

**Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as chief guest at the inaugural function of 'Bhavan's Cultural Festival 2020' organised by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan at Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram Campus, Kilpauk Garden Road, Chennai**

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as chief guest at the inaugural function of '**Bhavan's Cultural Festival 2020**' organised by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan at Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram Campus, Kilpauk Garden Road, Chennai today (28.11.2020) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "It gives me great pleasure to be here today at the inauguration of the 'Bhavan's Cultural Festival 2020' open-air live programme being organised by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai Kendra in association with South Zone Cultural Centre.

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan was established by Kulapati K.M. Munshi in 1938, with the blessings of Mahatma Gandhi. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Rajaji-Chakravarti Rajagopalachari extended their support to Munshi Ji. The prime objective was to preserve and propagate Indian culture and its values.

From a small beginning, today Bhavan has become a movement that promotes Indian values through education, publication and performing arts. Today it has 125 Kendras in India and 10 Kendras overseas. Infact, it has 5 CBSE schools functioning in the Middle East Asia. All of Bhavan's schools and colleges have great focus on value education. Bhavan's large and extended family continues to grow steadfastly, adhering to the Vedic ideal, "let noble thoughts come to us from all side."

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once remarked that the Bhavan touches every aspect of human life. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel wished that this institution become the nursery of torchbearers of a composite civilisation.

Bhavan believes Indian culture is a composite and comprehensive and includes the culture of all religions and communities. It believes in the fusion and synthesis of the

basic ideals and all aspects of all faith and an equal respect to all religions. It believes in the harmony of all faiths – Sarva Dharma Samabhava.

The Chennai Kendra Premises at Mylapore operates from the donated premises. Bhavan is a Trust and not-for-profit Institution and doing a yeomen service.

Plato said and I quote, “Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything”.

Listening to Carnatic music and watching Bharatanatyam is a part of people’s life in Chennai. Chennai has it as a tradition to conduct music festivals during the month of Margazhi for more than a century.

Carnatic music had its peak during the period of musical Trinity who lived almost in the same period about 250 years ago. Many stalwarts propagated music with devotion and spread across entire South India.

Annamayya from Andhra region, Purandara Dasa from Karnataka and Swathi Thirunal from Kerala were great composers and singers. Musicians like M.S. Subalakashmi, M.L Vasanthakumari, D.K Patamal were renowned female singers. Singer like Balamurali Krishna took Carnatic music across the world. He was a great supporter of Bhavan and he once remarked, “Bhavan is the home not only for the Indian Art forms but also for the artists as well”. Bhavan has also brought out many authentic books on Music and Dance.

South Zone Cultural Centre preserves and promote traditional cultural heritage in India. Each zonal center also works to cross-promote and create exposure to other cultural zones of India by organizing functions and inviting artistes from other zones. Being President of the South Zone Cultural Centre, I take this opportunity to thank all the artistes for coming here to perform and wish them best.

In one of his poems, Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiar said and I quote, “Go out in all eight directions. Bring in all treasures of Arts!”

We need to preserve this great cultural heritage of our civilisation. Programmes and cultural festivals of this kind will promote and rekindle in our youth an interest in our rich art forms. This will facilitate the continued transmission of our art forms to future generations. And will also provide a platform for budding artistes to exhibit their talent.

The most popular choice among most other traditional art forms, especially for those from South India, children from the region is to be initiated into it, from a noticeably young age. While parents who have learned Carnatic Music as they grew, wish to pass on the captivating art to their children, there are others who took to learning the vocal art forms as a way of connecting with culture, and tradition. Even today, this ancient art forms is revered as it simultaneously flourishes, around the world.

Benefits of learning Carnatic music acts as Stress buster, Hones our brain function, enriches Mathematical skills, Listening skills, Cultural Understanding, Perseverance and Self-expression of the youngsters.

The objective of this cultural festival is to provide platform for the budding artists to exhibit their talent as well as bringing together the legends of music and various art forms to perform before the people of Chennai.

I am very happy to inaugurate this event with the opening programme of Padma Bhushan Sudha Ragunathan who is a leading Carnatic vocalist, singer and composer. She was also conferred the Kalaimamani award.

I appreciate the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai Kendra and the South Zone Cultural Centre for having organised this cultural festival in a befitting manner. The well organised events of different musical forms extend to 22 days. I appeal to the audiences to participate in all events and enjoy the programmes thereby encouraging the artists who are kind enough to come forward to make the efforts of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan a grand success.

The people of Chennai have nurtured Carnatic music, classical dance and its traditions for several centuries. We are all justifiably proud of the fact that Chennai has been listed in the UNESCO's Creative Cities Network.

Covid-19 pandemic is yet not over. In Tamil Nadu Covid cases are decreasing by various initiatives taken by the Government. As the pandemic threat is there, we need to follow social distancing, wear mask and take all other precautionary measures advised by the Government. Humanity and India should win this fight and Tamil Nadu should lead the fight as a model state against Covid-19 pandemic.

I appeal to the artist, the people and the youth to carry forward the rich legacy, culture and tradition of our nation. I extend my best wishes and greetings to all of you who are here today. May success smile on you in all your endeavours.”

On this occasion, Thiru. K. Pandiarajan, Hon’ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology, Thiru. N. Ravi, Chairman, Bhavan’s Chennai Kendra, Padmashri Dr. Nalli Kuppaswami Chetti, Vice-Chairman, Bhavan’s Chennai Kendra, Thiru. K.N.Ramaswamy, Director, Bhavan’s Chennai Kendra and other dignitaries participated.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai – 22

Sd/-

Date : 28.11.2020

Addl. Director (PR)