

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT THE FICCI FLO WOMEN ACHIEVER AWARDS 2019  
ORGANSED BY FICCI FLO AT HOTEL HYATT REGENCY, TEYNAMPET,  
CHENNAI ON 25.02.2019 AT 6.00 P.M.**

**Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam**

**Thirumathi Anupama Shivaraman,  
Chairperson, FICCI FLO**

**Thirumathi Suhasini Maniratnam**

**Distinguished Invitees**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

It gives me great happiness to be here today in this function being organised by FICCI where the FICCI Ladies Organisation Women Achievers of 2019 are being felicitated and honoured for the outstanding success that they have recorded as entrepreneurs and professionals.

The FLO which was established in 1983, as the women's wing of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry is an all India forum for women. I am informed that FLO has 15 chapters covering different geographical regions of India and that more than 5000 women entrepreneurs are its distinguished members. That the FLO Chennai chapter has completed 25 years and is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year is a

matter to be proud about.

A country's progress can be judged by the status of women in that country and opportunities given to them.

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, on which day we narrate hymns on her victory over the evil forces.

While we celebrate the power of Shakthi in religion and culture, 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 female poets of Tamil Sangam. Karaikkal Ammaiyar a

great philosopher has sung devotional hymns which inspire the soul. Women like Rani Laxmi Bai, Ahilyabai Holkar, Rani Mangammal, Kittur Chennamma and Velu Nachiyar are some of the important generals who fought with courage and bravery to defeat the oppressor.

Hundreds of years of foreign rule in India starting from the beginning of 13 Century till almost the middle of the 20th Century have created a number of factors in society that suppressed women and kept them confined to the kitchen. Hence, India witnessed disparities in development which affected women adversely. After Independence there has been an improvement in the conditions of women in a

gradual manner.

There have been outstanding women leaders in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in India. They shine as examples of glory to womanhood and women power. I can recall the services of Sarojini Naidu, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, Ambujammal, Indira Gandhi, Mother Teresa and Kalpana Chavala in this context.

Music and dance have also witnessed many famous personalities among women such as Rukmini Devi Arundale, Dr.M.S.Subbulakshmi and Balasaraswati.

Among the living icons one may mention Saina Nehwal, P.V.Sindhu, Sania Mirza, Malleswari, Mary Kom, Geeta Phogat, Dipa Karmakar, Mithali

Dorai Raj as some of the outstanding personalities who have done us proud in the field of sports.

All these personalities are sure to inspire women to move faster towards coming on par with men in public affairs. The women achievers of today who are being honoured today, I am sure have been inspired by them.

Each of the awardees has carved a niche in their area of work such as

1. Thirumathi Kaveri Lalchand in the clothing business.
2. The Association of Non - Traditional Employment for Women, which is a NGO focused on promoting the welfare of avenues for underprivileged women.

3. Thirumathi Sruthi Harihara Subramanian for spreading awareness in society about the importance of eco-friendly consumer products.
4. Thirumathi Sangeetha Shankaran Sumesh in the accounting and management sector.
5. Dr Srimathy Kesan for social entrepreneurship.
6. Dr RA Karthika, a professor who is a role model for her students and
7. Miss Aswatha, a 11-year-old Child expert on fossil research.

Empowerment of women is an issue on which the Central and State Governments are fully focused upon.

The Government of India and State Governments are therefore implementing many

programmes and schemes for women. Some of the schemes of the Government of India include.

a) Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

b) Pradhan mantra Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme

c) Schemes for improving nutritional status of Adolescents in the age group 11-18

d) National Creche Scheme

and

e) Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) a micro credit scheme for poor women.

The schemes of the State Government to mention a few, include

a. Marriage Assistance Schemes.

- b. Maternity Assistance Schemes.
  - c. Livelihood Assistance Schemes
  - d. Hostels for Working Women
- and
- e. The setting up of All Women Police stations.

Tamil Nadu has had a glorious tradition of empowering women for positions in public life. This is one of the reasons why the State enjoys the pride of place in matters of development.

The State is endowed with good infrastructure, and a work culture where people work hard and work with efficiency and sincerity.

Tamil Nadu is the second largest State economy in India, contributing about 8.4 per cent

to India's GDP. Tamil Nadu is also one of the few States to reduce poverty at a rate faster than the All India average.

The State's Human Development Index is the second highest among large States and much higher than the national average because of the consistent and high levels of social sector expenditure in the areas of Health, Education, Nutrition, Welfare of Women and Children and Social Security.

The FLO agenda for the year is "Connect, Collaborate and Celebrate" and this has encouraged its members to connect with peers, collaborate for success, and celebrate the women achievers, who have displayed outstanding

success in their roles as entrepreneurs and professionals.

I wish to record my fullest appreciation for the elegant manner in which the FLO Chennai chapter has organised this function. This will definitely encourage more and more women to come forward to become entrepreneurs in industry and business. That this function is being held close to the celebration of the International Women's Day gives it an added luster. I extend my best wishes and greetings to all the office bearers and members of the FICCI Ladies Organisation. May success greet them in all their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam....  
Jai Hind....