

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU PRESIDED OVER THE**  
**MAHAKAVI SUBRAMANIA BHARATHIAR'S 144<sup>th</sup> BIRTH**  
**ANNIVERSARY AND BHARATIYA BHASHA DIWAS-2025**  
**CELEBRATIONS AT BHARATHIAR MANDAPAM, LOK BHAVAN,**  
**CHENNAI, TODAY (11.12.2025)**

Thiru. R.N.Ravi, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu presided over Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiar's 144<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary and Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas Celebrations-2025 organised at Bharathiar Mandapam, Lok Bhavan, Chennai today (11.12.2025). Governor paid floral tributes to the portrait of Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiar. Governor felicitated 40 eminent scholars from across the Nation for their contributions in translation of Tamil literary works to various Indian languages and translation of literary works of various Indian languages to Tamil language.

Delivering the keynote address on the occasion of *Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas*, celebrated on the birth anniversary of *Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiar*, Governor Ravi reflected on Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiar's unparalleled contribution to literature, national awakening and the advancement of Indian languages. He described Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiar as a visionary poet, social reformer, and revolutionary who fought against social evils, championed gender equality and worked for linguistic pride and national unity. It was in recognition of Mahakavi Bharathiar's unparalleled service to Indian languages that Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. Narendra Modi dedicated his birth anniversary as *Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas*.

Recalling the colonial assault on Indian linguistic identity, the Governor remarked that the British had deliberately sought to erode the sense of self-respect and identity among Indians by branding our

languages as “vernacular” - a term meaning the babble of slaves, implying inferiority. Mahakavi Subramania Bharatiar was among the first to challenge this mindset, demonstrating through his writings that Tamil and other Indian languages possess profound literary and philosophical depth, fully capable of expressing scientific and intellectual thought at par with any global language.

Emphasizing that India’s many languages form a seamless continuum born of civilizational unity, Governor said that Bharat, from the Himalayas up to the ocean, has for millennia shared a common consciousness expressed through its various languages. The great epics—*Ramayana*, *Mahabharata*, *Bhagavatam*—have shaped this collective consciousness, defining the ethical and spiritual fabric of Indian civilization.

He traced India’s cultural resilience from the Bhakti movement to the national freedom struggle, noting how saints, poets, and reformers across regions—from the Alvars and Nayanmars in Tamil Nadu to Guru Nanak Devji in Punjab and Sant Dnyaneshwar in Maharashtra—preserved and propagated India’s spiritual and cultural unity through their native tongues. Language, he said, was never a line of division but the very instrument of integration.

Recounting how Mahakavi Subramania Bharatiar and nationalist leaders inspired people to speak and think in their mother tongues, Governor Ravi said the freedom movement drew its strength not from borrowed idioms but from the emotional power of indigenous literature that awakened collective pride.

Expressing concern that post-independence politics had reduced natural linguistic diversity into artificial divisions, the Governor asserted that *Bharatiyata* embraces diversity not as *unity in diversity*, but as a

diverse manifestation of the same underlying oneness—essentially one unity expressing itself diversely.

Calling the present time a period of civilizational renaissance, the Governor observed that Bharat is rediscovering its cultural and spiritual self-confidence after centuries of suppression. After a thousand years, the soul of Bharat is awakening—not in resistance but in resurgence. He urged that within the next ten years, by 2035, the lingering legacy of the linguistic imperialism imposed since 1835 by Macaulay must be erased from the national mindset, restoring complete pride in Bharatiya languages.

He emphasized that *Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas*, instituted by Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. Narendra Modi, is a celebration of India's linguistic heritage and a reaffirmation of civilizational oneness, with every Bharatiya language affirmed as a national language and each a rich treasure of knowledge worthy of celebration.

Highlighting the language exchange initiative under *Kashi Tamil Sangamam*, Governor Ravi lauded the growing linguistic engagement between Tamil Nadu and northern states, where Tamil teachers are instructing Hindi-speaking students, and students from northern universities are learning Tamil. These exchanges, he said, embody the true spirit of *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat* and represent the emergence of a new Bharat that draws strength from mutual understanding.

Acknowledging scholars, translators, and students building bridges across languages, the Governor concluded that the artificial barriers of division will dissolve, giving rise to a united Bharat—rooted in its languages, culture, and spiritual consciousness.

During the celebrations, Governor released 04 books translated version of “Poems of Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiar in Assamese, Bodo, Mising and Rabha” languages as an initiative of Lok Bhavan, Tamil Nadu for translation of Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiar’s Tamil works into North Eastern languages. Eminent Tamil scholars, students from schools run by Delhi Tamil Education Association and a student studying Tamil in Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi delivered speeches about Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiar. Cultural programme on Bharathiar songs performed by differently abled students captivated the participants of the function.

Earlier, Governor flagged off and participated in the palanquin procession of Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiar at Arulmigu Sri Parthasarathy Temple, Triplicane, Chennai and paid floral tribute to his statue at Bharathiar Ninaivu Illam, Triplicane, Chennai.

On this occasion, Prof. Dr. Sudha Seshayyan, Vice Chairperson, Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Prof. R.Chandrasekaran, Director, Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Thiru.R.Kirlosch Kumar, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Governor, descendants of Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiar, scholars, academicians, dignitaries, distinguished invitees, special guests, eminent speakers, research scholars, cultural artistes, and students participated.

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Lok Bhavan, Chennai - 22.

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