

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT THE VALEDICTORY PROGRAMME OF A FIVE-DAY NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON "MESSAGE OF MAHABHARATA" AND LAUNCHING OF THE BOOK  
"MESSAGE OF RAMAYANA" ORGANISED BY BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN AND  
ISKCON AT MULTI-VISION THEATRE, ISKCON, BENGALURU ON 30.06.2019 AT 5.00  
P.M**

Thiru.Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governof of Tamil Nadu participated as Chief Guest at the valedictory programme of a five-day National Conference on "Message of Mahabharata" and launching of the Book " Message of Ramayana" organised by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and ISKCON at Bengaluru today (30.6.2019) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "I am delighted to be here at the valedictory programme of the five-day National Conference on "Message of Mahabharata" being jointly organised by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

It gives me immense pleasure to know that, as a part of its objectives and in pursuance of its mission, the Bangaluru Kendra of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan has been creating and crafting a number of innovative projects and programs.

Conferences such as these have an unique flavour about them. They attract the best minds, from all over India under one roof to analyze, research and present papers that are then well documented for the benefit of posterity.

At this valedictory programme on the message of the Mahabharata one can safely presume that this national conference has achieved that objective.

The Mahabharata the grand epic that it is, has been the source of wisdom for several centuries.

The Bhagwad Gita an integral part of the Mahabharata that was expounded on the battle fields of Kurukshetra consists of 700 verses in Sanskrit, all embellished with wisdom and pregrant with thought and relevance for daily living.

This song of God - the Gita is set in the form of a dialogue between Arjuna and Lord Krishna. When Arjuna attempts to shy away from his duty as a Warrior Prince to uphold Dharma he is counseled by Lord Krishna to fulfill his duty and establish Dharma.

There are many lessons that one can learn from the Gita. I mention here a few of them. The importance of Karma is beautifully set out as follows "Karmanye Vadhikaraste, Ma phaleshou kada chana, Ma Karma Phala Hetur Bhurmatey Sangostva Akarmani"

You have a right to perform your prescribed duty, but you must do it without any expectations about the fruits of your actions. Never consider yourself to be the cause of the results of your activities, and never be drawn away towards not doing your duty.

The Gita also teaches us to have unflinching faith in God

Yada Yada hi dharmasya

Glanir bhavati bhārata

abhyutthanam adharmasya

tadatmanam srijamy aham

paritrānaya sādhanam

Vinasaya ca duskṛtam

dharmā-samsthāpanārthaya

sambhavāmi yuge yuge

"Whenever and wherever there is a decline in religious practice, and a predominant rise of irreligion at that time I descend Myself. I order to deliver the pious and to annihilate the miscreants, as well as to reestablish the principles of Dharma, I advent Myself era after era.

Another message of the Gita is about the importance of being detached. When a man dwells in his mind on the object of sense, attachment to them is produced. From attachment springs desire and from desire comes anger.

From anger arises bewilderment, from bewilderment loss of memory; and from loss of memory, the destruction of intelligence and from the destruction of intelligence he perishes.

The Bhagavad Gita forges a mellifluous harmony between different strands of Indian thought: jnana, karma and bhakti.

It is also a great synthesis of the ideas of the impersonal spiritual monism with personalistic monotheism, of the yoga of action with the yoga of transcendence of action, and these again with yogas of devotion and knowledge.

About the Gita which Mahatma Gandhi considered to be his spiritual dictionary he has recorded, "The object of the Gita appears to me to be that of showing the most excellent way to attain self-realization, and this can be achieved by dedicating all activities to God, i.e., by surrendering oneself to Him body and soul." Gandhi called the Gita "The Gospel of Selfless Action".

The Ramayana in my view is an enormous storehouse of wisdom for the common man since it depicts the trials and tribulations of daily living while establishing the importance of the qualities of dharma, chivalry, truth, piety, devotion and charity.

I am happy to see that the Message of the Ramayana is also being launched today. I am sure that just like in the case of the Mahabharata the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and ISKCON will in course of time organize a grand conference wherein the wisdom contained in the Ramayana will be documented to serve future generations.

The Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan which was set up more than 80 years back has been performing a stellar role in the preservation and propagation of the rich cultural heritage of India. The message of the Bhavan has been one of cultural unity and inter-faith harmony, without any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, language or social and economic status.

ISKCON which was established in 1966 by Swami Prabhupada to establish an international community that would be guided by the teachings of the Bhagwad Gita and the Srimad Bhagavatam.

Thus there is a commonality of purpose between the Bhavan and ISKCON. They are both rooted in India's cultural and spiritual values. And they serve the cause of Dharma. It is therefore most appropriate that they have come together to stage this national conference.

The message of the epics Ramayana and Mahabharata is "to engrave dharma in the minds of men." Dharma is essentially the principle of righteousness by following the correct moral ways. Dharma is supreme in this world. Dharma brings about a harmonious balance that enables material prosperity while uniting the self with the Universal Paramatma.

I extend my greetings and best wishes to Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and ISKCON. May spiritual orientation be the watchword and India's cultural inheritance be the guiding spirit behind the activities of the Bhavan and ISKCON. I am sure that the efforts being taken by them jointly will continue to grow to illuminate the path for several succeeding generations. The banner of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and ISKCON and all such spiritually inclined institutions should continue to fly with grandeur and majesty not only in India but also all over the world. May success visit them all in bountiful measure in all their endeavours".

On this occasion Shri. N. Ramanuja, Chairman, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bengaluru, Prof. Ramesh Chandra Sinha, Chairman, Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi, Shri. Madhu Pandit Dasa, President, ISKCON, Bangalore, Shri. K.N. Ramaswamy, Director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai, Shri. H.N.Suresh, Director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bengaluru, Shri. K.G.Raghavan, Vice-Chairman, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and other dignitaries participated.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai-22  
Date: 30.6.2019

Sd/-  
Joint Director(PR)