

RAJ BHAVAN, TAMIL NADU - PRESS RELEASE

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU PRESIDED OVER THE '192ND
AYYA VAIKUNDAR AVATHARA DINA VIZHA' AND BOOK RELEASE
OF 'SRI MAHAVISHNU'S AVATHARAM SRI VAIKUNDASWAMY
ARULIYA SANATHANA VARALARU (TAMIL VERSION)' ON 04.03.2024
(TODAY)**

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru.R.N.Ravi presided over the 192nd Ayya Vaikundar Avathara Dina Vizha' and released book, Sri Mahavishnu's Avatharam Sri Vaikundaswamy Aruliya Sanathana Varalaru (Tamil Version)' organised at Raj Bhavan, Chennai, today (04.03.2024).

Hon'ble Governor, in his presidential address, recalled Ayya Vaikundar's profound contributions in fighting against social discrimination and tirelessly worked for the marginalized, suppressed section of society, establishing social justice, the core of Sanatan Dharma. From time immemorial, whenever there was a severe decline of Dharma, Lord Narayana appeared to save Dharma and remove Adharma from society. In that tradition, Narayana appeared as Ayya Vaikundar. He protected, preserved and further enriched the Sanatan Dharma. Sanatan Dharma, which believed in equality and the manifestation of the same divine in all, welcomes and assimilates different faiths. Governor mentioned that Christianity reached Bharat much before it reached Europe; our country has one of the oldest Mosques in the world, built in the time of Prophet Mohammed. Our society grew and prospered as one Kutumbam, with the ethos and values that believe in "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", and "Yaadhum Oore Yaavarum Kelir".

Governor Ravi gave a brief account of the socio-cultural and historical background prevailing during the time when Ayya Vaikundar appeared. He mentioned the time when the problem started emerging, people from outside started targeting and systematically destroying Sanatan Dharma for their own vested interests. There was an overall attempt to destroy Sanatan Dharma. In 1600, when East India Company came to India for trading, one of the tasks given to them was to evangelize India by changing their faith and bringing them to Gospel. When the British Government took over, to make their colonial empire endure, they started strategically destroying the Sanatan Dharma, which kept the society, which was immensely rich and diverse. They also targeted institutions that were owned by society through policies. It is well mentioned in the Charter Act of 1813, passed by the British Parliament. Henry Templeton, the then British Prime Minister, in his speech in the British Parliament, called evangelisation of India not only their duty but also a necessity. They had a society called the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG), started recruiting school dropouts by providing basic training and sent them to India. People like Robert Caldwell and G.U. Pope were sent to India. Robert Caldwell, who failed to finish his formal education, not even passed the school, authored a fake book called 'Grammer of Dravidian Languages'. They started closing all the native schools, running here for a long time. Only Missionaries were allowed to run the schools and they will only get admission when they are baptized. They started targeting the people who were poor and marginalized and in this background, they started targeting the southern districts of Tamil Nadu. On November 11, 1839, around 90,000 people signed a petition presented by Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty requesting the British not to destroy Dharma, not to make baptism a compulsion for attending the school. During this time when Sanatan Dharma was under acute existential threat, great

saints like Ayya Vaikundar (1833) and Thiruvartuprakasa Vallalar (1824) appeared on this sacred land.

Even today, there are people who want to destroy Sanatan Dharma. They are the followers of those who collaborated with the British, mourned on August 15, 1947, our Independence Day, and observed it as a Black Day. Sanatan is where everything is inclusive. As all the other faiths are divisive, the world is looking forward to Sanatan Dharma.

Today, our country is awake and experiencing a comprehensive resurgence. We are all fortunate that we are living in this age, witnessing and participating, playing our role. Hon'ble Prime Minister's call for 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas' is the essence of the teachings and vision of Ayya Vaikundar Swamikal. Today, we are fulfilling his dreams, mission, and vision, which also resonated in the Hon'ble Prime Minister's message on the birth anniversary of Ayya Vaikundar Swamikal. Today, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. Narendra Modi, all the development programs and welfare schemes are reaching out to the poor and leaving no one behind. Everyone has equal access to the basic ingredients of healthy citizenry.

On this auspicious occasion, Advocate R. Ramalingam, Author & Convener, International Ayya Pathi's Confederation (IPAC), Ms.T Seetha Lekshmi, Founder, Akilam Academy, Thiru. P.Durai Palam, Admin Head, Manali, Ayya Dharmapathi, Thiru. Suresh Ponnu, Secretary, Ayya Vazhi Service Foundation (IASF), Panagudi, dignitaries, distinguished guests, members of Ayya Vazhi Service Foundation and the functionaries were in presence.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai-22

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