

## **Press Release**

### **Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit Address at Valedictory Function at the Defence Expo**

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Address in valedictory function at the Defence Expo being held at Thiruvudanthai near Chennai. The day of the function coinciding with Tamil New Year's Day gives it a special flavor. The celebration to mark the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar gives a special lustre to this event being organized by the Ministry of Defence.

I was here a couple of days back when the Honorable Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Defence Expo. On that day he elucidated the defence policy of India and as to how the country's defence preparedness has been an important focal point of his Government. Consequently India capabilities in defence production are being respected internationally and enjoy World Wide acceptance. The remarkable strides in missile technology made by the Defence Research and Development Organisation in conjunction with the Army, Navy and Air Force are the envy of the world. During the demonstrations on display here, yesterday and the day before, the feats performed by our pilots, artillery experts and naval officers are sure to have left people staring in amazement and surprise and applauding with admiration and pride. The level of skills on display was of such a high order and made all of us proud about being Indians. The pavilions erected by the Ministry of Defence with the support and partnership by public sector and private sector giants such as Bharat Electronics, Hindustan Aeronautics LTD, Larsen & Toubro, The Tata's etc. provided a range of military equipment that

many nations of the World will be aspiring to purchase. Showcasing these unique hardware with super natural skills was a record breaking achievement that has been achieved for the first time in Indian History.

The speciality of the event has been accentuated by the timing of the Expo coinciding with the auspicious occurrence of Tamil New Year's day makes it special. Tamil New Year's day is celebrated on the first day of the month of Chitterai to mark the entry of the Sun God into the first house of Zodiac. The celebration is widespread, all across the State of Tamil Nadu and people welcome the New Year with new clothes, by going to the temple, making offerings of fruits, flowers and sweets.

The Tolkaapiyam is the oldest surviving Tamil grammar that divides the year into six seasons where Chitterai marks the start of the Ilavenil season or summer. The 8th century Silappadikaaram mentions the 12 Raasis or Zodiac signs starting with Mesha/ Chithirai.

Similarly the New Year in Kerala as Vishu is celebrated on the same day. The harvest festival of Baisaki of the Punjabis also falls on the same day. Can one expect a more auspicious moment than all these for organizing the Defence Expo.

This day of April 14th is also special for independent India. In that it marks the birth anniversary of India's first Law Minister Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. As you all know, he was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution of India. Rising from the Dalith community Dr. Ambedklar proved his brilliance in academics by earning doctorates in Economics from Colombia University, USA and London School of Economics in UK. Few would know that Dr. Ambedkar was the first from his community to enter Elephantine's college, a prestigious institution in Bombay and after completing his graduation there he did his Post Graduation in Economics from Colombia University, USA. It was only later that

he embolden at the London School of Economics where he worked for on his doctoral thesis. On return to India, there was an occurrence which links Dr. Ambedkar with defence matters. Having been supported by the Raja of Baroda for his studies at abroad, Dr. Ambedkar was obliged to take up a job under that princely State. He was made the Military Secretary to the Raja. Soon his political inclination and campaign for Dalith rights steered him towards the legal profession and he started practicing Law in the Bombay High Court. Events followed one after another in close succession and from 1927 he launched an active movement against untouchability. There were many significant events in Dr. Ambedkar's life between this and 1947 such as the Pune pact, his thoughts on Pak, the establishment of a scheduled caste federation, participation in the electoral process, etc. He was elected to the Constituent Assembly from Bengal and became the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. I mention all these to show how the person with humble beginnings rose to become one of the most revered leaders in India by dint of his hard work, patience and commitment to the cause that was dear to his heart and enduring education.

These are all qualities that are needed for perfection to be attained in any field. It would be useful if all those assembled here imbibe some of these qualities of Dr. Ambedkar and practise them in their daily lives. I congratulate the Department of Defence Production for having organized the Defence Expo in such a grand manner and I am particularly thankful that Tamil Nadu was chosen as the venue for the event. We have had participants from more than 60 countries of the world at this Expo along with leading public sector and private sector corporations from India. I am sure that a wealth of knowledge and expertise would have been exchanged at the event among the leaders in the field of Defence production and that this is going to be the beginning of massive upsurge in Indian Defence production capabilities both in terms of quantity and quality so as to capture larger

share of the international market. I conclude my address by wishing success to all the participants who visit to endeavor in the future and that they should all work together to make India on the prime production of defence equipments in the world.

On this Occasion Thiru. Rajagopal, I.A.S Additional Chief Secretary to Governor, Dr. Ajay Kumar, Secretary, Defence production, Thiru. Subhash Chandra, Additional Secretary, Defence production, Thiru. T. Suvarna Raju, Managing Director of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Thiru. P.Ponniah, District Collector, Kanchipuram were present