

**ADDRESS BY THIRU. BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE
GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT THE RELEASING OF THE BOOK
'NAATTUKKORU PAATTU' ORAGNISED BY HARIJAN SEVAK SANGH AT
KASTURI BA HALL, T.NAGAR, CHENNAI ON 27.07.2018 AT 6.00 PM**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

**Thiru. Dr.S.Pandian
President, Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya**

**Thiru. N. Sankaran
Chief Commissioner of Income Tax**

**Thiru. M. Mathivanan
Additional Commissioner of Income Tax**

**Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan
Principal, MOP Vaishnav College for women**

Thiru. Baskaran Krishnamurthy

**Thiru. K. Asokan
Tamil Hindu**

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am happy to here at the function organised by the Harijan Sevak Sangh for releasing the book "Naattukkoru Paattu" compiled by Thiru Baskaran Krishnamurthy. The book narrates the National Anthems of 43 countries in Tamil and in that respect is unique in character and content.

The National Flag and the National Anthem symbolize the nation and are held in high esteem by the nation and its people. It is customarily observed as a mark of respect to these national symbols that people show their reverence by acts such as saluting the flag or standing up when they hear the anthem being sung. A famous quotation about the National Flag reads as follows "A moth eaten rag on a worm eaten pole is enough to stir a

men's soul". Such is the high esteem in which the National Flag and the National Anthem are held.

A National Anthem is generally a musical composition that evokes and eulogizes the history and traditions of its people. They are played on days of national importance and are meant to inspire the people of the nation to be patriotic. Only a few national anthems have been written by Nobel laureates. In that respect the Indian National Anthem enjoys the pride of place by virtue of having been written by Rabindranath Tagore the first Nobel prize winner from Asia. Tagore also enjoys the special distinction of being the only poet who has composed two National Anthems.

First sung in the Kolkata session of the Indian National Congress on 27th December 1911, our National Anthem appeared in the journal 'Tattwa Bhodini' of Brahma Samaj in January 1912. After seven years, in February 1919, in a meeting organized by the Theosophical Society in Madanapalli, Andhra Pradesh, Tagore sang the Anthem himself.

The song enthralled the students while Margaret Cousins, then vice-principal of the college also an expert in European music and wife of Irish poet James Cousins requested Tagore to create an English translation of the song. Tagore duly translated the work into English while at the college on February 28, 1919, titled The Morning Song of India. The college adopted Tagore's translation of the song as their prayer song which is sung till today.

On the occasion of India attaining freedom, the Indian Constituent Assembly assembled for the first time as a sovereign body on August 14, 1947, midnight and the session closed with a unanimous performance of Jana Gana Mana.

The members of the Indian Delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations held at New York in 1947 gave a recording of Jana Gana Mana as the country's national anthem. The song was played by the house orchestra in front of a gathering consisting of representatives from all over the world.

On January 24, 1950, when the Constituent Assembly met to sign the Constitution of India, President Rajendra Prasad officially declared 'Jana Gana Mana' as the National Anthem.

The Anthem 'Jana Gana Mana..' has been the rallying point of every Indian - generating enormous amount of zeal and enthusiasm, vigour and strength, hope and goodwill, and above all, a sense of pride in all of us.

Recently we had a direct experience of how moving the national anthem can be when the athlete Hima Das from a remote village of Assam won the gold in the 400 metres international competition in Finland, becoming the first Indian athlete to get gold in a world championship across all age groups.

While 'Jana Gana Mana' was played during the prize giving, Hima Das lisped the anthem with tears in her eyes, and inspired a whole generation of Indians through her patriotic fervour.

Every National Anthem has its own message to the people of the country. It symbolizes the national sentiment.

It is heartening to read the lines of 'Kosi sikalel Afrika..' of South Africa – written by the literary giant Langanhover.

The Japanese Anthem, "Kee.. mee.. kaa.. vo..", is said to be the most ancient of all and, it is perhaps the smallest one too. The song in the 'Vaakka' style of a verse, has only 5 lines. It conveys beautifully the wish of the people for an everlasting Nation.

The Nepali Anthem is perhaps one of the sweetest national anthem and is the 'youngest' of them all. The song "Saya thunga.." leaves a sobering effect in our minds.

The Australian musician Mckarmic wrote the lines of the Anthem behind a bus ticket when he was travelling! "Australians all... let us rejoice.." strikes a melodious note everytime we hear it being sung.

The US National Anthem, the star-spangled banner, though originally set to the music of a song called, 'To Anacreon in Heaven', is sung differently by different singers!

This book Naattukkoru Paatu containing the tamil version of the Anthem of 43 countries, lucidly explains the essence of the various Anthems.

The Anthems speak volumes of the Vision, the Mission, the Character and the common goal of the Nation. It is the collective voice that emerges from the deepest part of the self esteem called sovereignty. It spells out the Will of the people and declares the Might of the Nation. It proclaims the message of Independence and Freedom.

Every citizen of every country in the world lives up to the core substance of the Anthem. A mere rendering of the Anthem is not enough. It is not a routine or a ritual. Every time it is sung, the Anthem unfurls the Spirit and stirs the citizen to work for the Nation selflessly. This is the role that the Anthem does and it is for this great quality in it that we salute the Anthem.

I congratulate the author Baskaran Krishnamurthy for this extraordinary effort of bringing out the Anthems in Tamil.

By publishing the book on National Anthems, the Hindu Group of publications has also lived up to its reputation of being a messenger of Goodwill to the people at large. I congratulate The Hindu for this initiative and wish them success in all their endeavours. I also wish the author Baskaran Krishnamurthy, a great career in writing. Last but not the least my special word of appreciation is reserved for the Harijan Sevak Sangh who have organised this function to bestow recognition on the work of Thiru. Baskaran Krishnamurthy. May the efforts of all of you be crowned with success in the coming years.

Nandri Vanakkam...

Jai Hind.....