

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF 6TH INTERNATIONAL ART
EXHIBITION "CHITRAMELA 2019" ORGANISED BY SRI ANNAI KAMAKSHI
MUSIC AND FINE ARTS COLLEGE & SRI ANNAI KAMAKSHI KALAIKUDAM AT
LALIT KALA AKADEMI, CHENNAI ON 04.04.2019 AT 5.00 P.M.**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Thiru. R.Rajagopal, I.A.S.,
Additional Chief Secretary to Governor

Dr. Prameela Gurumurthy,
Vice Chancellor,
Tamil Nadu Music & Fine Arts University

Thiru. S. Venkatachalapathy,
Founder Director

Dr. P. Murugaiyan,
Principal

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am happy to be here today at the function organised by Sri Annai Kamakshi Music and Fine Arts College and Sri Annai Kamakshi Kalaikudam on the occasion of the inauguration of the 6th International Art Exhibition "Chitramela 2019". The exhibition which has been staged at the Lalit Kala Academy will feature various varieties of art ranging from oil painting, acrylic painting, Thanjavur painting, modern art painting, fabric painting, glass painting etc.

Cave paintings are the earliest evidence of the art of painting. Rock shelters that served as the abode of paintings thousands of years back have been found in Australia and South America. In India too, the Ajanta and Ellora cave paintings which date back to a period about 2000 to 2500 years ago are the finest surviving examples of ancient art. These particularly expressive paintings present the emotions through gesture, pose and form in all their entirety.

Paintings depicting the past lives and rebirths of the Buddha, pictorial tales from Aryasura's Jatakamala, and rock-cut sculptures of Buddhist deities figure chiefly in the Ajanta Ellora caves.

The Sittanavasal village of Pudukottai district of Tamil Nadu is also home to many cave paintings that date back to the 7th century Common Era. The murals have been painted with vegetable and mineral dyes in black, green, yellow, orange, blue, and white and the paintings created by applying colours over a thin wet surface of lime plaster.

The paintings depict beautiful lotus ponds with lotus flowers, people collecting water from the pond, two dancing figures, lilies, fish, geese, buffaloes and elephants. The famous writer Mulk Raj Anand said of the paintings, "Pallava craftsmen used greens and browns, with a genuine ability and a lyrical flow of line. Lotuses spring up from imaginary ponds amid variegated greenery, under a bluish sheen".

The ceilings have depiction of a lotus tank with natural looking images of men, animals, flowers, birds and fish representing the Samavasarana faith of Jainism. The pillars are also carved with dancing girl and the king and the queen.

Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu has a unique place in the history of Indian painting, in that it houses the 11th century Chola wall paintings in the Brihadeeswarar temple as also paintings from the Nayak period. The fall of the Vijayanagar Empire and the sack of Hampi in the Battle of Talikota in 1565 CE resulted in the migration of painters who had been dependent on the patronage of the empire, to Thanjavur. Subsequently, the Maratha rulers began to nurture the Thanjavur atelier. The artists absorbed the local influences and the individual tastes of their Maratha patrons which helped evolve the unique Thanjavur style of painting known for its classical style and famous for use of the gold foil.

The paintings are characterised by rich and vivid colors, simple iconic composition, extensive gesso work, inlay of glass beads and pieces of precious and semi-precious gems. In these paintings one can see the influence of Deccani, Vijayanagar, Maratha and even European or Company styles of painting.

One of the important pioneers of modern Indian painting was Raja Ravi Varma.

Ravi Varma was patronised by Ayilyam Thirunal, the Maharajah of Travancore and learned the basics of painting in Madurai. Later, he was trained in water painting by Rama Swami Naidu and in oil painting by Dutch portraitist Theodor Jenson.

Varma received widespread acclaim after he won an award for an exhibition of his paintings at Vienna in 1873. Varma's paintings were also sent to the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. Ravi Varma is particularly noted for his paintings depicting episodes from the stories of Dushyanta and Shakuntala, Nala and Damayanti and from the Mahabharata. Ravi Varma's representation of mythological characters has become a part of the Indian understanding of the epics.

The Bengal School of Art was an influential style of art that flourished in India during the British Raj in the early 20th century. It was associated with Indian nationalism, but was also promoted and supported by many British arts administrators.

Abanindranath painted a number of works influenced by Mughal art, a style that he believed was expressive of India's distinct spiritual qualities, as opposed to the "materialism" of the West. His best-known painting, Bharat Mata (Mother India), depicted a young woman, portrayed with four arms in the manner of Hindu deities, holding objects symbolic of India's national aspirations.

Amrita Sher-Gil, Nandalal Bose are other eminent artists of the 20th century who are respected and whose works have won great acclaim and recognition in India and abroad.

The Lalit Kala Akademi institution started in 1954 has rendered service to the nation in the sphere of arts long before the world woke up to the global impact of Indian art. It has established, preserved and documented a permanent collection of modern and contemporary art in India. The Akademi's sincere commitment to the development of art is evident through the strong national and international programmes organised by the headquarters in New Delhi, and by the Centres situated at Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Kolkata, Lucknow. I am happy that the premises of the Lalit Kala Academy have been chosen for staging Chitramela 2019.

Sri Annai Kamakshi Kalaikudam has trained more than 40,000 persons who have gone on to become professional artists, Fashion designers, Interior designers and Architects in the past 23 years. The Sri Annai Kamakshi Music and Fine Arts College which was started in 2015 and is affiliated to Tamil Nadu music And Fine Arts University has degree courses in Painting, Visual Communication, Bharathanatyam, Vocal, violin and Veena.

The Kalaikudam and the College deserve our fullest appreciation and praise for the dedicated efforts taken by them to promote the fine arts. There are more than 2000 paintings on

display at the Chitramela. They provide a feast of colour and beauty to the onlooker. I am sure that the intelligent and discerning connoisseurs of art in Chennai city will benefit immensely from a visit to the exhibition. I extend my best wishes to the organizers and the hundreds of professional artists and students of art who have participated in the exhibition. May they be greeted with success in all their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....