

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Chief Guest at the inauguration of 12th National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme jointly organized by the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry States the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, and the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

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Hon'ble Governor said, "It gives me immense pleasure to be here today to inaugurate the 12th National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme being jointly organized by the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, and the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Tribes are a group of people having distinct language, culture, lifestyle and socio-economic condition and are living in a specific geographical area. The tribes residing in the remote corners of the nation do not have first-hand information about what is happening elsewhere in the country. As and when they are supported to get sufficient information and opportunities provided to interact with other civil societies, they develop national and emotional linkages. The tribal youth need to be engaged positively and educated properly with exposure enough to overcome his limitations and inhibitions. That is why this Tribal Youth Exchange programme has been organised. I appreciate this initiative.

I am informed that 200 tribal youths from four districts - Bastar, Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma of Chattishgarh State are here to spend valuable informative and enlightening stay in Tamil Nadu. Along with other 20 batches that are also given the opportunity to get enlightenment with the diverse culture of India – that is Unity in Diversity.

I would like to recall about a legendary Tribal leader, Birsa Munda, who was a tribal hero from the tribal belt of Chotanagpur. He fought against British Rule. He was

arrested and passed away in prison. Though he died at a young age, he is still remembered as a freedom fighter, religious leader and folk hero. He believed in the importance of cultural roots and influenced people to understand the importance of land and the rights that they possess with the land. Under his leadership, many protests took place making his vision into a revolution against British Rule.

I would like to bring back the remembrances to sacrifices of a few Tribal freedom fighters that fought for the Mother Land and people are Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh, Alluri Seetha Ram Raju, Rani Gaidinliu, Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu and others. Their contribution to freedom struggle is outstanding.

If the student and youth communities are getting sufficient information and opportunities to interact with their peer groups in other parts of the nation, the extremist activities among them can be curtailed. In this context, the tribal youth should be positively engaged and educated and for that; tribal Youth Exchange Programmes will be of great help.

I was told that during this seven-day programme, various activities are planned, such as visits to places of pilgrimage, participation in different seminars, workshops, exposure to career counselling and learning Life Skills etc.

I have no doubt that this will enlighten you. This will connect you to other parts of India and you will take inspiration to develop your own region like this. India is a great country with vast population and you are integral part of it. We are proud of our youths. You are future of India. Please learn here as much as possible. Create lifelong friendships with other participants here and develop your personality.

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan is working in the country since 1972 with the objective of providing rural youth avenues to take part in the process of nation-building and seek opportunities for the development of their personality and skills. It is a phenomenal expansion and growth of Nehru Yuva Kendra currently functional in 623 districts of the country and 29 State Offices in India under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. And it is trying to extend to all the 731 districts.

I am delighted to know that the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan is implementing various multifaceted programmes and schemes in convergence with various Central Ministries, State Government Departments, United Nations Organizations and other agencies for the development and empowerment of youth and create an opportunity to the youth to undertake the development activities across the country at its roots through the Youth Clubs for both male and female members of young generation.

The core strength of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan is a network of 2.73 lakh Youth Clubs at village-level in different stages of their existence and consolidation with an enrolment of about 80 million volunteers in the age-group of 15 to 29 years. It is the single largest organization in the world working for the upliftment and empowerment of the youth in the rural area in the very commendable process of nation-building.

I am glad to know that the main objective of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan is to involve the rural youth in nation-building activities and to develop such skills and values in them with which they become responsible and productive citizens of a modern, secular and technological nation.

I am happy to know that Tamil Nadu Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan is having active nine thousand three hundred and ninety three (9,393) Youth Clubs and Mahila Mandals with more than 2 lakh youth enrolment with different programmes and activities as enshrined in the given action plans with four thousand one hundred and twenty three (4,123) number of programmes with eight hundred and forty one (841) National Youth Volunteers in the districts.

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. Programmes such as these are performing that noble role of training and skilling the youth so that they may lead gainful lives.

Divisive forces always try to mislead the young people through different pernicious programmes. Safeguarding our youth from the clutches of the vested interests is the need of the hour. Tribal Youth Exchange Programme is a remarkable activity intended in this direction. Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan with the support of Ministry of Home Affairs, Border Security Force and Central Reserve Police Force continues its efforts to keep the Young people in the National Main Stream, and to take up responsibility to safeguard the Unity and Integrity of the country. All of us need to join hands together in this Programme for a Noble National Cause. Youth's life should be transparent, highly disciplined and corruption-free without bad habits. You dream big and go all out with your hard work to achieve it. My best wishes with you.

I appreciate the office-bearers of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, and the Ministry of Home

Affairs, Government of India who have taken painstaking efforts in the field of tribal upliftment. I also appreciate all those organisers and dignitaries who are extending all support in this Nation-Building Programme. I am sure that their efforts will be rewarded with bountiful success. May the blessings of God be showered on them in abundant measure.”

On this occasion, Thiru. S. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, National Vice Chairman, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Thiru. M.N. Nataraj, State Director, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Thiru. Dheeraj Kumar, I.A.S., Principal Secretary of Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. M. Balasubramanian, Former Zonal Director, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan,

Raj Bhavan, Chennai -22

Date : 01.02.2020

Sd/-

Addl. Director (PR)