

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE 35TH FRANK MORAES MEMORIAL LECTURE
ORGANISED BY UNITED WRITERS' ASSOCIATION &
FRANK MORAES FOUNDATION AT MAPLE HALL, MYLAPORE,
CHENNAI ON 04.08.2018 AT 4.00 PM**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

**Dr. K. Thiagarajan,
President,
United Writers' Association**

**Dr. G. Manilal,
President,
World Peace and Friendship Council**

**Thiru. V. Murali,
Past President,
Hindustan Chamber of Commerce**

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here today at this function being organised by the United Writers' Association and the Frank Moraes foundation in honour of Mr. Frank Moraes an illustrious Indian Journalist of the twentieth century. A book on the Bhagwad Gita compiled by Thiru. R.Sriramkumar is also being released on this occasion.

Mr. Frank Moraes did his schooling and undergraduate college studies in Pune and Mumbai and went on to study history and Law in England where he qualified as a Barrister. But his passion for writing

made him pursue a career as a journalist after experimenting for a brief stint as a lawyer.

He excelled as a war journalist during the Second World War in Burma and Sri Lanka before returning to India where he worked with a number of newspapers, rising up to the highest level of being an editor. After retiring from a leading newspaper he settled down in London to spend his final years. His books include India Today, The Revolt in Tibet, Report on Mao's China, Yonder one world : a study of Asia and the West, The importance of being black: an Asian looks at Africa and Behind the Bamboo Curtain. His political autobiography, Witness to an Era: [India](#) 1920 to the Present Day (1973) is an interesting narration of the events of his time.

His archives include papers covering mainly the 1930s–1974 period, and are useful considering that he worked during a crucial period in the history of India.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to see that the journalists of today are organising an annual function to keep alive the memory of a journalist like Mr. Frank Moraes.

The Bhagavad Gita, Bio-Science and Psychology based on Swami Tapasyananda's Commentaries is being released today. The Gita which

is the Song of God, consists of 700 verses in Sanskrit and is a part of the Mahabharata.

It is set in the form of a narrative framework of a dialogue between Arjuna and Lord Krishna on the field of Kurukshetra. When Arjuna tries 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 “Karmanyē 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 attached to not doing your duty.

The Gita also teaches us to have unflinching faith in God

Yada Yada hi dharmasya
Glanir bhavati bhārata
abhyutthanam adharmasya
tadātmanam sṛjamy aham
paritrānaya sādhanam
Vinasaya ca dukṛtam

dharma-samsthapanarthaya

sambhavami 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 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 in his diaries, "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".

I am informed that the journalists and industrialist assembled here will be discussing various dimensions of the Indian economy today. As you all know, The **economy of India** is a developing mixed economy. It is the world's sixth-largest economy in nominal GDP terms and the third largest in purchasing power parity terms.

The growth prospects of the Indian economy are positive due to the nation's young population, corresponding low dependency ratio, healthy savings and investment rates, and increasing integration into the global economy. India topped the World Bank's growth outlook for the first time in fiscal year 2015–16, during which the economy grew 7.6%.

India is ranked 100th out of 190 countries in the World Bank's 2018 ease of doing business index, up 30 points from the last year's 130. This is the first time in history when India has got into the top 100 ranks.

India is the third-largest start-up hub in the world. The agricultural sector is the largest employer in India's economy and India ranks second in the world in terms of farm output.

India has one of the fastest growing service sectors in the world with an annual growth rate above 9% since 2001, which contributes to 60% of GDP.

Primary energy consumption of India is the third-largest after China and the US with a 5.3% global share.

India's share in world trade is growing and top export destinations of India are the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong, China and the United Kingdom. The top import origins are China, the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland.

It should therefore come as no surprise to us that the World Bank sees India as the fastest growing major emerging economy for the next 3 years. It is expected that economy will see a robust GDP growth of 7.3% in 2018-19 and 7.5% for the next two years.

I am sure that your discussion on the economy and the industrial policy will lead the nation forward to achieve greater goals in the coming years.

I wish to conclude by saying that journalists and industrialists are important pillars of Indian society. I have been an entrepreneur myself and also a journalist and I know the intricacies of the two professions.

They are full of variety and challenges and give you the satisfaction of a good job done when the mission is completed. Our mission should always be national in character and people friendly in expression. India has the tremendous advantage of 125 crore people, half of whom are below the age of 25. Properly trained and adequately equipped this large workforce can dominate the world. It is upto enlightened leaders of journalism and industry to work with the Government and Society to be the torch bearers on this onward march. Let me close by exhorting each one of you to devote yourself to nation building.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....