

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF BHAVAN'S CULTURAL
FESTIVAL 2019 ORGANISED BY BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN AT BHAVAN'S
MAIN AUDITORIUM, MYLAPORE, CHENNAI ON 17.11.2019 AT 10.00 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Justice Thiru. S. Jagadeesan,
Former Judge, Madras High Court

Thiru. Mohan Parasaran,
Senior Advocate (Supreme Court) and
Former Solicitor General of India

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

Dr.T.V.Gopalakrishnan,
Carnatic Musician

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

Thiru. R. Aaravamudachariar,
Harikatha Exponent

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be here today at the inauguration of the Annual Cultural Festival being organised by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. My joy is all the more compounded by the fact that the function is being organised at Mylapore which serves as the cradle of Tamil art and culture.

The months of November and December bring along festivity and joy to the residents of Chennai in the form of festivals of music and dance being conducted by different organizations. That the city has patronized art and culture in a sustained manner all through its history is a matter of pride and satisfaction.

As you are all aware Chennai is a relatively modern city which started getting developed only from the 16th century. As the city became more and more prosperous it attracted artists from all corners of the state. Artists such as Marimuthu Pillai, the legendary Muthuswamy Dikshitar, and Arunachala Kavi were patronized by the city in its early years. Among the early patrons of the fine arts one can mention the names of Thiru. Manali Muthukrishna Mudaliar and Thiru Linghi Chetty. Long time Mylapore residents may fondly recall that several front ranking artists of the 20th century like Prof Ramanathan, D.K.Jayaraman and Papanasam Sivan used to lead the bhajans around the four

Mada Veedhis of Kapaleeswar temple in the month of December every year.

It is probably for this uninterrupted support provided to the promotion of art and culture that the UNESCO has accorded a special recognition and status for Chennai by including it in the list of Creative Cities Network.

The greatness of Indian culture lies in its ability to draw people away from mundane interests and towards elevated thought processes. Hence we have had thinkers, philosophers and spiritual leaders in Indian society of a class who served as beacons of light for the whole world. It was one such leader

in whose mind originated the idea of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

The Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan the brain child of Shri. K.M.Munshi was thus founded in 1938. The aim was the preservation and propagation of the rich cultural heritage of India so as to ensure its continuance from generation to generation. The Bhavan's credo is An No Bhadraha Krathavo yanthu Vishwataha - Let Noble Thoughts Come to us from every side.

The Cultural activities of the Bhavan have the underlying message of cultural unity and inter-faith harmony.

To strengthen and hasten the process of bringing about this cultural unity the various centres of the Bhavan adopt the path of promoting nationalism with a spiritual orientation and a spirit of service.

The Chennai Kendra of the Bhavan which has completed more than 60 years follows this path unswervingly in all its activities whether they be related to fine arts or education.

The Bhavans School named after the first Indian Governor General of free India has built up a reputation for value based education. The music and fine arts programmes organised by the Bhavan revolve around various important cultural events

linked with popular practices such as the 1. Aadi Bakthi Vizha Festival, 2. Navarathri Festival, 3. Discourses on the Thiruppaavai and the 4. Saint Thiyagaraja Aradhana. This Annual Cultural Festival being inaugurated today also focuses on Carnatic music and dance.

Carnatic music has a rich spiritual content and a passionate devotional element which makes it unique and divine. Similarly, the various dance forms that will be performed in this festival have the central theme of propagating spiritual ideas and stories from the ancient texts. The music is divine and all the performers are intimately linked with the creator.

Both Carnatic music and dance have had the benefit of the Guru - Shishya tradition that ensured transmission of knowledge and skill with proper mentoring.

Actually, the Guru–Shishya relationship is derived from the Upanishads. The term "Upanishad" is a combination of three Sanskrit words "upa" meaning “near”, "ni" meaning “down” and "ṣad" meaning “to sit” — so it means "sitting down near" a spiritual teacher to receive instruction.

Famous cultural artistes have been 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 Chennai but almost all over Tamil Nadu.

Kalyanapuram R. Aaravamudachariar, is the senior most exponent of Harikatha, a composite art which is incorporated with classical music, literature, moral and spiritual values etc., His maiden public Harikatha performance was at the Music Academy and his performances attract huge audience, who are kept spellbound by the scintillating and soul-stirring music.

Tripunithura Viswanathan Gopalakrishnan popularly known as TVG, is one of the rare musicians who is equally proficient in both Carnatic and Hindustani Vocal, mrudangam and violin.

Gopalakrishnan was given the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and he has been awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India.

I am happy that the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan has taken special efforts to honour these legendary cultural artistes on the occasion of the Cultural Festival. I wish them well and I am sure that their contributions will continue to enrich our cultural landscape for many more years.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai Kendra and congratulate them on this festival which has been an annual offering made to uphold culture and tradition for 18 years. The efforts being taken by the

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan should continue and the banner of the Bhavan and all such spiritually inclined institutions should fly with grandeur and majesty not only in India but also all over the world. This alone will ensure that the path for succeeding generations is well illuminated so that they can diligently uphold our cultural legacy and tradition.

Let us all on this occasion recall the famous words of Mark Twain who said, “India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legends and the great grandmother of tradition.”

Nandri Vanakkam...

Jai Tamil Nadu....

Jai Hind....