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RAJ BHAVAN, TAMIL NADU - PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU PRESIDED OVER UNVEILING
STATUE OF THIRUVARUTPRAKASA VALLALAR AND HIS BIRTH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI, TODAY
(05.10.2023)**

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, today (05.10.2023) presided over the unveiling of the statue of Thiruvarutprakasa Vallalar and his birth anniversary celebrations conducted at Raj Bhavan, Chennai. Dr. L. Murugan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying and Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India, participated in the celebrations. The statue is located in Vallalar Park, renamed now and earlier known as Independence Day Park, on the campus.

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu in his presidential address, Raj Bhavan has been blessed with the presence of the great divine soul, saint Thiruvarutprakasa Vallalar, on the auspicious occasion of his 200th birth anniversary. He mentioned Saint Vallalar as one of the great divine souls who deeply sharpened the idea and identity of Bharat. Our society must be aware of who he was and what he did for our society.

Hon'ble Governor elaborated Bharat as a unique Nation. Unlike the western concept of a state, Bharat is a Rashtra, which can only be understood if we come close to Bharat. Babasaheb Ambedkar knew that over the period of colonisation, our people got intellectually removed from our own roots and started looking at our own country the way the British looked at it. That is why, in the first Article of our Constitution, he illustrated India that is Bharat. India is a western name. Hon'ble Governor further elaborated on Bharat as a sacred land created by our innumerable Rishis and Siddhars based on Darshan, which was revealed to them several thousand years ago. The fundamental truth of the oneness of creation and the presence of the same divine in every element of creation It has been well documented in our Vedas and Thirukkural.

We are all connected to the same divine with our apparent diversities, which are well reflected in our Bharatiya ethos, encapsulated as "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", and in Tamil, we mention it as "Yaadum OoreYaavarum Kelir". The language and the expression may be different, but the core is the same. This unique and all-inclusive universal Darshan spread over the land, which is called Bharat. And we are all part of one Kutumbam.

Governor further explained it with historic references: when Bengal was partitioned on religious lines, the whole Nation without any coordinated movement, organically revolted against it. The great nationalist freedom fighter V.O. Chidambaram Pillai resented and revolted. As a result of these collective revolts, they had to undo the partition. When the Jalianwala Baagh Massacre happened, our great leader, K. Kamaraj, revolted. It shows how deeply we were integrated. He also elaborated on this by quoting Mahakavi Bharathiar's lines "Seppu Mozhi Pathinettu Udaiyal Chinthanai Ondrudaiyal". In the next 40 years, in 1947, when Bharat was partitioned, no such revolt happened. What happened in the next 40 years? It is a matter of serious concern and also a subject of research. Even after independence, we continued looking at our Nation from a British perspective.

Some of our people distorted, mischievously or out of negligence, the eternal, all-inclusive Sanatan Dharma. He cited the famous quote of Saint Vallalar, "Vaadiya Payirai Kanda Pothellam Vaadinen". He said that a Sanatan Dharma, which is based on such Darshan, can never advocate or tolerate any form of discrimination. What we see today is an impurity, a disease, existing in our society because of human weaknesses that need to be corrected. Such aberrations cannot be made part of identity. From time to time, there have been attempts made in the past to correct it. Hon'ble Governor further explained the contributions made by great divine souls

such as Rishabhdev, Lord Buddha, and Ramanujacharya, who, with their Darshan tried to cure such aberrations.

Hon'ble Governor mentioned Rishi Aurobindo's dream, where he mentioned Bharat is the only country where this wisdom of oneness of creation was revealed, and so it is the divinely mandated duty of Bharat to spread this wisdom to the rest of the world for the welfare of humanity. For which Bharat, must be capable and self-reliant (Atmanirbhar). Recently, at the G-20 summit, the member countries expressed their trust and belief in the Sanatana Adhyatma and Sanatana Dharma of Bharat. Today, the world looks to Bharat for leadership to address issues of existential crisis.

Today, we have a great National leader who looks upon this country as a Kutumbam. All welfare schemes reach every citizen, irrespective of their political dispensation, region, religion, or caste. With this outlook, our Nation is addressing many challenges and experiencing revolutionary transformations. Hon'ble Governor mentioned that today India is moving ahead in various fields such as economy, Science and Technology but we need to have a comprehensive resurgence, which also includes a spiritual resurgence, or else we will be a poor imitation of the West.

To draw inspiration for these monumental responsibilities, the statue of Saint Vallalar has been established in the Raj Bhavan. It will guide us and

make us (including the visitors and guests) aware of who we are and what we are supposed to do.

In this celebrations, cultural programme of village folk on Vallalar was performed by the artistes. Hon'ble Governor released the Book on Thiruvarutprakasa Vallalar and felicitated sculptor Thiru. Kishor J Nagappa, the eminent personalities Thiru Saidai Duraisamy, Chairman of Manidhaneeyam Trust, Thiru Nalli. Kuppuswamy Chetti of Nalli Silks, Tmt. Divya Swapna Raj of Women League Foundation, Dr. C.M.K.Reddy, President of Linguistic Minorities Association, Thiru. Tamilaruvi Maniyan, Gandhian & Writer, Tmt. Meenakshi of Amma Samayal (YouTube), Ms. Prasiddhi Singh, Prime Minister Bal Purashkar Awardee and the cultural artistes. Thiru. R.Kirlosh Kumar, I.A.S., Secretary to Governor, Thiru. B. Prabhakaran, President, Vallalar 200, Thiru. Radhakrishnan, Managing Director, Kalyani Metals, Chennai, dignitaries, distinguished invitees, members of Vallalar Organisation, devotees, students, officials and staff of Raj Bhavan were participated in the event.

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Raj Bhavan Chennai-22

Released by/xx

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