

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION GURU SHREE SHANTIVIJAI JAIN
COLLEGE FOR ARTS AND SCIENCE, NALLUR ORGANISED BY SHREE
MAHAVEER JAIN KALYAN SANGH AT GSS JAIN COLLEGE,
NALLUR CAMPUS ON 16.07.2019 AT 11.00 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Thiru. P. Gautam Vaid,
Hon. Secretary,
Shree Mahaveer Jain Kalyan Sangh

Thiru. R.Babulal Jain,
Vice-President,
Shree Mahaveer Jain Kalyan Sangh

Thiru. Rajendra Lunker,
National President,
Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana, Pune

Thiru. Harish Betala,
Vice-President,
Shree Mahaveer Jain Kalyan Sangh

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here today at the inauguration of the “Guru Shree Shantivijai Jain College for Arts and Science” at Nallur. This College named after Guru Shree Shantivijai is a Golden Jubilee Commemorative Project of the Shree Mahaveer Jain Kalyan Sangh an organization which was established in 1967 by a few Philanthropists with a motto to render selfless service to society.

Placing service above self is held up as the highest virtue in our Country. This principle lies at the core of India’s psyche. Viewing the humanity of the world as one family has always been fundamental to our way of thinking and

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is the driving force behind India's spirituality.

“Love all and serve all” is the underlying philosophy of Jainism.

Bhagwan Mahaveer, the 24th Thirthankara, who lived nearly 2600 years ago taught us to respect the voice of the soul. He said "A living body is not merely an integration of limbs and flesh but it is the abode of the soul which potentially has perfect perception (Anant darshana), perfect knowledge (Anant jnana), perfect power (Anant virya), and perfect bliss (Anant sukha)".

According to Mahavira, human beings are reborn, depending on one's karma (actions) as a human, animal, element, microbe, and other

forms, on earth or in a heavenly or hellish state of existence. Nothing is permanent, everyone, is reborn again based on their karma merits and demerits. It is the Jina who have reached Kevala Jnana who are not reborn again, and attain the siddhaloka or the "Realm of the Perfected Ones". Bhagwan Mahaveera's message forms the very basis on which the spiritual foundations of our nation rest.

The influence of Jainism in moulding the Tamil way of life goes back several centuries. Few in the audience would know that the Tamil Classics of the Sangam era dating back to more than 2000 years were influenced by Jainism. Sivaga

Sinthamani and Valayapathi two great epics of Tamil literary tradition were written by Jain Monks.

The last two hundred years have also seen a large number of Jains settling down here. They have mingled with the rest of Tamil Society in a mutually beneficial way.

Their first Educational Institution was started more than 100 years back and today there are several educational institutions managed by the Jain Community not only in Chennai but also in various districts of Tamil Nadu. These educational institutions are rendering valuable service to society.

Education is meant to groom an individual so that he acquires knowledge, wisdom, skill,

discipline and other virtues such as patience, obedience and humility etc. Subhaasthita says 'Vidyaa Dadaathi Vinayam'.

The twenty first century is characterized by the emergence of multiculturalism due to industrialization, urbanization and globalisation. Since education is an instrument for 'societal change' it should develop cognitive capabilities, tolerance to withstand multicultural impulses and understanding of diversity. It should also prepare the younger generation to face the complex realities of globalisation. That is why Swami Vivekananda said "Education is not being but becoming".

The need for skilled human resources is growing day by day. The need of the hour is to make sure that students in adequate number are trained in the fields in which there is a requirement. The match between supply and demand has to be carefully monitored not merely in terms of mass quantity but also in ensuring qualitative availability in sectors of education and training for which there is a demand.

Besides development of skills, education in colleges should also lay stress on character building and in inculcating a nationalistic spirit in the students.

On that subject of character building, Swami Vivekanda has pointed out, and I quote, "We need

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

Character building goes beyond being good. To be able to distinguish between good and evil and to stand on the side of goodness is the first step towards character building. One must have the courage of conviction in the greatness of goodness, rise above jealousy, suspicion and other petty failings and have the strength to support all those who are doing good. This is the true essence of character building. Academic brilliance, combined with a robust body in a healthy mind and character embellished with a

nationalistic spirit is what a student must aspire for.

The need for a nationalistic outlook is very important in the world of today. As nations work together for a better tomorrow, every nation is simultaneously trying to get a better deal for its own citizens so that they receive a larger share of the cake. In the background of this global scenario, this is the time for all Indians to come together to contribute their best for the nation.

We are a young nation who attained independence only in 1947. We are the largest democracy in the world and follow processes that are based on consultation and majority selection. It is only by mobilising people to follow the right

track and by opening out our hearts in acts of generosity that we can build an all-inclusive society. When a population of 125 crores moves forward in a cohesive and planned manner it is certain to dominate the world arena. Trusts and institutions engaged in social service help us to achieve the goal faster.

Before I conclude I wish to inform you about the special significance of the day on which this inauguration is being held. According to Jain traditions, it was on this day, falling at the beginning of Chaturmaas that Lord Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara, made Indrabhuti Gautam, later known as Gautam Swami, his first disciple, thus becoming a Treenok Guha himself. Therefore the

day is observed in Jainism as Treenok Guha Purnima, and is marked by special veneration to one's Treenok Guhas and teachers.

It is also the auspicious day of Guru Purnima. The celebration is marked by events in honor of the Guru; that is, the teachers.

This college is being inaugurated on such an auspicious day. I am certain that it will grow from strength to strength and shine forth with glory in the coming years.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to the Shree Mahaveer Jain Kalyan Sangh and applaud their selfless contributions. May they be greeted with success in all their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Tamil Nadu....

Jai Hind....