

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF SAKSHAM 2020 ORGANISED BY
PETROLEUM CONSERVATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION ALONG WITH OIL
MARKETING COMPANIES UNDER MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, AT MUSIC ACADEMY, TT KRISHNAMACHARI ROAD,
ROYAPETTAH, CHENNAI ON 21.01.2020 AT 10.30 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Thiru. P.Jeyadevan,
SLC, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry

Thiru. Arup Sinha,
RCL & ED (Regional Services), IOCL

Thiru. V.S. Chakravarthi,
General Manager, LPG, South Zone, HPCL

Thiru. S.P.Selvam,
Director and Chief Regional Coordinator,
PCRA, Southern Regional Office

Thiru. M.K. Biswas,
Chief Zonal General Manager, GAIL,

Thiru. Inderjit Singh,
Head (Retail), South, BPCL

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and gentlemen

I am delighted to be here today at the inauguration of SAKSHAM 2020 being organised by Petroleum Conservation Research Association along with Oil Marketing Companies under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India.

SAKSHAM (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) is an annual flagship event of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of

Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, with active involvement of the Oil & Gas Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), State Governments and along with other stakeholders, for creating focused attention on fuel conservation through people centric activities and to sensitize the masses about the conservation and efficient use of petroleum products leading to better health and environment.

Since the beginning of the past century, usage of petroleum and other petroleum-based products has emerged as the primary source to fuel the growth of the economy. As a result, the natural reserves that have been developed over millions of years depleted to a large extent in just two centuries. The bitter truth is, being a non-renewable resource the oil sources are dwindling all across the world.

The world's oil consumption can be broadly divided into three categories;

1. For infrastructure development and public utilities purposes,
2. For transportation and private consumption and
3. For other areas like R&D, defence applications etc.

Today the well-being of world's population is highly dependent on developing countries – mostly India and China. These two countries constitute almost half of the world's population, but their contribution to oil production is not very high. Yet for justifiable reasons their oil consumption is enormous and still increasing, otherwise the economic growth in these countries will be hampered. Among the developing countries, India has secured a special position because we have the youngest workforce among the large economies, which even China doesn't have.

It's high time for the youth to understand their future roles and responsibilities in terms of energy conservation.

India is the third largest consumer of petroleum products in the world. With the increasing economic progress of the country coupled with rising income level and increasing population, we will become the fourth largest economy in terms of GDP by 2022 and meeting the ever-increasing demand of petroleum products for the nation will become increasingly challenging. As Government of India is targeting all actions towards becoming a 5 trillion-dollar economy in near future, India's energy needs and fuel requirements are also rapidly expanding and evolving. I consider the conservation of natural resources and sustainable development as one of the most important aspects of this evolution and it is an opportunity for us to contribute in this nation building process, because **“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.

Environment aside, more than 100 billion USD was spent on oil imports by India in 2018. By substantially decreasing its usage, we can save precious resources of the country, which can be used, for our betterment. Research, being one of the fields where this money can be spent, will not only help us progress further to come at par with other developed countries, but will also help in increasing the quality of living of the citizens of the country.

The country's oil consumption grew from one hundred and eighty five (185) million tonnes in 2015-16 to two hundred and twelve (212) million tonnes in 2018-19. In contrast, domestic production witnessed a decline.

According to Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell, India spent one hundred and twelve (\$112) billion dollars on oil imports in 2018-19. Proved reserves of petroleum of

India are not very promising. With most of all the easy extraction fields depleted across the globe, the recovery process is getting complex and more and more expensive day by day. Our only option is to promote oil conservation to cope with oil shocks and growing domestic demands.

Transport is largest sector of oil consumption – and this is the sector where most of the youths are directly involved. Many members of young generation are either college/university students or office-goers. They own individual two-wheeler or four-wheelers for reaching their destinations. This is an area where they can reduce their individual consumptions. For transportation to get to their destinations, they can use share-carriages like buses, pool-cars and preferably the greener ones such as trains and metros. I appeal to all working class also to follow this. This will not only promote oil conservation but also to reduce the problems like air pollution and traffic congestion in metropolitan cities. **Saving Oil** will be your big contribution in **building a strong India**.

The Government is stressing and supporting in exploring new alternatives to oil. Sustainable development is one importance initiative taken by many organizations. New alternatives could be exploring renewable sources like solar, wind, tidal, nuclear and geothermal energies or use of non-conventional sources such as biogas and biofuels.

Energy industry and associated R&D organizations are tirelessly investigating either to find alternate sources of energy or improving the efficiency of existing machines so that we can conserve more.

Potential entrepreneurs are encouraged to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make available CBG in the market for use in automotive fuels. This significant move has the potential to boost availability of more affordable transport fuels,

better use of agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal solid waste, as well as to provide an additional revenue source to farmers. Use of CBG will also help bring down dependency on crude oil imports and in realising the Prime Minister's vision of enhancing farmers' income, rural employment and entrepreneurship.

From 16th January to 15th February, 2020, PCRA will organize activities throughout the country to create awareness about conservation and encourage behavioural changes for sustainable development and environment protection in 200 cities across India and 14 cities in Tamil Nadu.

We must remember that we owe a moral responsibility to our future generations to provide them a healthy environment and a sustainable future. I appeal to all of you and particularly the youth to come together and contribute earnestly towards this mission. Let SAKSHAM be a way of life and let us imbibe it in our culture so as to make this world a happy and peaceful place.

Let us all join to celebrate SAKSHAM, take a pledge to create an environmentally cleaner and sustainable future for India.

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

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....

Jai Tamil Nadu....