GOVERNOR EXTENDS GREETING ON THE OCCASION OF
GOA LIBERATION DAY

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Governor of Goa, Shri Satya Pal Malik has extended his greetings and good wishes to the people of the State on the occasion of Goa Liberation Day.

In his message, the Governor said, “On the joyous occasion of Liberation Day of Goa, I extend my greetings and good wishes to the people of Goa. 19th December is a landmark occasion in the glorious history of Goa. It was on this day in the year 1961 that the territory of Goa was liberated from the 450 years Old Portuguese colonial rule, thereby making it as an integral part of our Motherland. Freedom fighters from Goa and other parts of the county took part in this historic Goa Liberation Movement. They suffered and sacrificed their precious lives for the noble cause of Goa’s liberation. The Indian Army, with the commendable courage and heroism, physically took over the control of the territory. It is only appropriate that, on this memorable day, we recall the tremendous efforts made by our freedom fighters, their struggle, sufferings and sacrifices, and also the victorious action of the Army, and express our gratitude to them. Let us pay homage to those who laid down their valuable life for the territory’s freedom,” the Governor said.

He added, “Post-liberation, big strides were made in mass education and health infrastructure and services. Employment in the myriad government and private institutions, and boost in infrastructure development set the pace for Goa’s credible human development indices. Tourism began to grow which added to the profits from iron ore mining. Agricultural also improved with capital infusion and Government subsidies.”

“At present, agriculture offers part time employment to a sizeable portion of the people. Rice is the main agricultural crop, followed by cashew, areca nut and coconut. To ensure remunerative price to the farmers for their produce, the agriculture mandis are being connected online through e-NAM portal. Under ‘Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana’, farmers are being provided affordable and simple crop insurance services. Government is promoting Organic farming in cereals, pulses, vegetables and fruit crops and to promote organic farming a scheme “Promotion of Organic farming” is being implemented,” the Governor said.

“Fishing also employs about 40,000 people. It is also an important sector of the state and it is the only source of livelihood of
sizeable community of the fisherman who has been contributing significantly to the fish production of the State. Financial assistance in the form of subsidies are provided to the fishermen. Measures have been taken to prohibit fishing by using LED lights and Bull trawling in territorial waters of Goa. Goa is known as a worldwide tourist destination due to its scenic beauty, clean beaches, good infrastructure facilities, good network connectivity and safety/security measures. Tourism industry has consistently been one of the biggest contributors to the major portion in the State’s economy. The total arrival of tourists is five times more than the residential population. State organizes various festivals to entertain the visiting tourists in the state all through the year to showcase the diverse cultures, and also to showcase the true and genuine bond of communities living in with amity and harmony in the State. The Union Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Coastal Circuit – I project under its Swadesh Darshan Scheme in order to create and upgrade basic amenities and tourist friendly infrastructure on the coastal belt of Goa. Also Goa has emerged as an important destination for national and International events. Goa is the permanent destination for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).This year too, the festival was conducted smoothly in the State. This year the IFFI was of special importance as it marked the 50th year, the Golden Jubilee year. The event witnessed over 250 movies from 76 countries along with screening of 7 Konkani movies this year, reflecting the nuances of Goan Society. The event provided a boost to the state's economy as more than 10,000-12,000 delegates participated this year,” the Governor said.

“The State Government has been taking huge efforts in maintaining cleanliness throughout the state especially tourist areas, through mechanized beach cleaning, improving the sanitation facilities, beach garbage collection etc. Goa has been declared “Open Defecation Free” w.e.f. 31st August, 2019. Also the Goa Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control)(Amendment) Act, 2019 has been enacted for banning single use plastic in the State and monitoring mechanism has been put in place. I would like to appeal to all the tourists visiting Goa to cooperate with our efforts helping us maintain cleanliness and hygiene in the State. The State is making huge endeavours for development of eco-friendly tourism in the State. Emphasis should also be laid on development of wellness tourism in the state and efforts should be made by the Government to develop Goa as a home for various Ayurvedic treatments, Yoga and natural therapies.”

The further said that the State is committed to the continued development of education with 88.70% literacy rate. The State of Goa is an emerging destination for knowledge-based industries such as
biotechnology and IT. To promote Goa as an investment hub, the State is focusing in improving transparency in the system by enhancing Ease of doing business (EoDB). State has a single window clearance mechanism under Investment Promotion Board to attract investment. Government has notified Goa Start-up policy 2019 and Goa Information Technology policy was launched with a vision to create and nurture a global competitive information technology eco-system. E-district policy has been launched and currently 65 end to end services are live under the purview of the project. All Panchayats have been provided with Goa Broad Band Network in order to provide digital services, even in the remotest areas of the State. The Goa Investment Promotion Board (Goa IPB) acts a catalyst to young entrepreneurs to set up environment friendly industries in the State. The incubation and co-working space named IGNITE EDC Innovation Hub at EDC House; Panaji with ultra modern facilities has been operationalized.

Today, he Governor added, Goa has a well-developed economy with social, physical and industrial infrastructure and virtual connectivity. It has an international airport that is in line with its importance as a globally-recognized leisure destination. It also has significant port infrastructure. The 3rd Mandovi Bridge known as Atal-Setu(or Bridge), a cable-stayed bridge which carries National Highway 66 over the tidal part of the Mandovi River, was made open to public on 27th January, 2019. It is the 3rd longest cable Stayed Bridge in India, having a total length of 5.1 kms. Other ambitious project of the Government is the eight lane cable-stayed bridge over Zuari River, which is under construction. The new eight-lane Zuaribridge once completed will be the widest cable-stayed bridge in the country.

“It is true that Goa has made phenomenal progress on economic, political, social and cultural fronts, particularly after attaining full fledged Statehood. However, one cannot afford to rest on the past laurels. Experience gained in the past could provide the right direction to proceed further. It is the time to make a fresh assessment of the prevailing Manpower Scenario and plan for creating skills for future growth. This may necessitate restructuring of the syllabus and technical courses being taught by the educational institutions with due emphasis on research and imparting skill education. This would take care of the evil effects of brain-drain. Moreover, our educational institutions need to spread the ideas of commitment towards the society and nation among the student community,” the Governor said.

“Added efforts may also be needed to protect and preserve the architectural heritage of Goa’s cities, towns and villages considering the
growth of concrete jungles all over lately. This particular objective could be accomplished by resorting to aesthetic spatial planning all over the State to prevent further damage. Goa is known for its peaceful co-existence of the Hindu, Christians, Muslims and other communities. It is a State with rich tradition of social harmony and has maintained it all through these years. Also Goa is the only State in India that has Uniform Civil Code. Regardless of religion, gender, caste, Goa has common family law. I feel Goa is truly blessed to have peace and unity in diversity and I urge each and everyone to keep up the spirit of unity and maintain the peace and order in the State. I am glad to inform you all that the overall law and order situation has remained under control due to implementation of various preventive measures in the State. The crime rate has decreased and has gone down to 9.23% as compared to the corresponding year 2018. I am confident that the people of the State would march ahead hand-in-hand with total commitment to brotherhood, and peaceful co-existence in the years to come. Goa will continue to shine as a progressive State of India with added vigour,” the Governor concludes.

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