

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF KAALAI UNAVU THITTAM  
FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN ORGANISED BY THE GREATER CHENNAI  
CORPORATION AND AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION AT CHENNAI  
SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, THIRUVANMIYUR,  
CHENNAI ON 25.02.2019 AT 9.30 A.M**

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit inaugurated the Kaalai Unavu Thittam for School Children organised by the Greater Chennai Corporation and Akshaya Patra Foundation at Chennai Senior Secondary School, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai on 25.02.2019 and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "I am delighted to be here today for the launch of the Kaalai Unavu Thittam for School Children in Chennai City. I am sure that this small beginning that we are making today as a joint partnership of Akshaya Patra Foundation and the Greater Chennai Corporation will assume mammoth proportions and acquire a nationwide stature.

Tamil Nadu has always been in the forefront of social welfare initiatives. It is therefore no wonder that this programme to provide breakfast to school children is being commenced in Tamil Nadu – the first of its kind in the country.

Nurturing children is equivalent to nurturing the future of our nation. Healthy children develop better learning and understanding abilities. Well-nourished children go on to become productive members of the society who are better equipped to make the maximum use of their talents and abilities for the benefit of society.

Swami Prabhupada the founder of ISKCON from which was born the Akshaya Patra Foundation through his deep understanding of philosophy illumined the path to be followed by all of mankind. His writings and way of life serve as an inspiration for millions of people.

The story of Akshaya Patra is inspirational.

From its humble beginnings of feeding 1,500 children in Bengaluru in the year 2000, Akshaya Patra has continuously grown to become the world's largest NGO run school meal programme. Recently, on the 11th of February, the 3 billionth cumulative meal of Akshaya Patra was served by Shri Narendra Modi ji, the Honourable Prime Minister of India at Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh.

I am also pleased to note that Akshaya Patra has been selected for the Gandhi Peace Prize, for its contribution towards the socio-economic development of India by providing mid-day meals to millions of children across the country.

Having seen the operations of Akshaya Patra in Nagpur and Guwahati, I have no doubt that the school children will eagerly look forward to come to school every morning for hot, delicious and nutritious breakfast cooked in the Akshaya Patra kitchens.

I invite the Government, sponsors, volunteers, the school teachers, and all stakeholders to work together towards ensuring that this programme gains in size and momentum to reach every child in Chennai in the near future and the entire state of Tamil Nadu in the years to come. I assure my support and encouragement to Akshaya Patra in making this possible. May this movement grow from strength to fulfill the vision of 'Poshit Bharat Shikshit Bharat' – Nourished India, Educated India. I wish Akshaya Patra Foundation and the Greater Chennai Corporation all success in their endeavours".

On this occasion, Thiru. D. Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel & Administrative Reforms, Dr. V. Saroja, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare & Nutritious Noon Meal Programme, Dr. J. Jayavardhan, Member of Parliament, Thiru. R. Rajagopal, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Governor, Thiru. Chanchalpathi Dasa, Vice Chairman, Akshaya Patra Foundation, Thiru. Harmander Singh, I.A.S., Secretary, Municipal Administration & Water Supply, Thiru. G. Prakash, I.A.S., Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation and other dignitaries participated.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai-22

Sd/-

Date : 25.02.2019

Joint Director(PR)