

ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT THE COMMISSIONING OF SOLAR POWER PLANT AND RELEASE OF THE BOOK "THOSE EVENTFUL DAYS..." AT DURBAR HALL, RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI ON 16/10/2017 AT 03.00 P.M.

It is a pleasure to participate in the Commissioning of Solar Power Plant by Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Thiru M. Venkaiah Naidu ji, at Raj Bhavan and to release the book "Those Eventful Days..." published by Raj Bhavan, here this afternoon.

We are privileged to have Thiru M.Venkaiah Naidu Ji, Hon'ble Vice President of India, an erudite scholar who is known for his rich acumen and simplicity.

History reveals that long before Copernicus, the Vedas advocated the heliocentric model of solar system. Rig Veda (10.149.1) states that "The sun has tied earth and other planets through attraction and moves them around itself as if a trainer moves newly trained horses around itself holding their reins."

Sayana, a Vedic Scholar discovered the speed of light back in the 14th century AD. He said, "With deep respect, I bow to the sun, who travels 2,202 Yojanas in half a nimesha".

The International Journal of Science and Technology and Management Issue Dated 3rd March 2016 states that although most people today concentrate on significant aspects of Atharvaveda such as medicinal plants and healing practices, many other fascinating subjects such as marriage rites and solar energy, electricity and states of the supreme consciousness are also discussed.

The Rig Veda (3.2.3) talks about the multiple technologies developed from solar energy for long term benefits. Such is the richness of our Vedas. They not only enlighten one on spiritual means but also on science.

I am told that the total solar energy absorbed by earth's atmosphere oceans and land masses is approximately 38,50,000 (EJ) Exajoules per year. It would be interesting to note that the amount of solar energy reaching the surface of the planet is so vast that in one year it is about twice as much as will ever be obtained from all the earth's non-renewable resources such as coal, oil, natural gas and uranium. We are blessed with abundant solar energy. It is high time we tap the solar energy. We should develop affordable, inexhaustible and clean solar energy technologies to have huge long term benefits. It will help to meet our energy needs, enhance sustainability, reduce pollution and lower the cost of mitigating climate change.

Today our nation is all set to be the world's third-biggest solar market by 2018 after China and US. Our nation's mission is to produce 40% of its power from non fossil fuels by 2030.

We should thank the initiatives taken by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru Narendra Modi Ji to connect all un-electrified rural and urban households with power connection under "The Saubhagya Yojana". This project will also focus on installing distributed generation system in rural areas, through solar panels. Thiru Modi Ji has set a target of producing 175 gigawatt clean energy by 2022 through solar, wind and Hydro projects. Tamil Nadu is filled with abundant solar energy. It is high time we plan to tap this clean energy.

I place on record and congratulate my predecessor Thiru Vidyasagar Rao Ji for his initiatives to install 400 kWp solar power plant in Raj Bhavan, Chennai at a cost of Rs 4.45 crores. I am happy to learn that this will cater to about 80% of the energy needs of Raj Bhavan and save close to Rs 45 Lakhs annually. I commend the support extended by the State Govt for providing all support in this regard. I appeal to the officers and staff to use electricity whenever it is necessary and to reduce the wasteful consumption of electricity.

On this occasion, I appeal to each and every citizen of this nation, the youth especially, the students to save electricity and water and to contribute their might to develop a clean, green and pollution free India.

I am pleased to receive the first copy of the book "Those Eventful Days..." published by Raj Bhavan which narrates the turbulent times, twist and turns, Thiru Vidyasagar Rao's flair for Tamil Culture and Tamil language especially Thirukkural and Aathichudi, the installation of Thiruvalluvar and Avvaiyar Statue, his initiatives for promoting greenery and clean campus in Universities, affiliated colleges, and in Raj Bhavan and for opening the Gates of Raj Bhavan, Chennai for public viewing. I commend the Editorial team for bringing out this book and for aptly choosing the title "Those eventful Days..."

My advance Diwali wishes to all of you.

Let us resolve to strengthen our nation's rich culture and tradition.

My Greetings to you all.

Jai Hind.
