

**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**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Thiru. D. Jayakumar,
Minister for Fisheries, Personnel &
Administrative Reforms

Dr. V. Saroja,
Minister for Social Welfare &
Nutritious Noon Meal Program

J. Jayavardhan,
Member of Parliament

Thiru. R. Rajagopal, I.A.S.,
Additional Chief Secretary to Governor

Thiru. Chanchalpathi Dasa,
Vice Chairman, The Akshaya Patra Foundation

Thiru. Harmander Singh, I.A.S.,
Secretary, Municipal Administration & Water Supply

Thiru. G. Prakash, I.A.S.,
Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies and Gentlemen

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 Akshya 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.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....