

**ADDRESS AT THE INAUGURATION OF DECEMBER ART FESTIVAL-2017 OF
BRAHMA GANA SABHA AT SMT. SIVAGAMI PETHACHI AUDITORIUM,
ALWARPET, CHENNAI ON 03/12/2017 AT 06.00 P.M.**

AnaivarukumMaalaiVanakkam
(अनैवरककुम मालै वणक्कम)

NeinghalAnaivarumNalama ?
(नींगल अन्नैवरुम नलमा ?)

It is a pleasure to inaugurate the December Art Festival of Brahma Gana Sabha, confer the titles to eminent artists and address this distinguished gathering.

At the outset, I congratulate Chennai for being included in the 'UNESCO's Creative Cities Network' for its rich musical tradition. This honour has come because of you all; the great musicians and artists of yesteryears and today, who have nurtured our rich music, dance, culture and traditions. It is an honour and pride to be the resident of Chennai.

'ungalAnnaivarukumEnathuParaatukal.,
(उंगलअनैवरककुमएनदपाराटूकल)

I convey my warm felicitations to all the artists, sabhas, connoisseurs (कोनेसर्स) of art, rasikas and the Chennaiites on this historic occasion and wish that Tamil Nadu adds many more diamonds in the Crown of India.

Our Classical Music has a captivating audience across the globe. The secret of its vitality is its growth without losing its purity and pristine form. History reveals that in our ancient societies, music and dance were a part of daily life and they were deeply rooted in religions. There have been no civilizations without music, dance and art.

We feel proud of our heritage and also proud of our present dayartists. Hearing them and witnessing their performance is really a pleasure. We should cultivate in the younger generation a flair for music and dance. Everyone should be brought closer to this wealth of beauty of movement and sound. Zonal cultural centres, Art foundations and Sabhas should act as a catalyst in creating a bridge between tradition and modernity. We need to preserve the purity of our arts as well as welcome new ideas and new combinations.

I congratulate Brahma Gana Sabha for its contribution towards promotion of Art and Culture right from its inception.

Its initiatives to conduct monthly Music, Dance and Drama programmes regularly for the past 48 years deserve appreciation. I am happy to learn that most of the leading South Indian Musicians have performed under the Brahma Gana Sabha Banner and renowned Dancers have stages their performances.

Music and art are Universal and cross all barriers. Music is the complete expression of the soul reflecting the inner life. Today we see fusion music gaining

popularity. The innovative projects like spirit of Regional unity concerts, music and dance features, Music and Dance Therapy combined with yoga therapy are gaining significance.

I congratulate Dr. T.V. Gopalakrishnan, Dr. M. Chandrasekaran, Tmt. Nandini Ramani, Thiru B.M. Purushothaman for their distinguished contribution in their field of art.

I conclude with the words of Dr. Rukmani Devi Arundale,

“When you hear the sound of music or see the colours in a beautiful picture, you not only hear the music or see the picture; you see into the very soul of the artists and even more you see the soul of art itself.” This is the beauty of real art and artists.

I appeal to Younger artists to draw inspiration for them. It is your continued practice and dedication that will help you to excel.

If it is Music and Dance Festival in Chennai

what immediately comes to us is Dr. Nallikuppuswami Chettiar. His contribution to promote art and culture deserves commendation.

I convey my warm felicitations to the recipients of Titles, participating artists and to all the Rasikas. I wish the December Art Festival all success.

My greetings to all of you.

Jai Hind. Jai Tamil Nadu. Nandri. Vanakkam.