

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE NSS VOLUNTEERS MEET AT RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI
ON 03.02.2020 AT 9.45 HRS.**

Shri. S. Sayeeram,
Regional Director,
Regional Directorate of NSS,
Government of India

Dr. C. Jothi Venkateswaran,
Director of Collegiate Education and
State Coordinator, NSS

Programme Co-ordinators

Dear Student-Members of the NSS

I am extremely happy to be in the midst of volunteers of the National Service Scheme (NSS) here at Raj Bhavan today.

The NSS, an organization dedicated to community services was launched in the birth centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi with 40,000 volunteers. Today, the NSS has about 40 lakh volunteers enrolled in 391 Universities, sixteen thousand two hundred and seventy eight (16,278) Colleges and twelve thousand four hundred and eighty three (12,483) Senior Secondary Schools. Tamil Nadu alone has a strength of Four lakh thirty eight thousand eight hundred (4,38,800) students in 52 Universities with a coverage of one thousand three hundred and thirty four (1,334) colleges and one thousand nine hundred and fifty three (1,953) Higher Secondary Schools.

India has a population of more than 130 crore and the 40 lakh volunteers of the NSS is still a small number in comparison. It is a matter of satisfaction that Tamil Nadu, which accounts for less than 7% of the population of India, has nearly 12% representation in the NSS. This is

reflective of the commitment to public service found in the State and among its people.

I came to know that the Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University initiated action to adopt one village in Kanceepuram district and one village in Thiruvallur district by the NSS and NCC units. I request all the NSS Volunteers to come forward to do service for the development of villages as dreamed by Mahatma Gandhi.

The sole **aim** of the NSS is to provide hands-on experience to young students in **delivering community service**. The **Motto of NSS "NOT ME BUT YOU"** reflects the essence of democratic living and upholds the need for self-less service. Never forget it. Always keep it in mind and follow it. For, it is adopting the message in actual life that we will sow seeds of collective happiness.

The young members of the contingent of the NSS who participated in the Republic Day Parade at Delhi have brought glory to our State. Your selection for the Republic Day Parade is a recognition of your talent and devotion to the organization and to good causes.

You have all come forward to devote your time for the benefit of the community, the State and the Nation. I appreciate your sense of service and applaud the excellent work that the organization has been doing in the country.

Mahatma Gandhi said and I quote,
**“Carefully watch your thoughts, for they become your words.
Manage and watch your words, for they will become your actions.
Consider and judge your actions, for they have become your habits.
Acknowledge and watch your habits, for they shall become your values.
Understand and embrace your values, for they become your destiny”**.

Mother Teresa said, and I quote “I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples”.

I am sure that your love for the nation, which has brought you into the NSS will lead you to greater heights of success in your academic and professional careers.

My best wishes to all of you assembled here. A bright future awaits you in the coming years.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....

Jai Tamil Nadu...