

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU, AT THE VALEDICTORY FUNCTION OF "BRIDGE NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON INDIAN FINE ARTS", ORGANISED BY BRIDGE ACADEMY AT
KUMARARANI MEENA MUTHIAH COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE,
CHENNAI ON 29.12.2019 AT 5.30 P.M**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Thiru. N. Raghuraman,
Chairman, Bridge Academy

Dr. Premeela Gurumurthy,
Vice Chancellor,
Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University

Padma Bhushan Thiru. Vikku Vinayakram

Nritya Choodamani Thiru. C. V. Chandrasekar

Thiru. Hai Madhan

Thiru. T. Selvakumar

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me pleasure to be here at the valedictory function of "Bridge National Conference on Indian Fine arts" organised by the Bridge Academy. I am happy to see veteran artists here for this wonderful event.

December brings with it a plethora of fine arts festivals. This is the time when Chennai plays host to a set of illustrious musicians and dancers who are patronized by distinguished intelligent audiences, knowledgeable in their appreciation of fine arts. I am

sure, an impressive array of musicians and artists who have nurtured the rich Classical Music, Dance and Cultural traditions of Tamil Nadu for so long might have performed at this function also.

Indian culture is one of the unique cultures in the world. Since ancient period, the real meaning of culture is the part of naturally-evolved tradition that renders life smooth, interesting, relieving and peaceful. Culture has evolved in the form of Fine Arts comprising Music, Dance, Drama and various other forms. Fine arts are not merely a form of entertainment but contribute tremendously as a therapeutic, stress-relieving and peace-spreading tool for people of all walks of life.

The dedication with which this tradition is being propagated is incredible and admirable. Fine Art is the complete expression of the soul reflecting the inner beauty within us. Indian Art forms which were developed in this part of India have never been influenced by outsiders. In that sense, our Fine Art forms have substantially retained their original flavour and flair and flourish, traditional roots and cultural purity.

Carnatic Music and Bharathanatyam are South Indian Art forms which stand as examples of the rich and ancient tradition of India. The Sama Veda, which is believed to be the foundation for Indian classical music, consists of hymns set to musical tunes that are normally sung using three to seven musical notes during 'havans' and 'yajnas'. References to Indian Classical Music are found in many ancient texts, including epics like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata and also in Silappathikaram and Thirukkural etc. As this musical art form evolved over centuries, it attained recreational quality with the patronage of Kings and Emperors.

Avvaiyar's sayings **“Sanga Thamizh Moondrum Thaa”** in a song depicts the Iyal, Isai and Nadagam cultured and preserved in olden days.

Later on Purandara Dasa, Venkata Mukhi, ‘Trinity’ of Thyagaraja Swamikal, Syamashastri and Muthuswami Dikshitar, Papanasam Sivan, Swati Thirunal and Annamacharya made very valuable contribution to the Carnatic Music. It is important to recall at this stage that the Tamil Trinity of Muthu Thandavar, Arunachala Kavi and Marimuttha Pillai, through their hundreds of devotional songs, have helped immensely in the evolution of the Tamil Classical Music tradition.

Dance weaves the country together even as it celebrates the diversity and colours of the land with all its beauty and grace. It is a celebration of the body, the mind and the spirit. It is Spiritual; it is esoteric and is a manifestation of the Jeevatma yearning to merge with the Paramatma.

The Indian Classical Dance form Bharathanatyam, originally known as Sadhiraattam, owes its current name to E. Krishna Iyer and Rukmini Devi Arundale, who were instrumental in modifying dancing style and bringing it to the global attention.

In this context, let me quote to you the words of **Dr.Rukmani Devi Arundale**: She said and I quote, **“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.

It is important to recall at this stage that the stalwarts of Fine Arts Society, like M. S. Subbulakshmi, Palghat K. V. Narayanaswamy, Dr. M. Balamurali Krishna, Ustad Alla Rakha, Ustad Vilayat Khan, Ustad Zakir Hussain, Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra,

Pandit Birju Maharaj, Vempati Chinna Satyam, Sonal Mansingh, Dr. Padma Subramanyam, Dr. Chitra Visweswaran, Dr. Dhananjayan immensely helped in the evolution and propagation of the Classical Music and Dance traditions. We are grateful to these Gurus and also all music lovers.

To sustain and to maintain the heritage of our cultural arts through younger generation in a systematic way, the Bridge Academy has initiated the process of standardizing and institutionalizing the syllabus without compromising the legacy of Indian Fine Art forms into an eight-grade syllabus in Carnatic Music, Bharathanatyam and Art, through which to bridge the gap between learning and certification.

Today, the Bridge Academy For Music & Fine Arts, Chennai, in pursuit of enhancing opportunity for the budding artistes in Indian Fine Arts in various countries, has taken a great leap of initiatives to bring talented learners and experts from across the globe to a common platform in December Season coinciding with Margazhi Music Festival to share the treasures of knowledge, teaching techniques, methods of learning, results and research experiments to ensure percolation to all layers of society with young researchers and budding performers to a common agenda of achievement.

Bridge National Conference on Indian Fine Arts has lined up different kinds of activities like lectures-and-demonstrations, workshops, panel discussions, paper presentations and exhibition on music, dance and art.

I understand that Panel of Experts has discussed issues, accomplishments concerning the subject of teaching, learning, and thereby propagating the essence of Indian Fine Arts. This conference also endeavours to celebrate the ageless tradition as well as embrace the progression of Indian Fine Arts.

We are proud of our heritage and our culture. We should also cultivate in the younger generation a flair for music and dance. The institutions such as this should act as catalysts in creating a bridge between tradition and modernity. It should be our firm resolve to make the cultural institutions of India grow stronger with time so as to cement the foundations of our great nation and thus keep the banner of our culture and tradition flying high so that generations to come will feel proud of their inheritance just as we do now.

I congratulate the Bridge Academy for its contribution towards promotion of Art and Culture. I wish the Teachers the very best in their avowed profession, and bless the Students to achieve tremendous growth year after year to scale great heights.

Nandri Vanakkam.....

Jai Hind.....

Jai Tamil Nadu....