

HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU
THIRU. R.N.RAVI'S MESSAGE ON "AZADI KA AMRIT
MAHOTSAV" TO THE PEOPLE OF TAMIL NADU

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu message on "AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV" to people of Tamil Nadu as follows:

"On the auspicious occasion of 75 years of our Nation's Independence, I extend my best wishes and warmest regards to you all.

India is celebrating 75 years of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (சுதந்திரத் திருநாள் அமுதப் பெருவிழா). We are paying homage to our freedom fighters including countless unsung heroes of National Freedom Movement and celebrating the glorious history of our Country, its immensely rich culture and proud achievements. Our people have demonstrated historic unprecedented enthusiasm in celebration by showing respect to our National Flag with 'Har Ghar Tiranga' (Veedu Thorum Moovarna Kodi). Our National Flag is born out of the bravery, blood and sacrifices of our numerous sung and unsung freedom heroes. On this day, we express our heartfelt gratitude to them and salute them.

Our Armed forces, Paramilitary forces, the Police, Intelligence agencies and Defence scientists have ensured robust security of our nation's frontiers and interests on land, sea, space and cyber space from external threats and maintained internal peace and harmony. We pay our utmost gratitude and salute all those brave warriors who have given their ultimate sacrifice defending India's sovereignty, unity, integrity, Constitutional values and internal peace.

Our doctors, nurses and all the health workers displayed extraordinary courage and commitment to saving the lives of our people during the global pandemic. On this occasion, we pay our heartfelt homage to the doctors and all the health workers who gave their life saving our people.

Our pharmaceutical sector rose up to the occasion and provided needed medicines to the World, our Scientists gave us the life-saving vaccines to save lives across the World. We express our heartfelt gratitude to them.

Our farmers produced ample food not only sufficient for our growing population, but surplus to feed the hungry in other Countries. We salute our farmers for record food production and thereby sufficiently meeting the need of our growing population and hungry elsewhere.

We are proud of our Sports men and women Bhavani Devi, Mariappan Thangavelu, Sharath Kamal, Joshna Chinnappa, Dipika Pallikal, Satish Sivalingam, K.Sasikiran, D.Gukesh, B.Adhiban, R.Praggnanandhaa, S.P.Sethuraman, Karthikeyan Murali and R.Vaishali, who with their brilliant performances at the International Sports events like Olympics, Paralympics, Common Wealth Games and Chess Olympiad brought laurels to the Country.

We are also proud of T.Madhavan, Selva Prabhu, L.Dhanush, Lakshmi Prabha, Janani Ramesh for their outstanding individual performances and the Girls and the Boys Volley Ball Teams and the Boys 4 x 400m Relay team who made our State proud at the Khelo India Youth Games. My congratulations and best wishes to all of them. I am confident that their success will be an inspiration for our youth and will strengthen a healthy sports culture in our State.

I also congratulate all those sports men and women who participated in these competitions but missed the medals. I wish them the best in their future competition.

On this auspicious occasion, I extend my greetings and gratitude to all those who have dedicated their lives to the service of the Divyaangs – differently abled people, specially the youth in our society. Divyaangs are our brothers, sisters, sons and daughters. They are equal citizens of our country. They must be enabled to live with dignity and feel proud citizens of our country.

The World is witnessing an alarming trend of increasing number of children with autism. There are several million autistic children in our Country. They need help through appropriate interventions. There is need for more studies and researches in this area. There is also urgent need for greater awareness about it in our society. Parents often get into denial mode specially when the autistic child is a girl. I urge our people to be sensitive and responsive to such children and help early intervention. Delayed intervention reduces benefit to the child.

My warmest regards to Thiru S.Ramakrishnan and Thiru S.Sankara Raman of Amar Seva Sangam, Ayikudi, Thiru Karthikeyan Ganesan of Sristi Foundation, Villupuram and all others who are rendering yeoman services to Divyaangs and children with autism.

On this occasion, I extend my greetings to persons like Thiru Sridhar Vembu of Zoho Corporation who have left the comfort of personal life in cities and have been serving the rural and marginalised people of our State with passion by enabling and empowering them through teaching, training and skilling in modern technologies and helping them to improve their life through more productive livelihood opportunities.

We remember with respect persons like Thiru Arun Krishnamurthy of Environmental Foundation of India who helped to rejuvenate some 150 ponds and lakes and the Women Self Help Group of Thanjavur for their pioneer initiative in improving lives of poor women by making and selling Thanjavur Dolls.

Our young men and women are more innovative, more enterprising and less risk averse today than before. They are dreaming big and achieving big. The fast growing start-up sector in recent years is unleashing the creative genius of our youth and dazzling the World. India is among the top start-up ecosystems in the World. On this occasion, I compliment enterprising innovators like Thiru Srinath Ravichandran, Thiru S.P.M. Moin and Thiru S.R.Chakravarthy of IIT, Madras for a start up in Space sector making Space Payload Launch vehicles.

Friends, our people, ordinary people, are doing extraordinary services to the society. Their enormous sense of altruism and commitment to public service is inherent strength of our nation. This needs to be appreciated and encouraged. With such an intention, Raj Bhavan, Chennai, in a modest initiative, will honour and felicitate those who are pursuing outstanding and impactful initiatives in our State in the fields of "Social Service" and "Environment Protection". Such people will be identified through a due and transparent process for felicitations at the Raj Bhavan on every Republic Day.

Friends, notwithstanding the global pandemic that devastated the World and crippled World economy, thanks to our farmers, industrialists, MSME Sectors, entrepreneurs and innovators, India is among the top three fastest growing economies of the World.

Our Country, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru Narendra Modi is marching forward and making India 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat (ஒரே பாரதம் உன்னத பாரதம்) with the mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikash and Subka Prayas (எல்லோருடனும், எல்லோருக்காகவும் மற்றும் எல்லோரின் முயற்சியாலும்). The country is setting and achieving incredible targets in growth, development as well as services to the humanity at large. Be it helping the World with vaccines and medicines during the Global pandemic – COVID'19 or taking bold and imaginative leadership to stem the looming global climate crisis threatening the very existence of humanity or enriching and restoring the fertility of mother Earth with organic and natural farming or providing food to the hungry in several Countries, India has been taking constructive leadership.

All inclusive growth and development initiatives of the Central Government is overcoming the regional and sub-regional imbalances, laying a robust foundation for social and communal harmony with equity, removing gender disparities and unleashing the immense latent creative potential of our people. Today, half the population of our country – our mothers, sisters and daughters, in all fields of life including education, science, research, industry, defence are proudly marching ahead neck-to-neck with their male counterparts and are equal, if not better, partners in the story of an emerging New India – strong, prosperous and compassionate India, an India of Swami Vivekananda's dream.

For India to be great, it is essential that our citizens are well – educated and optimally productive. For an unduly long time the creative genius of our people have been suppressed and shackled by an education system rooted in largely producing mere degree holders

and rote learners – a legacy of the colonial education policy. The National Education Policy, 2020 is a revolutionary initiative for transformation of our education system that would produce citizens who are healthy, intelligent, equipped with critical thinking, experiential learning and far more self-confident. With multi-disciplinary approach breaking the rigid silos and innovative credit system, our students will have much greater flexibility in learning various disciplines of their interest and would be far more capable to take on the emerging challenges of today and tomorrow.

In the New Education Policy, there is greater emphasis on education including higher and technical education in regional languages. The New Education Policy encourages Tamil in higher educational institutions. In order to instil a sense of pride in Tamil and incentivise students for learning Tamil with pride, we must introduce Tamil in Science and Technology including medicine, engineering and law.

Enthusiasm and interest with which the New Education Policy has been received by our people and adopted by the Educational Institutions across the country is a matter of great satisfaction.

Our State – Tamil Nadu is among the better performing States of the Country. We have achieved commendable progress in health, education, infrastructure and industrialization. Our human development indicators are among the best in the country. These achievements are matter of great satisfaction. Rise of Tamil Nadu is crucial for the rise of India. We need to identify our strengths and weaknesses. We need to leverage our strengths and work on our weaknesses.

In our development and growth, we need to ensure equity and balance. We need to overcome the sub-regional imbalances in

development and growth in our State. We need to address the relative development deficits among our marginalised and downtrodden brothers and sisters from Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Adi-Dravidas. They cannot and must not be left behind.

Prevalence of untouchability, the shameful ugly legacy of the past in some parts of our State is a serious blot on our face and conscience. It is unbearable and unacceptable for a civilized society. This inhuman and shameful practice must stop forthwith. Together we have to eradicate this evil.

It is a matter of satisfaction that in our State, we have a sound higher education infrastructure. Now our emphasis should be on their qualitative upgradation. In order to make our higher education more meaningful and productive, we need to focus on symbiotic collaboration between our Higher Education Institutions and Industries.

We know that today a student with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and mathematics) background has much better career and professional opportunities than others. We need to introduce measures in schools for encouraging more of our students going for STEM disciplines.

Our State has all the needed ingredients for attracting more investments – better infrastructure – road, rail, air and sea; relatively better availability of electricity, skilled human resource and a relatively good climate of industrial relations. Investment is needed to improve the life and livelihood of our people. Some of our neighbouring States are attracting many times more investments than our State. We need to identify and address the reasons and make our State an attractive investment destination for the good of our people.

My dear brothers and sisters, we the people of Tamil Nadu are proud inheritors of a rich language and culture. Tamil is perhaps the oldest living language in the World. It is not only very old but a highly rich language. The available Tamil literature since the Sangam period is a living testimony of its richness in literary, intellectual, philosophical, artistic and spiritual contents. Similarly our culture is equally ancient. Our art and culture, since several thousand years have evolved and revolved around our temples many of them are several thousand years old. Their architectural grandeur and aesthetic magnificence has no parallel in the World. Our great Kings – Pallavas, Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas built temples as centres of our culture and spirituality. Besides, there are countless Kuladeivam in every family and village. All these are crucial and inseparable elements of our Tamil culture. All our classical art, music, song and dance are inspired by them. It is our duty to preserve and energise them.

My dear young friends, having reached 75 years of our Independence, we now enter the Amrit kal (Golden Age) of the next 25 years. This quarter century is yours. Destiny of our Nation will be in your hands. By 2047, when the country would be celebrating the Centenary of Independence, India must be at the summit of World leadership. This being your quarter century, it is your enterprise that will shape the future of the Country and take it to its destiny.

I urge you to get-up, dream big, work hard to achieve your dream and as Swami Vivekananda said – “Stop not till the goal is reached”.

The coming years are full of unprecedented opportunities for you. While availing new opportunities for growth and development, you must also be ever conscious of your fundamental duties to our nation as enshrined in the Constitution of India. For long we have

been conscious of our rights, it is time we must be aware of our duties also. An appropriate balance between rights and duties alone will ensure comprehensive development and growth of our country.

Our Prime Minister aptly captured the sentiment of our country in the following lines....

“இதுவே நேரம், சரியான நேரம்; பாரதத்தின் பொன்னான நேரம், எண்ணற்ற கரங்களின் ஆற்றல் இங்கு உள்ளது. எங்கும் நாட்டுப்பற்று பரவியுள்ளது. உங்களால் சாதிக்க முடியாது என்று எதுவுமில்லை, நீங்கள் எழுந்து உழைக்கத் தொடங்குங்கள், உங்கள் திறனை அறிந்து கொள்ளுங்கள், உங்கள் கடமையை உணருங்கள், இதுவே பாரதத்தின் பொன்னான நேரம், இதுவே நேரம், சரியான நேரம்.”

Dear friends, I once again extend my greetings and best wishes to you all !

Vaazhga Bharatham,
Valarga Tamil Nadu,
Nandri.”

Raj Bhavan, Chennai-22.

Sd/-xx

14.08.2022

Joint Director (PR)