

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE AMBA C.P. REHAB CENTER  
ORGANISED BY ROTARY CLUB OF AMBATTUR AND AMBATTUR ROTARY  
CHARITABLE TRUST AT AMBATTUR ROTARY HOSPITAL, AMBATTUR,  
CHENNAI ON 28.03.2021 AT 11.00 A.M**

Anaivarukum Kaalai Vanakkam

Thiru. M. Viswanathan,  
President,  
Rotary Club of Ambattur

Thiru. Richard Fernandes,  
Managing Trustee,  
Ambattur Rotary Charitable Trust

Thiru. A.S.Venkatesh,  
Rotary International Director Elect

Thiru. S. Muthupalaniappan,  
Rotary District Governor

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be here today at inauguration of AMBA C.P Rehab Center being organised by the Rotary Club of Ambattur and Ambattur Rotary Charitable Trust.

Today, Rotary Club of Ambattur is inaugurating the wing par excellence for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of children affected by Cerebral Palsy and to help them learn the skills to overcome their shortcomings, thereby making these children to showcase themselves to the world that they are specially-abled to excel standing equal to fellow human beings.

It is said that God lives in “Service to Mankind” and the way you Rotarians dedicate yourself in service to the cause of the humanity, I believe that God lives in every person like you who serves.

I am aware that Rotary started with the vision of one man — Paul Harris in 1905 in Chicago along with three of his friends to nurture friendship among professional leaders in various vocations. Today, after 116 years, the movement has expanded exponentially and contributes to the community development and disease-prevention in a major way. Rotary’s untiring efforts in the last three decades and more towards total eradication of Polio from the face of the earth are praise-worthy.

The first motto of Rotary International in 1911 was "He Profits Most Who Serves Best," while in 1989 Rotary improved and made "Service Above Self" as its Principal Motto.

A nation can become great if its citizens are willing to serve the nation with sense of selflessness. All of you assembled here have the ability to change the society. Plan carefully before you act. Once you have decided to act, please do not look back. Your actions should be free from attachment and be guided only by the benefits they will confer on your society, the state and the nation.

The Government alone cannot take responsibility to build communities. This has been well comprehended and understood by Rotary and I could see that Rotary is vibrantly working hand in hand with Governments and supplement the efforts of building communities.

We are proud and blessed to have been born in India, which is one of the largest democracies in the world and the world's oldest culture. Our nation's economy is one of the fastest-growing economies. India is known for its rich culture and

tradition and has many firsts to its credit. Today, our nation is among the leaders in Information Technology and is an automobile hub and a destination for quality health care.

We have many good things to be proud of. But it is important to tell ourselves that it is our onerous responsibility to create a clean, healthy and new India. Each one of us should be in the forefront and lead in the decisive battle for the cause of cleanliness and hygiene.

Mahatma Gandhi not only fought for our nation's freedom, but also wanted to develop India into a clean Nation – morally, materially and physically. He had cleanliness and sanitation close to his heart. Gandhiji observed that our cleanliness was largely limited to daily bath and keeping our homes clean at the expense of our neighbours. He started cleaning toilets himself to motivate others.

Now we have to take it forward as a social movement. We see the streets, piled up with wastes; and our rivers are polluted. Unless and until we build in us a true spirit of cleanliness and determination to keep our place and surroundings hygienic, we

cannot make our nation disease-free. People of all walks of life, children and youth should play an active role in building a clean India. Developing “Cleanliness as our responsibility” among all, is the need of the hour. Washing of hands properly before taking food is imperative not only during this pandemic, but it should also become the way of life. It should be cultivated as a habit in the young children. It will help to prevent spread of disease to a great extent. Universities & educational institutions and NGOs like Rotary should make this possible and consistently preach until it becomes a habit and way of life.

True to the expectations and objective of Rotary, the Rotary Club of Ambattur has framed its road-map to serve in two vital and essential areas namely Health and Education.

The very thought of implementing a hospital project in the heart of an industrial estate to cater to the needs of the community when there was an absolute necessity existed way back in 1980, is laudable.

The hall-mark of the club’s activity at its hospital is the unit for rehabilitation of children affected by cerebral palsy. I am

happy to learn about the activities carried out in this department where God's own children are cared for with passion. The persons who are involved in this task, particularly the doctors and the therapists, have to be thanked with folded hands for their dedicated service.

Here, it is very apt to recall the words of Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much". I am sure that this is the theme with which the constitutional structure of Rotary is founded and formed. And Rotary Ambattur has simply put this into action with ease.

It is also important to make more and more youths take to social service by inculcating in them a passion for selfless service and the urge to dedicate themselves for larger social good so that the legacy that will be created by the present members will continue eternally for the times to come.

As Thiruvalluvar had said, "Smile, Charity, pleasant words and civility - These four are marks of true nobility."

May these noble features find complete expression in the Rotarians of this club and the members involved in its projects.

I thank the members of the club and organisers. May welfare-oriented movements like the Rotary swell in size, multiply in magnitude and fill the earth with goodness and humanity. I extend my best wishes to all the Rotarians.

I conclude with the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Nandri Vanakkam.....

Jai Hind....

Jai Tamil Nadu.....