manirathnam

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me great happiness to be here today at this function being organised by the Isha Foundation to celebrate the Cauvery.

The Cauvery River also known as Ponni or the Golden River is the largest river of Tamil Nadu. Originating in the foothills of Western Ghats at Talakaveri, the river flows eastwards across the southern Deccan plateau joining the Bay of Bengal at Poompuhar in the Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu. The Cauvery delta forms one of the most fertile regions in the country.

The river basin covers the three states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. Hence, the river is the source for an extensive irrigation system

supporting extensive tracts of agriculture in the riparian states. Since the Cauvery serves as the substantial source of livelihood of the people in the areas it irrigates, and is the main provider of food to the people of Tamil Nadu the river is worshipped as the Mother who takes care of the State with love and affection.

The documented link between Cauvery and Tamil Nadu is more than 2000 years old. Ancient Tamil Literature has vivid descriptions of the Cauvery and her bounty. There are numerous references to the river in the Silappathikaram, Manimegalai, Kamba Ramayanam, Periya Puranam, Thevaram etc.

The great Tamil classic of the 20th century 'Ponniyin Selvan' refers to Raja Raja Chola the greatest king of the Chola dynasty as the child of the river Cauvery since he was saved from drowning at the age of five years thanks to the blessings of the river.

The Cauvery is also classified as among the sacred rivers of India. Special mention is made of the Cauvery in the same breath as the Ganga, the Yamuna, the Godavari, the Saraswathi, the Narmada and the Sindhu in the Sanskrit slokas. It is believed that the Cauvery was granted the boon of being the Dhakshina Ganga by Sage Agastya who stored the water in his Kamandalam. Lord Ganesha in the form of a crow tipped the

Kamandalam and caused the water to spill resulting in the birth of a river. It is said that the river takes its name from the two words 'Ka' and 'Viri' which means the crow and the expansion of water respectively.

Many are the temples that are located on the banks of the Cauvery. The temple of Ranganatha in Sri Rangam is among the most important temples located on the Cauvery. The Tanjore Brihadeeswara Temple built by Rajaraja Chola is another famous temple on the Cauvery. Similarly the temples at Kodumudi, Kumbakonam, Mayavaram, Thirunageswaram, Kuttalam, Thiruvaidaimaruthur and Thiruvaiyaru to mention a few bear ample testimony to the devotion of the

people who reside on the banks of the Cauvery and the patronage of the kings who ruled the territories here.

It comes as a big relief that the long standing Cauvery River dispute before the Tribunal and the Supreme Court has come to an end. It is necessary as law abiding citizens for all stake holders to adhere to the directions of the apex court of the land in letter and spirit. This will ensure appropriate distribution of waters among the 3 States and the Union territory in a lawful and orderly manner.

The Isha Foundation has launched the Cauvery Calling Campaign plan to plant 242 crore trees along the Cauvery River. This is not only

expected to increase farmer's incomes but also promote environmental sustainability. They will be providing to the farmers, many remunerative species of trees for planting. I am informed the Isha volunteers have travelled to over 7000 villages, to speak to farmers and inform them of the benefits of agroforestry for sustainable living.

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.

Mahatma Gandhi, echoing the same sentiment mentioned in his writings, “Nature has enough to satisfy every man’s need but not enough to satisfy every man’s greed”.

But, today the use of petrol and petroleum products, the use of plastics and the mindless dependence on artificial chemicals have resulted in serious environmental damage. That is why the nations of the world have been consistently focusing on the need to control carbon emissions.

Trees can be effective carbon dioxide sinks. International researches on climate change have concluded that “a sustainable management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield

of timber fibre or energy will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit”.

Depleted soils can be protected from soil erosion by groundcover plants such as naturally growing grasses in agroforestry systems. These help to stabilize the soil. Cleaner water through reduced nutrient and soil surface runoff can be an added advantage of agroforestry.

The population of India is expected to cross 150 crores by the year 2050 and that would require about 450 million tonnes of food grains which is considerably higher than the present level of production of 285 million tonnes. For meeting this requirement, it would be necessary to increase irrigation potential considerably.

The fulfillment of this requirement has great relevance for the Cauvery. The delta areas are extremely fertile and have very high levels of productivity with the potential to grow food crops for three seasons in a year if sufficient water is made available.

Linking up the Godavari to the Cauvery for transferring the surplus water will therefore be immense benefit to the state. The effort will bring nearly 1100 tmc feet of surplus water from the Godavari to the Cauvery.

It is necessary for all noble souls to put their shoulders to the wheel and ensure that this river linking project is executed as early as possible.

I congratulate the Isha Foundation for this initiative taken by them to involve the farmers of Tamil Nadu in the mission of planting trees specious along the Cauvery. I wish them all success. My special word of precise is due to Padma Vibhushan Sadhguru who has been vigorously taking up projects and launching initiatives to benefit the people of the state. May God bestow his Grace to carry on the mission with greater vigour in the coming years.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Tamil Nadu...

Jai Hind....