

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF POETS – 2019 ORGANISED
BY ALL INDIA RADIO, CHENNAI AT KALAIVANAR ARANGAM, CHENNAI
ON 10.01.2019 AT 4.00 P.M**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Thiru. Fayyaz Shehryar,
Director General, All India Radio, New Delhi

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Dr. Raj Shekar Vyas,

Dr. Raj Kumar Upadhyay,

Thiru. Thyagarajan,

Thiru. S. Ramachandran,

Thiru. T.Rajendran,
Deputy Director General, AIR Chennai

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to participate in the National Symposium of Poets – 2019 being organized by the All India Radio.

As a special mark of celebrating Republic Day, since 1956 All India Radio has been organizing Sarva Bhasha Kavi Sammelan, also known as National Symposium of Poets at the national level. It is an endeavor to provide a creative platform to national integration and linguistic harmony through mutual interaction and coordinated presentation of the best in contemporary poetry of all Indian languages. Its uniqueness is underlined by the fact that it is the only programme of its kind, wherein eminent poets of 22 Indian languages come together

on one stage to offer their creative best. Poems in all these languages are presented by the poets themselves before an invited audience followed by the rendering of their Hindi versions translated by eminent poets of different languages.

Poetry is a subtle form of expression that has unique attributes – it engages the right choice of words or metre suitable to the subject matter of the poem, aesthetic beauty, finesse of the composition and above all it is full of emotion. In Kaavya Darsam, the immortal lines of legendary Sanskrit poet Dandin enumerate the positives that poetry begets as follows:-

“Poetry is one that rains upon the author fame, wealth, knowledge about the affairs of the world, removes all inauspicious things, ensures happiness for all and guides one like the sweet, kind, well meaning words of one’s wife”.

Plutarch, a Greek biographer and essayist compared poetry and painting in the following manner. He said, “Painting is silent poetry and poetry is painting that speaks”.

Poetry is not merely an intellectual pursuit; it inspires, inculcates noble ideas in the minds of the people. When soulful poetry and sweet music blend, ecstasy is born. Powerful poetry has not only transformed the lives of millions of individuals, but

they have made many nation states of today, changed the status quo and aided in the progress and development of both the individual and the society at large. And what better example can there be, than our National Poet, the great Subramaniya Bharathi.

He says that from Truth in the heart are born words of prowess from the tongue. As the rushing waters of the floods gush forth, when arts and poetry overflow, even those who cannot see, shall gain sight and flourish. That is the importance Bharati adduces to the might of poetry.

Bharathi used the literary richness and versatility of Tamil to promote the cause of national unity and oneness.

In one of his poems about Bharath, he captures the spirit of freedom that an independent India will enjoy. It reads thus

“On the silvery, snow-clad mountains we

Shall roam and on the oceans that abound around us we shall sail our ships,

We shall raise every school to the status of a place of worship and proudly proclaim,

“This, is our Bharath-desh”

Bharathi was a great visionary. He visualized in the year 1910 the Unified Independent India of later years and sang thus

“Let us dance and sing that we have attained freedom”.

One of the outstanding outpourings of poetry in Tamil is the Thirukkural which was written more than 2000 years ago focuses almost on all aspects of life. It is loaded with nuggets of wisdom on good governance, planning, specialization, merit selection, placement, communication, equality, time management, financial management, water management etc. These valuable pearls of wisdom are relevant even today.

That is why Poetess Avvaiyar observed, “Thiruvalluvar pierced an atom and injected in it the seven seas and compressed it into what we have today as the Thirukkural.”

Mahathma Gandhi after reading a translation of Thirukkural remarked “The maxims of Thiruvalluvar have touched his heart and soul. There is none who has given such a treasure of wisdom like him.”

The poems belonging to Sangam literature were composed by Tamil poets, both men and women, from various professions and classes of society. These poems were later collected into various anthologies, edited and annotated around 1000 AD. Sangam literature was rediscovered in the 19th

century by scholars such as Arumuga Navalar, C.W.Thamotharampillai and U.V. Swaminatha Iyer who took painstaking efforts to recover the palm manuscripts that were left to decay in different places and gave them life by bringing them out in the print form.

The All India Radio has been according poetry its due place in all its programmes all over the country. AIR has been serving to inform, educate and entertain the masses since its inception, truly living up to its motto – “Bahujana Hitaya, Bahujana Sukhaya”. One of the largest broadcasting organizations in the world in terms of the number of languages of broadcast, the spectrum of socio-

economic and cultural diversity it serves, AIR's home service comprises of 420 stations today located across the country, reaching nearly 92% of the country's area and 99.19% of the total population. AIR originates programming in 23 languages and 179 dialects.

AIR, Chennai - is for the first time hosting this prestigious Sarva Bhasha Kavi Sammelan. It is indeed a rare privilege for me to be able to address poets assembled from different states of India today. May their contributions that will flower today blossom in our hearts and bring happiness, solace and comfort. By celebrating the Kavi Sammelan we are actually celebrating the rich diversity of India, its

tradition and its antiquity. It fills us with pride about being Indian. I am sure all the listeners who have their ears glued to this broadcast feel the same way. I join them all in extending my best wishes and greetings for a glorious future for the All India Radio and a bright and prosperous New Year for all the Kavis assembled here and to all the listeners.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....