

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY THIRU SURJIT SINGH BARNALA,
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT THE
TAMIL NADU STATE FILM AWARDS PRESENTATION FUNCTION
ON 16.10.2007 AT 5.00 P.M.

I feel it a great pleasure to participate in the State Film Awards Function and deliver the Presidential address.

This function gains importance for more than one reason. The artists of the Tamil Tinsel World are being honoured by Dr.Kalaingar who is a multifaceted personality, a poet, novelist, a scriptwriter and a close associate of the Tamil cinema. Secondly, the function is held at the time of Dhasara. Here there are a galaxy of artists who have brought to the Silver screen the 'Navarasas' in acting and as a patron of arts I feel it a pleasure to be here this evening.

Cinema is not just an image but is also a medium. It is lively and has a great influence on the people and society. A good cinema leaves a lasting impression. The history of cinema dates back to nearly hundred and thirty years with the Muybridge's photographs in 1877, which heralded the arrival of cinema. It was at that time the 'moving image' was understood, and the projector had made its appearance and the movie camera was on its way. The first movie was released in India on 1897 at Watson Hotel, Mumbai. It had only 6 scenes. All it had was an arrival of a train, a sea bath, demolition of a building, workers leaving the mill and ladies and soldiers on wheels. This was a silent movie just for 10 minutes. The first film in South India was in 1916. The strong influence of traditional arts, music, dance and popular theatre on the cinema movement in India in its early days, had led to inserting song and sequences in Indian cinema. Indian cinema has grown to great heights with adoption of novel techniques.

India is now one of the largest producers of films in the world. More than 50% of the films that are produced in India are from South India. I am told that India is the largest film producing country, the third largest cable network and the fastest growing pay TV market in the world, but the scale of business is not so much as the size. I am sure that by tapping overseas market, Indian Film Industry will gain momentum world wide. Presenting Indian mythology, culture and showing realistic and appealing stories catering to the taste of global audience will lead to success.

A good Film is an experience and an instrument of social change. It is an art. The art of making film deserves to be considered as an independent art form. Violence and vulgarity should be curtailed in movies. Latest technical devices and novel methods in filmmaking are vital for a successful movie. Actors, cinematographers, screen writers,

composers, art directors, music directors and the like contribute to the success of a movie. Every film should have a message, a message which brings about social change, which upholds our rich culture and tradition and promotes unity and national integration.

Cinema, the largest entertainment industry is under threat of video piracy. Movie making is a high-risk business and huge capital is invested in it. Release of movies in planned sequence in cinema, video and other media would fetch best financial returns. When movies are pirated and come to the market early, there is a huge loss to the producers.

I am sure that with close coordination with the State Government and with concerted efforts of one and all in the film world, movie piracy can be curtailed to a great extent.

Cinema should be a medium to improve the quality of life of the people, create civic consciousness, public morality, national responsibility and solidarity. Each one of you should utilize this medium as an instrument to propagate unity and integration and to bring about social change.

I convey my warm felicitations to the recipients of Tamil Nadu State Film Awards and wish you all success in your endeavours.

Jai Hind.
