

**ft ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE SILVER JUBILEE GRADUATION DAY OF GURU SHREE
SHANTIVIJAI JAIN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, CHENNAI IN THE
COLLEGE PREMISES ON 18.02.2019 AT 5.30 P.M**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Dr. M.K. Malathi,
Principal

Thiru. Harish Betala,
Vice President

Er. P. Gautam Vaid
Secretary & Correspondent

Dr. Gyanji Jain, Assistant Secretary

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am happy to be here on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Graduation Day of the Guru Shree Shantivijai Jain College for women. I am informed that the institution was established 28 years ago to commemorate the birth centenary of Guru Shree Shantivijai a great Jain Saint.

Our Nation is the leader to the World in the field of spirituality. The spiritual greatness of India is evidenced by the sustainability of its civilization. Tolerance, mutual respect, acceptance and assimilation of all that is good have dictated our spiritual orientation. Bhagwan Mahavira's message on the need to ensure righteousness in one's karma forms the basis on which the spiritual foundations of our nation rest.

The influence of Jainism in moulding the Tamil way of life in particular goes back several centuries. Few would know that the Tamil Classics of the Sangam era dating back to more than 2000 years were influenced by Jainism. Seevaga Sinthamani and Valayapathi two great epics of Tamil literary tradition were written by Jain Monks.

Many royal personages of Tamil Nadu had embraced Jainism as a way of life. Among them can be mentioned the renowned king of the Pallava dynasty Mahendra Varma Pallava.

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.

The business interests of the community have also widened. Branching off from their earlier occupations related to trade in textiles and jewellery. Jains have proved themselves in every field of economic activity including software development. Their presence has added colour to the cultural flavour of the city, of Chennai. Their hospitals, goshalas and stately temples continue to spread the message of Jainism i.e. alleviation of misery and suffering with vigour and compassion.

The first Educational Institution of the Jains was started in Chennai 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. I understand that this is the first women's college started by the community in Tamil Nadu. These educational institutions render valuable service to society.

The bright and cheerful faces of young women seated before me give me the confidence that will pave the way for a new life and the hope of a bright future for our nation. Swami Vivekananda said and I quote "Give me a hundred youth and I shall transform India". Today India has one of the youngest populations of the world with more than 60 crore people below the age of 30. This huge asset if properly trained and deployed in the service of the people of India can bring about a major transformation. Colleges such as these are

performing that noble role of training and skilling the youth so that they may lead gainful lives.

In India, we believe in the concept of Nari Shakthi or Women Power. The concept of Durga as the protector of the human race is embodied in the celebrations of Navarathri, during which period we narrate hymns on her victory over the evil forces. Navarathri is celebrated all over India and in Nagpur from where I hail, the celebrations of Vijayadasami the tenth day of victory, are organized on a grand scale.

While we celebrate the power of Shakthi in religion and culture, our history also speaks about the great women leaders who adorned our illustrious array of thinkers, poetesses and

warriors. Avvaiyar was one of the most famous and important poetesses of the Tamil Sangam. Karaikkal Ammaiyar a great saint has sung devotional hymns which inspire the soul. Women like Rani Laxmi Bai, Ahilyabai Holkar, Rani Mangammal, Kittur Chennamma and Velu Nachiyar have commanded armies and fought with courage and bravery to defeat the oppressor. In recent times also there have been outstanding women leaders in Literature, Medicine and politics who shine as examples of glory of women power.

India has made remarkable progress in the field of higher education. With about 800 universities, 40,000 colleges and enrolment of more than 3.4 crore students, we today have one

of the biggest higher education systems in the world. You are all proud members of this educational system.

The achievements of the State of Tamil Nadu in the field of education have been particularly exemplary. The dropout rate is extremely low. The teacher-student ratio in schools is about one teacher for 30 to 40 students. Nearly 48% of the children who finish school education take up higher education. The large number of arts and science colleges and professional colleges available in the State speak for the enthusiasm among the youth to take up skilled jobs in the manufacturing and services sectors. Another striking achievement that has been recorded is

that women in higher education account for nearly half of the total student strength. Acquisition of knowledge and learning has thus become a matter of habit for the people of Tamil Nadu.

At this juncture, I would like to specially stress the importance of character building in educational institutions. Albert Einstein once said, 'Most people say that it is intellect which makes a great scientist. They are wrong. It is character.'

Education in colleges should lay stress on inculcating moral values and a national spirit in the students. The teachers here have extensive knowledge about their subjects and enormous experience in various facets of life. Their skill, learning and experience provide them with the

necessary capability to mould the student in a manner that is helpful to him, his family and to the society. A society properly educated is always progressive, peaceful and prosperous. With this as our strength, we should be the torchbearers who lead other peoples of the world from darkness to light. The greatness of a civilization lies not in what people enjoy but it lies in what people can provide for the betterment of mankind and continued civilization in a sustained manner.

“Thamasoma Jyothirgamaya” is the saying in our spiritual texts. I am only echoing those words of wisdom.

The world of today has enormous employment opportunities. Prosperity is waiting to knock at your

doors, if you have talent and sincerity. Let discipline be your watchword; let dedication be your friend and let devotion to God be your guide. When such values mould your character, the impact of your knowledge is bound to be respected and recognized.

All well-meaning entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu in the field of education, such as the Guru Shree Shantivijai Jain College management should put their shoulder to the wheel and lay stress on expanding the availability of education and in improving the quality of education so that Tamil Nadu becomes the unsurpassed leader in education not only in India, but also in Asia.

I congratulate the trustees, the teachers and well wishers of the Guru Shree Shantivijai Jain College for having organised the Silver Jubilee Graduation Day in a befitting manner. I am sure that with your untiring efforts the college will rise further to attain the highest levels of eminence. May you all be greeted with success in the coming years.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....