

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

BJP bid to create unrest via Murugan meet: Thiruma

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Madurai: VCK president Thol Thirumavalavan has accused BJP and Sangh Parivar of trying to use the names of Hindu deities to create unrest and disrupt religious harmony in various states. "Now, they are experimenting with Murugan devotees' conference, but the people of Tamil Nadu would not fall for such propaganda," he said.

Thirumavalavan was addressing a human chain protest on Thursday evening by Madurai Religious Harmony People's Federation, which includes leftist, Islamic outfits, and human rights organisations, against the Murugan devotees conference to be held in Madurai on June 22. The human chain extended from Raja Muthaiah Mandram to Gandhi Museum.

He said that earlier in the morning, he visited Thiruparankundram Murugan temple and Sikkandar Dargah on Thiruparankundram hill. While the BJP and Hindu right-wing outfits have been 'spewing hate' over the ownership of the hill, he said he saw Hindus and Muslims living in harmony. "Hindus and Muslims don't see each other as enemies. But some people in the BJP are openly saying Thiruparankundram will turn into another Ayodhya dispute," he said.

"From Ramar in the North, Durga in West Bengal, Vinayagar in Maharashtra, and Sabarimala issue in Kerala, the BJP uses deities' names to create unrest," he said. "There may be caste clashes now and then, but Tamil Nadu should never suffer from religious divide," he added. The VCK leader said the BJP wanted to desperately woo the mukkalathor community after successfully getting support from nadars in Kanyakumari and Tuticorin. "Votebank politics is their ultimate goal. If it was truly a Murugan conference for devotees' sake, would they have priests perform all the 'archanai' in Tamil for the model exhibit of six abodes of Lord Murugan they set up," he said.

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