

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU
AT THE 7TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN AT
VASANTHAM HALL, HOTEL SANGAM, TRICHY ON 20.07.2018 AT 7.00 P.M.**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Dr. S. Chandrakumar

Thiru. K. N. Ramaswamy

Thiru. T. V. Murali

Thiru. M. Somasundaram

Thiru. O.S.Arun

Thiru. K. R. Suresh Kumar

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am glad to be amidst all of you for the 7th anniversary celebrations of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Kendra, in the city of Tiruchirapalli. With its Rockfort landmark and the Uchhi Pillaiyar temple on the highest eminence of the hillock, Trichy city has been a symbol of culture heritage in the state and I feel proud that the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan which holds aloft the banner of Indian Culture is advancing rapidly in a city traditionally known for its cultural richness.

Indian culture, often labeled as an amalgamation of several cultures, spans across the Indian subcontinent and has been influenced and shaped by a history that is thousands of years old.

The Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan which was started in 1938 is completing 80 years of glorious service in the fields of Education, Culture and other relative 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. The Bhavan's credo is An No Bhadraha Krathavo yanthu Vishwataha - Let Noble Thoughts Come to us from every side.

The Bhavan conducts several cultural and educational activities with the underlying message of cultural unity and inter-faith harmony, without there being any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, language or social and economic status.

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 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 and schools invariably start with Sarva Dharma prayers, a selection from the Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Zoroastrian, Sikh, Jain and Buddhist scriptures.

The Bhavan's friend and Honorary Member, Mr. Harol Macmillan, the former Prime Minister of U K, while accepting the honorary membership at a function in Mumbai once said and I quote: "The whole purpose of the Bhavan's movement is to underscore the essential unity of all religions, in spite of the superficial differences. I deeply appreciate this aspect of the Bhavan's multifarious activities".

The rise of institutions such as the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan is necessary to maintain intact the spiritual foundations of India. Our Nation is the leader to the World in the field of spirituality. The spiritual greatness of India is evidenced by the sustainability of its civilization. Tolerance, mutual respect, acceptance and assimilation of all that is good have dictated our spiritual orientation.

This was clearly expressed by Swami Vivekananda when he spoke at the Parliament of Religions at Chicago, more than a century ago. At that historic address he said and I quote "I thank you in the name of mother of religions for it fills my heart with joy for having been so warmly and cordially welcomed. I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world tolerance and universal acceptance and to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and nations. I am proud to tell you that we have Israelites, who came to South India when their temple was shattered to pieces by Roman tyranny. We foster the remnants of the grand Zoroastrian nation". He went on to say that religious unity will come not by the triumph of any one of the religions but by assimilating the spirit of other religions while preserving the individuality of one's own religion. Assimilation and not destruction, harmony but not dissension.

It was this underlying principle of assimilation that guided the Bhavan to set up the Sarva Dharma Maitri Project in 1990. The Sarva Dharma Maitri Pratisthan seeks to provide a forum for people to come together with the long term goal of enabling a better understanding of all faiths so as to realize that every faith provides in its tenets the steps for enabling the ascent of man to divinity.

The Trichy Kendra is the 119th branch of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan family and was inaugurated in 2011 with the objective of bringing about a cultural renaissance in the City.

Since 2011, the Trichy Kendra has been active in promoting a range of programmes reflecting the vision of Dr. K.M. Munshi. I wish that they should move faster to fulfill another vision of Dr. Munshi.

He had a visionary view of education. He saw the teacher not as a lecturer or giver of notes or taskmaster but as a harbinger of India's culture..a role model to the younger generation.

On this happy occasion of the seventh anniversary of the Trichy Kendra of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, I would like to request the philanthropists of Trichy to establish a school under the aegis of the Bhavan.

The Bhavan has 87 schools all over India, and four in Kuwait, Doha, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi. These schools impart value education to students and make them aware of the cultural heritage, values and traditions of India. A Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan School will be greatly beneficial to the city and its people.

Nation building is a long and arduous task and it is important that honesty, transparency, selfless service and total devotion and dedication towards the nation become watchwords in this tremendous effort.

No nation has become great without a patriotic spirit among its people. No nation has become great if the common people are not provided with opportunities for education, employment and enterprise in a honest and transparent manner. No nation has become great unless the poor and downtrodden are served by the better endowed people with a sense of brotherhood and selflessness. It is therefore important for us to inculcate the values of honesty and transparency and devotion to the nation in our youth.

On this special occasion when we are celebrating the 7th anniversary of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Kendra in Tiruchirapalli let us resolve unto ourselves that we will strain every nerve and muscle to spread the message of Dr. K.M. Munshi far and wide amongst the people of India and the people of the world so that India rises to a position of preeminence. This function is being held at a great place and at a historic moment and I am sure that this is going to be the beginning of great things to come. I wish everybody associated with the name of Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan success in all their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam

Jai Hind Jai Tamil Nadu