

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE  
GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT THE BHARATI THIRUVIZHA, DESH  
BAKTHI FESTIVAL ON 10.12.2017 AT 09.30 A.M.**

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Shri Venkaiah Naidu ji Hon'ble Vice President of India,  
Thiru. K.Pandiyarajan, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Culture  
Thiru. D.R. Karthikeyan, Awardee  
Thiru.L.Ganeshan, Member of Parliament  
Dr.Nalli Kuppusami, Chettiar, Thiru.L.Sabaretnam  
Thiru. K.Ravi, Founder of Vanavil Culture Centre.

It gives me great happiness to be participating in the 135<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations of Mahakavi Bharathiyar, organized by Vanavil Culture Centre and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in which the Hon'ble Vice President of India is participating as the Chief Guest. On this occasion the "Bharathi Virudhu 2017" is being given to Thiru D.R.Karthikeyan for his exemplary service to the nation.

Mahakavi Subramaniya Bharati, the Patriotic poet who fired the nation with his idealism and nationalistic fervor was a frontline freedom fighter. His writings, poetry and prose were a great inspiration to the youth of Tamil Nadu, who dedicated themselves to the cause of the freedom struggle.

The great revolutionary poet Subramania 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."

During the freedom struggle the Satyagrahis and freedom fighters used to sing his songs in street-processions and meetings. This ignited the spark of nationalism in the hearts of the patriotic and freedom loving. Since Bharati's songs were so popular, the British Raj banned their publication and an arrest warrant was issued against him. He shifted to the territory of Puducherry and continued his poetic offerings to the nation with the same zeal and enthusiasm.

He sang not only for the freedom of the Nation, but also for the emancipation of women and for the social upliftment of all the downtrodden. He was an ardent votary of equality among human beings and he vehemently opposed divisions on the basis of caste or creed.

He visualized in the year 1910 the Unified India of later years and sang thus

"Let us dance and sing that we have attained freedom".  
This was truly prophetic."

His writings are rich in content and marked by a desire to uplift society. He sang songs for people of all age groups. Even now children are attracted to

his songs since they are simple and easy to understand. His songs for the labourers, the working class and for the downtrodden endeared him to the common people and elevated him to the status of the leader among the Tamil Poets of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Fascinated by the richness of Tamil Language and Tamil Culture, I have started learning to speak in Tamil. When I heard so many speak about the poems of Bharathi today, my desire to learn Tamil has doubled.

On this special occasion I pay my respects to the great poet of this land, Mahakavi Subramania Bharati.

I congratulate Thiru. D.R.Kaarthikeyan, who is being honoured today with the "Bharati Award".

Bharathi is no more, but his name reigns. His words have not lost the magic spell. As stated by Norman Vincent Peale that "The words that provide inspiration, courage, confidence, faith, consolation and serenity, when needed, are not the property of any one people or any single faith. Bharathi's poems have an universal appeal and are relevant for all times.

Jai Hind. Jai Tamil Nadu.

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