

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF BHAVAN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE  
CULTURAL FESTIVAL ORGANISED BY BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN AT  
MYLAPORE, CHENNAI ON 18.11.2018 AT 10.30 A.M**

**Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam**

**Padma Bhushan Awardee Thiru. K.Parasaran,**  
Former Attorney General of India and  
Vice-Chairman, Bhavan's Chennai Kendra

**Padma Bhushan Awardee Vidushi Dr. Sudha Ragunathan**  
Carnatic Vocalist

**Padmashri Awardee Dr. Nalli Kuppuswami Chetti,**  
Vice-Chairman, Bhavan's Chennai Kendra

**Padmashri Awardee Dr. Vyjayanthimala Bali**  
Bharatanatyam Exponent

**Padma Vibhushan Dr. Umayalpuram K.Sivaraman**  
Mrudangam Vidwan

**Padma Bhushan Prof. T.N. Krishnan**  
Violin Vidwan

**Thiru. K.N.Ramaswamy**  
Director, Bhavan's Chennai Kendra

**Thiru. M. Murali,**  
Hon. Secretary, Bhavan's Chennai Kendra

**Distinguished Invitees**

**Ladies & Gentlemen**

It gives me great pleasure to be here today on the occasion of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Diamond Jubilee Cultural festival.

My joy is all the more compounded by the fact that the function is being organized at Mylapore which serves as the cradle of Tamil art and culture.

The Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan which was started in 1938 has completed 80 years of glorious service in the fields of Education, Culture and related fields through its centres in India and abroad.

The Bhavan has as its mission the preservation and propagation of the rich cultural heritage of India so as to ensure its continuance from generation to generation. It has its firm faith in Sarva Dharma Sama Bhava.

To strengthen and hasten the process of bringing about cultural unity the various centres of the Bhavan adopt the path of promoting nationalism with a spiritual orientation and a spirit of service. The Bhavan also places great emphasis on modern education, science and technology while remaining strongly rooted in India's cultural and spiritual values. There is a constant effort to promote communal harmony in various ways. All the activities that take place in the Kendras invariably start with Sarva Dharma prayers, a selection from the Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Zoroastrian, Sikh, Jain and Buddhist scriptures. That the Chennai Kendra is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee Cultural festival is proof of the long and passionate linkage between the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and Tamil Culture.

Tamil Nadu has always been the treasure house of Indian culture since the art forms that evolved in the Indian mind through the ages have been preserved here with great care and patronage. And the speciality of this cultural expression has been its spiritual orientation. The world over, dance and music are expected to calm the mind and please the bodily senses. The Indian form of cultural expression goes one step further in that, it appeals to the soul. Hence Carnatic music performances become soul stirring in character when they are rendered with devotion and reverence to the art form.

Carnatic music is based upon a complex and structured arrangement. The ragas are based on the seven notes of the scale which are Sa Ri Ga Ma Pa Dha Nee. The Thalam is the rhythmic foundation of Carnatic music. There are a number of sections in a Carnatic music recital. The Varnam is a composition usually at the beginning of the recital. It is made up of two parts – the Poorvanga and Utharanga. The Kritis are the compositions which are based on the raga and they have well identified composers. The Alapana offers a way to unfold the ragam to the audience and at the same time gives license to the artiste to show his creativity.

There is a strong tradition of linkage of Carnatic music with Gods and Goddesses. Lord Shiva is considered to be the embodiment of Nadham. Goddess Parvathi is seen as the embodiment of Lasya, the feminine quality. Goddess Saraswathi is associated with the Veena and Nandi is considered to be the master of

Laya. Hanuman was an expert on the Hanumantha Veena which is considered to be the precursor to the present day Chitra Veena and Lord Krishna is always associated with the flute.

Purandara Dasa, who lived in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries, is acclaimed as the father of Carnatic Music. To him goes the credit of codifying the Carnatic Music form. He was also a great composer and several thousand songs are attributed to him. After him came a great theorist of Carnatic Music Venkata Mukhi, who developed the system of classifying the ragas of Carnatic Music.

As the Carnatic Music form evolved, it attained its peak in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century when the 'Trinity' of Thyagaraja Swamikal, Shamashastry and Muthuswami Dikshitar composed their unforgettable compositions. Subsequently it was enriched by many other great composers like, Papanasam Sivan, Swati Thirunal, Annamacharya and Arunagiri Nathar.

Their outpouring of music was inspired by devotion and divine grace and it is no wonder that even today when their songs are rendered on stage one is able to visualize the presence of the divine. Some of Thyagaraja's famous Kritis such as Entharo Mahanu Bhavulu and Saamaja varagamana etc are ample evidence for this.

Lord Nataraja is known in Tamil as 'Sabesan'. Every dance recital begins with an invocation to Lord Nataraja. This offering to Lord Nataraja, who balances the universe through his cosmic dance is again reflective of the connection between the Universal atman and the cultural atman in the form of dance.

Famous cultural artists of Tamil Nadu are being honoured today with the presentation of the Bhavan's legendary awards. They are all very well known to every culturally awakened household not only in Tamil Nadu but almost all over India. Umayalpuram Sivaram, is a great exponent of the Mridangam who has shared the stage with great musicians like M.S.Subbulakshmi, Pandit Ravi Shankar, Ustad Alla Rakha, Pandit Kishen Maharaj. His innovations on the mridangam have elevated the percussion instrument to centre stage in Carnatic music. He has been decorated with the "Padma Vibhshan" by the Government of India.

Padma Shri Dr. Vyjayantimala Bali's name figures prominently in the ranks of those who have heralded the renaissance of Bharatanatyam over the last three decades. Vyjayantimala has to her credit a number of dance-dramas which have been

conceived, directed and presented by her. Her performances on the silver screen have been memorable and will remain an inspiration for all times to come.

Padma Bhushan Thiru. T.N.Krishnan was a Professor of Music in Chennai and later served as a Dean of the School of Music and Fine Arts at the University of Delhi. His contribution to Carnatic music, particularly as a violinist will remain etched in letters of gold forever. His name is associated with legends like Musiri Subramania Iyer, Alathur Brothers, Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavata, and M D Ramanathan.

I am happy that the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan has taken special efforts to honour these legendary cultural artists of Tamil Nadu on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee festival.

Our Nation is the leader to the World in the field of spirituality. Tolerance, mutual respect, acceptance and assimilation of all that is good have dictated our spiritual orientation.

As a part of the Bhavan, I feel proud that this spiritual orientation is the guiding spirit behind this cultural festival also. I am sure that the lamp lit today will continue to show the path for several succeeding generations. I conclude by appreciating the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai Kendra for having organised this cultural festival in a befitting manner. I am sure that the banner of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan will continue to fly with grandeur and majesty all over India. My best wishes to all those assembled here on this happy occasion.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....