

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT THE LAUNCH OF "MY GRANDMA TALES" ORGANISED  
BY SPACE KIDZ INDIA AND HEARTFULNESS AT SRCM HEARTFULNESS  
MEDITATION CENTRE, MANAPAKKAM, CHENNAI  
ON 06.06.2019 AT 12.00 NOON**

**Anaivarukkum Vanakkam**

**Dr. Srimathy Kesan,**

**Dr. V. Kasthuri,**

**Distinguished Invitees**

**Ladies & Gentlemen**

It gives me great happiness to be here for the launch of "My Grandma Tales" being organised at Heartfulness Meditation Centre.

I am informed that "My Grandma Tales" is an online platform developed for the benefit of children. Children in any part of the World can access this site free of cost and listen to stories narrated by elderly women as old as their grandmothers from different parts of the globe.

Undoubtedly these stories will help to develop an understanding, and appreciation of other cultures, and promote a positive attitude among children belonging to different lands, races and religions.

India has had a tradition of the Joint Family or undivided family for thousands of years. This extended family arrangement consisting of many generations living in the same home and sharing a common kitchen was usually headed by a senior person such as a grandfather or grandmother. He or she was usually involved in the raising of the children with love, affection and proper guidance. Narration of stories used to be an important instrument in their hands for fulfilling this responsibility. Through these stories they used to train the child to come up with creative ideas and to think out of the box, stimulating their mental faculties in the process. However, with urbanization and faster economic development of the industrial and service sectors, we have been witnessing a breakup of the traditional joint family.

Consequently the children, particularly the tiny tots have lost the benefit of story narration that used to happen at home.

“My Grandma Tales” hopes to fill in this gap. The stories are meant to not only entertain children but also teach them morals, the values of life and ethics. It also will help to improve the child’s vocabulary, creativity, critical thinking skills and help to build up emotional strength enabling a better development of the overall personality.

I am sure that many in the audience are familiar with tales from the Panchatantra such as Crows and the Serpent, Gold giving serpent, Mice that ate Iron, Monkey and Crocodile etc.

The Panchatantra, a collection of short stories, originally composed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C., is a treasure house of wisdom. It was originally compiled to implant moral values and governing skills in the children of the royal household. It continues to be guiding light and has shown the right direction to several generations of our ancestors.

The Arabian Nights is a collection of Middle Eastern folk tales compiled in Arabic. Some of the stories commonly associated with this compilation are “Aladdin’s Wonderful Lamp”, “Ali Baba and Forty Thieves” and “Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor”. They are popular among the people even today.

Aesop's Fables is a collection of fables credited to Aesop, a storyteller believed to have lived in ancient Greece between 620 and 564 BC.

The fables originally belonged to the oral tradition. After the arrival of printing, Aesop's fables were among the earliest books to be printed in a variety of languages.

The narrations of the above stories in childhood to us by our grandparents have benefitted us immensely. They have enabled us to appreciate the importance of human values, the machinations of evil manipulators and have given us the thrill and suspense associated with the magic of story telling. I am sure that “My Grandma Tales” that has been launched today will serve the same purpose for today’s generation.

Two books have also been released today. The first book namely “Sathya Sirpangal” by Cyril lays emphasis on how the experiences of a person and a life of struggle and effort helps to create a good human being. Through illustrations and experiences the author explains how life’s hardships are to be tackled.

The second book namely “Aanmegam” by Dr. V. Kasthuri highlights the importance of Yoga and Meditation, particularly for children. The book teaches us to keep the mind calm so that new and innovative thoughts may flower. If you have to invent or discover something scientifically, you have to think differently first. If you

have to think differently then you have to calm the mind and nurture it. Children who read the book will learn to think differently and positively.

India is known as the spiritual capital of the world. Yoga and Meditation are the Gifts of India to the world. The United Nations organisation has declared 21st June as the International Yoga Day in recognition of the importance of Yoga for everyone in today's competitive world.

"My Grandma Tales" by narrating stories in a simplistic form is actually performing the noble role of character building.

Character building was always given the maximum importance in our country. More than 2000 years back, the great saint Thiruvalluvar, when emphasizing the importance of character, said "Nandrikku Vithaagum Nallozhukkam".

Swami Vivekananda used to say, 'We want that education, by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded and by which one can stand on one's own feet.'

The organizers of today's function Heartfulness centre and Spacekidz have bonded with each other for a good cause.

"Space Kidz India" has been working towards giving International experiential learning in the field of Science, Technology, Art and Culture for students from all over India. I am informed that to facilitate this, they have launched 9 balloon satellites, 2 sub-orbital satellites and 1 orbital satellite.

Heartfulness centre is a not-for-profit organization which has been spreading the message of "Meditation for Human Integration" for close to 100 years now.

Heartfulness is also imparting moral sciences as a curriculum in their Yoga and meditative training Programs. Apart from music they also have innumerable collections of Moral stories which will be uploaded onto the My Grandmas Tales website.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to the organisers who have taken painstaking efforts to organise this function in a befitting manner. May success greet them in all their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam.....

Jai Tamil Nadu....

Jai Hind...