

## GOVERNOR EXTENDS GREETINGS ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

**Panaji: August 14, 2024**  
**Sravana 23, 1946**

Governor of Goa, Shri. P.S.Sreedharan Pillai has extended his heartiest greetings and warm wishes to the people of Goa.

Shri. Pillai in his message, has said that, we remember with great gratitude the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters in the Indian National Movement. We pay our respects to them for securing our valuable independence from colonial rule. It is because of their sacrifices that India has become the largest democracy in the world. Let us recall with pride and honor the selfless sacrifices of the leaders of our freedom struggle, such as Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Jayaprakash Narayan, Aurobindo Ghose, Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, and other such luminaries. Let us also remember the unsung stories of every brave-hearted foot-soldier of our epic struggle and pay homage to all those who contributed to our freedom. It is because of their sacrifice that we can bask in the glory of democracy **today**. On this momentous occasion, let us rededicate ourselves to the ideals on which our nation was founded and reflect upon the values and principles that form the foundation of our country. Let this day be not just a symbolic occasion, but a day on which every Indian across the globe can take pride and commit to making our nation greater in the global arena.

The Governor said that Independence Day reminds us that we are part of a great community. It is the largest and most significant community of its kind—the citizens of the world's largest democracy. Each of us has many identities apart from caste, creed, language, and region. We are also identified with our families and professions, but there is one identity that stands above all, and that is our identity as "citizens of Bharat". Each one of us has equal opportunity, equal rights, and equal duties in this land. India is the mother of democracy, and since ancient times, we had democratic institutions functioning at the grassroots level. However, long years of colonial rule wiped out this glory to a very great extent. On August, 15, 1947 Britishers bid farewell to India and we got freedom.

Under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and a galaxy of visionary leaders, the national movement was animated by a unique set of ideas, and rekindled the soul of India and helped the nation rediscover its civilizational values. Following India's shining example of "Truth and Non-Violence," our resistance has inspired many political struggles around the world.

Along with political freedom, our Freedom Fighters pleaded and worked themselves for social and economic freedom. Our Constitution has also put forward the concept of "Welfare State", which means minimum requirements of all the people of India, should be fulfilled. Now our country is moving forward rapidly, obtaining such a goal, with success very near to us. I am pleased to inform you that according to the World GDP Ranking 2024 list, India is the fifth-largest economy in the world and is soon expected to become the third-largest. Since independence, India has transformed challenges into opportunities and has recorded high GDP growth. The

aspirations of New India have infinite dimensions. The Indian Space Research Organization continues to scale new heights and set higher benchmarks of excellence. This year, ISRO launched Chandrayaan- 3, and our scientists and technologists are bringing laurels to the country. Speaking about our State of Goa, while it may be small on the map of India, it is known for its peace and harmony. Although Goa attained liberation and joined the national mainstream fourteen years after India's independence, I am pleased to note that the State has made laudable progress in various fields. **Today**, Goa boasts two operational airports, namely the Manohar International Airport at Mopa and Dabolim Airport. Other major achievements include roads, buildings, New Zuari Bridge with 8 Lane Cable, 4 Lanes on each side, the 2nd longest Cable Stayed Bridge in India. The State of Goa hosted several prestigious G20 meetings covering various topics and every meeting was well-organised and successful in every aspect, the Governor added.

Further, the Governor said that, blessed with abundant natural beauty, rich flora and fauna, vibrant culture, Goa is a top tourist destination globally. It is encouraging to see the tourism sector on the rise, with the State Government focusing on eco-tourism as a major area of development. This sector holds vast potential for generating gainful employment opportunities for locals in and around forest areas. Our country has entered the "Amrit Kaal" with new resolutions and is moving towards becoming an inclusive and developed Nation by 2047 as "Viksit Bharat". Let us all pledge to perform our fundamental duties and strive for excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the Nation continues to rise to higher levels of endeavor and achievement.

Raj Bhavan, Goa has taken certain initiatives to highlight the Heritage of Bharat and Goa apart from protection of climate and encouragement of traditions. He said that, "I am pleased to inform that soon Raj Bhavan Lawns are going to become Home to Biggest Vaman Vriksha Kala Udyan (Bonsai Garden) in a public place/Administrative Institutes boasting of 1000 plants. This Vaman Vriksha Kala Udyan initially started with 72 potted plants on 17th September, 2022. Vaman Vriksha Kala Udyan spread over three lawns of Raj Bhavan contains miniature trees in various curated styles. It is indeed commendable that around 40% of this number has been developed in house who have undergone special training for this purpose. Raj Bhavan Goa has decided to pay glowing tribute to the glorious heritage of Indian Medicine by installing six foot high bronze statues of Charaka, the "Father of Ayurveda" and Sushruta, the "Father of Surgery", on the lawns of Raj Bhavan. These two were brilliant physicians of ancient India and the two books, the Charaka Samhita and Sushruta Samhita, authored by them are renowned and in use even **today** for their deep knowledge and comprehension of medicine. The statue of Sushruta will be similar to the one presently adorning the campus of the Royal Australia College of Surgeons in Melbourne. The text imprinted below the image considered him to be the Father of Surgery and detailed out the contributions of this ancient Indian Surgeon who had made particularly to Plastic Surgery and especially rhinoplasty. Equally important is Charaka, an earlier master in Ayurveda. **Today** there are countless in India and the world who believe and follow Ayurvedic medicine and more and more joining the ranks. The plan is to have a display of their exemplary contributions and profound influence in modern times along with the statues. This will include highlights of important verses from their books and pictures of the medical procedures and instruments invented and used by them in ancient India. It is hoped to instill pride and admiration in the heart of every Indian for the wonderful legacy of our very

learned ancestors. Raj Bhavan has also taken initiative for establishing unique projects such as: Shweta Kapila Raj Bhavan, Goa inaugurated "Goushala" to shelter and maintain indigenous breed of cows of Goa namely "Shwetakapila. This is the first of its kind Goushala dedicated to the protection of the Goan breed of indigenous cows (Shwetakapila) and also to promote their progeny in the State. Rakta Chandan Udyan (Red Sandalwood Garden) -Raj Bhavan initiated a Red Sandalwood Garden by planting 73 saplings in the Estate of Raj Bhavan. The Red Sandalwood is an over exploited tree reputed for its fragrance, medicinal value and its use in religious rituals. Aushadhi Vatika:- Raj Bhavan has planted 71 species of Ayurvedic medicinal plants in Aushadhi Vatika. Aushadi Vatika serves as a beacon of education, conservation and inspiration. Faunal Bio-Diversity Centre: The Faunal Biodiversity Centre stands as a hub of knowledge and exploration, dedicated to unravelling the rich tapestry of life within Raj Bhavan Premises. It introduces visitors to the mesmerizing world of about 54 bird species, reptiles, butterflies, dragonflies, plants, ferns, algae and other entomological wonders. This holistic approach caters to the curiosity of students, bird lovers, researchers and all who seek to delve into the intricacies of natural love. Kaavi Art: Raj Bhavan organized a four day workshop on "Kaavi Art". The workshop is an endeavour by Raj Bhavan to contribute to the efforts being made by heritage lovers to protect and promote this dying unique "Kaavi Art" and to create awareness about this art to the rest of the country and the world".

On this Independence Day, I once again extend my greetings to all citizens of our country, especially to our soldiers guarding the borders, the jawans of the forces, the police providing internal security, and to members living in every part of the world. I convey my best wishes to you all, he concluded.

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