

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR
OF TAMIL NADU AT THE EXHIBITION "VASUNDHARA" SRI KANCHI
MAHASWAMI VIDYA MANDIR, CHENNAI ON 19/01/2018 AT 10.30 AM**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Dr.V.Shankar,
Chairman, Sri. Kanchi Mahaswami Vidya Mandir

Thiru. T. R. Rajagopalan
Member, Governing Council, Sri. Kanchi Mahaswami Vidya Mandir

Thiru. P. Suresh
Member, Governing Council, Sri. Kanchi Mahaswami Vidya Mandir

Thiru. C. S. Mehta
Member, Governing Council, Sri. Kanchi Mahaswami Vidya Mandir

Dr. ArunaAppasamy
Academic Advisor, Sri. Kanchi Mahaswami Vidya Mandir

Smt. LalithaMahadevan
Principal, Sri. Kanchi Mahaswami Vidya Mandir

Distinguished Invitees
Friends from Media,
Teachers and Students
Ladies & Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here this morning to inaugurate the "Vasundhara Exhibition" which focuses on the protection of our natural resources. It is indeed heartening to see that the Sri Kanchi Mahaswami Vidya Mandir has taken the lead in sensitizing students about the need to respect 'Mother Nature'.

Mahatma Gandhi, in his writings mentioned, "Nature has enough to satisfy every man's need but not enough to satisfy every man's greed". The earth gives us the air we breathe, the water we drink, the sun light we enjoy, the fire that helps us in cooking our food, the trees that give shade and oxygen, etc. These are examples of Mother Nature's blessings to mankind. It is important that we recognize this and take steps to carry forward these blessings of Nature to our succeeding generations.

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. The Tamil proverb "*pothumendra maname pon seyyum marundhu*" bears ample testimony to this.

In the last 200 years, we have had many technological innovations that have improved the standard of living. The use of electricity, use of vehicles for transportation and the use of gadgets to improve communication have definitely helped to make our living conditions better. But it is important to draw the line so that we do not exceed limits.

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 met at Paris recently to control carbon emissions. Global warming is emerging as a major problem and threatens to wipe out large populations if left uncontrolled.

Exhibitions such as “Vasundhara” will help students to appreciate the value of what we have and teach them to treasure them, preserve them and handover those resources to succeeding generations in a manner that benefits mankind.

The greatness of a civilisation lies not in what people enjoy but it lies in what people can provide for the betterment of mankind and continued civilisation in a sustained manner. Mere enjoyment and economic prosperity without sustainable development will be short-lived and short-sighted.

Our festivals teach us how to respect nature. The Pongal festival in Tamil Nadu, the Chhath festival in Bihar, the Ganga Aarthi at Haridwar are examples of how we respect the elements of nature as gods and goddesses. Let me therefore conclude by encouraging all the young minds here to take a pledge to reduce our levels of consumption, recycle resources and promote the use of renewable sources of energy so as to make the world a better place now and in the future.

Nandri
Jai Hind

Vanakkam
Jai Tamil Nadu