

Inaugural Address
of the Valedictory function of the Centenary Celebrations
Justice (Retd.) P. Sathasivam, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala
February 04, 2016.

Sri. K. Babu, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Dr. Babu Sabastin, Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University, Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam renowned dancer, Prof. K.G. Paulose, Organising Committee Chairman, Principal Smt. K.D. Sobha,

Sahodaree sahodaranmare, my lovable students, ellavarkkum ente namaskaram.

I am delighted to be here with you this fine morning to inaugurate the valedictory function of the year-long centenary celebrations of the Govt. Sanskrit College, Tripunithura in Ernakulam, the premier institute of Sanskrit education in India. At the outset let me recall the dedication of learned faculties of past and the present that have contributed to the growth, and achievement and development of this institution has been today. I also pay my homage to the Scholar-Kings of the erstwhile Cochin State, who were instrumental in establishing this temple of learning. I am glad to note that this college is affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University and that it offers instructions in various disciplines like Nyaya, Vyakarana, Vedanta and Sahitya, in the post-graduate level and Jyothisa in under graduate level. One of the most ancient of old languages, Sanskrit is universally acclaimed for its unique grandeur. It has a rich tradition of systematized learning, creative as well as critical, ranging from theology to theatre and poetry to politics. As this august assembly is well aware the illustrious leaders who molded our thought and motivated our action in the last century were deep versed in Sanskrit. The impressive list includes such master-minds like Rabindranatha Tagore, Swami Vivekananda, Eswarchandravidyasagar, Sage Arabindo and Balagangadhara Tilak. Deep from the Upanishads, the Epics or the Gita, they absorb the essence of Sanskrit writings and interpreted in simple thoughts for the benefit of less privileged. Sanskrit literature is a treasure-house of the finest in human thought and creativity.

The works of Vyasa, Valmiki, Kalidasa and Bhavabhuti are all enlightened like the works of Plato, Aristotle, Shakespeare and Milton. India has had a comprehensive concept and vision of education that was advanced enlightening and enabling. Distinguished preceptors of ancient times initiated their discipline not only into the existing world of letters but also the challenging adventure called life.

The focus was on the personality of the student aimed at the harmonious fusion of his physical psycho-ability. To be precise, it exemplified the flawless balance between the body and mind. A steady progression of his innate and inbuilt potential. We have come a long way from those days and the entire process of education has witnessed the sweeping changes particularly with regard to its methods. But its purpose, namely, the fine-tuning of one's faculties who have focal point from where one can soar higher has not changed a bit. In simpler terms it is learning that leads to knowledge and to wisdom. I would like to stress that education should be imparted with a specific view of the type of society we wish to reform and recreate. We are striving for a vibrant democracy built on the values of human dignity. Our vision for the future should be so streamlined so as to include the noble traits and tenants of proud legacy we truly inherit. Friends, it takes an unflagging spirit of enquiry and exploration in any pursuit of excellence. Education, as we all know, is an important process that refines the taste and talents of a student. As Gurudev Rabindranatha Tagore has rightly observed, "A person who has had the privilege of education has more human qualities than the rest". That is precisely why we qualify an education institution as a temple of learning and a fountain-spring of the inspiration and initiation. Dear students, you have to bear in mind that 'the knowledge for knowledge sake' will not lead you anywhere. Only when we apply it to practical use does knowledge prove its true potential. It is against this background that knowledge has been defined and discovered as limitless power.

What every school and college should do is to evoke the spirit of curiosity in the minds of students, channeling their energy in the right direction. I am happy, now Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam is here, you know she hails from Tamil Nadu, but she is the product of whole country. Likewise, I had the occasion to confer Doctorate to Chitra and I had an occasion to associate with Dr. K.J. Yesudas, both are son and daughter of this state. And I am happy that

though I belong to Tamil Nadu, now I am here as the first citizen and it makes one thing that we are all Indians.

Finally one request to, I do not know, I heard from the organizers that this hall belongs to Municipality and it is well constructed. In an auditorium like this it should not be open, now it is open to all sides, even the speakers are not able to concentrate on you because of all these traffic and we should not be a hindrance the public. They are entitled to use the road. So through this I convey the municipality who own this building, let them cover this building, if possible it is air conditioned. The speakers and audience will get more benefit. Otherwise our attraction goes outside only.

I am glad to know that this institution namely Govt. Sanskrit College has been doing its excellent service for the past one hundred years. While sharing your immense joy and pride at this moment of grace and glory, I would like to point out that this is an occasion when you can look back with a sense of pride. At the same time, you should plan your future scheme of action for the coming years in proper perspective. I am glad to wish you further success in your future endeavour.

Ellavarkkum ente asamsakal, Nandi, Jai Hind.