

**ADDRESS BY THIRU. BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE BOOK RELEASE FUNCTION "TAMIL – SANSKRIT
DICTIONARY" COMPILED BY LATE PROF.S.HARIHARAN AT MUSIC
ACADEMY, CHENNAI ON 23.01.2018 AT 05.30 P.M.**

Shri Shri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal,
Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam

Thiru. H.Raja,

National Secretary, BJP

Thiru. Dinesh Kamat,

National Organising General Secretary, Samskrita Bharathi

Prof. Solomon Poppiah

Prof. R. Vanniarajan,

Distinguished Invitees

Friends from Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here as the Chief Guest for releasing the Tamil-Sanskrit Dictionary which has been compiled by the late Prof. S. Hariharan. I am sure that the compilation will be greatly useful to scholars and professors who wish to enhance their understating and knowledge based on the texts written or compiled in Sanskrit.

Pursuit of knowledge has been a matter of faith for Indians for several generations. The Aitareya Upanishad raises the pursuit of knowledge to the level of God when it says- प्रज्ञानम् ब्रह्म. Indian society was always open to the flow of knowledge from all parts of the world –आनो भद्राः क्रतवो यन्तु विश्वतः – says the Rgveda. That is why India is known as Bharath. Bharath means “the vehicle of knowledge”. There can be no other better description of the natural desire to pursue knowledge that has been existent in India, than this name for India.

The language of Sanskrit is home to many religious, scientific and literary compositions. There is hence a huge treasure of knowledge still waiting to be tapped from these Sanskrit sources. A mathematics professor, David Pingree of Brown University, has created a five volume work called “Census of Exact Sciences in Sanskrit” which showcases scientific knowledge that is present in Sanskrit literature. The first volume of the work saw the light of the day in the year 1970 and the last volume of the work was released by the scholar in the year 1994.

In Prof. K.V. Sharma’s work of research “Science texts in Sanskrit in the Manuscript repositories of Kerala and Tamil Nadu” it has been stated that there are about a lakh and half manuscripts of Sanskrit in public repositories and in private collections in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Of them 12,250 manuscripts are related to science. Of these 3,500 are major treatises on science. Dr. K.V. Sharma who headed the team further concluded that scholars and historians of India have all along been accessing only 7% of texts in Sanskrit and that more needs to be done.

It is here that dictionaries such as the one compiled by Prof. Hariharan will come in very useful. By making available the Tamil meaning for Sanskrit words, the Dictionary will help scholars to prepare translations for these available texts and thus open up an ocean of knowledge. Thinkers and philosophers of India in the past have provided great ideas on science, state craft, medicine, etc. These will require hundreds of years to be

rediscovered once again. As the English proverb goes “There is no point in reinventing the wheel”.

Useful translations in Tamil from Sanskrit texts will help people of Tamil Nadu to gain substantially in economic and scientific terms. I have great admiration for Prof. Hariharan who dedicated his life time for preparing this compilation. The study of lives of Vaman Shivram Apte who compiled the Samskrt-English dictionary, Shri Cakravarti Srinivasa Gopalacharya who compiled a Sanskrit-Kannada dictionary and Mr. Ben Yehuda who compiled a Hebrew-English dictionary, will reveal the extra-ordinary hardships that they had faced in their chosen task. Prof. Hariharan’s work has been a labour of love aimed at promoting development through languages.

Prof. Hariharan’s compilation will also help to bring out linguistic brotherhood by bringing together two major languages of India Sanskrit and Tamil. It was the dream of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, the legendary nationalist thinker that national integration should be achieved through linguistic brotherhood. Towards that end Prof. Hariharan has indeed made a distinguished contribution.

Language is a means of communication and it is important that proficiency in the mother tongue is fully supported and encouraged. Learning of other languages helps us to acquire additional knowledge and enables us to communicate with people from other regions and nations. That is the reason why languages such as English have gained ground in Tamil Nadu.

India is a nation of great linguistic diversity. The linguistic reorganisation of States was undertaken in the 1950s after independence. Recently, the Hon’ble President of India visited Raj Bhavan. During his meeting with the Chief Justice of Madras High Court and other judges in my presence, he had mentioned that efforts could be taken to translate the judgements of the High Court into Tamil so that the litigants are aware of the details of the judgement by reading it themselves. The High Court of Madras is engaged in pursuing this idea which aims to bring the judicial pronouncements closer to the common people. This is the linguistic brotherhood that leaders like Deen Dayal Upadhyaya propounded.

Similarly a scheme named Ek Bharat Shresta Bharat has been launched by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi Ji. The scheme focuses on establishment of close cultural ties between two partner States of India by enabling them to share their cultural and linguistic practices. This way Tamil Nadu has been paired with Jammu & Kashmir. I was happy to see the tremendous appreciation that was there in the audience when a cultural group from Kashmir performed a dance recital at Raj Bhavan during the visit of Hon’ble President of India to Chennai.

All this goes to show that the spirit of linguistic brotherhood is alive and widely prevalent in India. Steps taken by all of us in the right direction will enable the people of India to embrace each other linguistically so that the benefits of literary and cultural treasures that have been inherited from our ancestors are passed on to succeeding generations.

I am thankful to Thiru H. Raja for this excellent opportunity provided to me to release this book on the Tamil Sanskrit Dictionary compiled by his father, Prof. Hariharan. I am sure that this will be a trend-setter and enable the translation of many more useful Sanskrit texts into Tamil benefitting the people of Tamil Nadu and India in the times to come.

Nandri Vanakkam
Jai Hind
Jai Tamil Nadu
