

GOVERNOR EXTENDS GREETINGS ON GOA LIBERATION DAY

Panjim, 18, 2024
Agrahayana 27, 1946

Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai extended their heartiest greetings and good wishes to the people of Goa on the occasion of Goa Liberation Day.

In his message, the Governor said, on this glorious day in 1961, Goa got freedom from the dominant rule of the Portuguese. This day, this year is memorable, as Goa liberation Day made the independence of India complete.

The Governor said Goa was under Portuguese colonial rule for over 450 years from 1510 to 1961. As we all know, India gained its independence on **15th August, 1947** but Goa was still under Portuguese control despite being part of the Indian subcontinent. It is on this landmark day in 1961 that the Indian Army with commendable courage freed Goa from the shackles of 450 years of Portuguese colonial rule and made Goa an Integral part of India. The journey to freedom was long and arduous. Freedom fighters from Goa and from other parts of India underwent numerous sufferings and sacrifices in their struggle for emancipation. It is only appropriate that on this memorable day, we salute the brave and valiant as well as the spirited and selfless freedom fighters. Let us also pay homage to all those great souls who laid down their valuable life for the freedom of Goa.

Governor further stated that Goa boasts of unique identity that the people of Goa have collectively striven to preserve and protect in the post liberation period in the face of various challenges. The 1967 opinion poll confirmed this special identity of Goa. The emergence of Statehood in 1987 is a milestone in the journey to maintain its distinct heritage. The inclusion of Konkani in the 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution further cemented the individuality of the State.

Governor complimented all leaders and people of Goa for having fought hard to preserve and protect this exclusive identity.

Governor has further mentioned that the tourism sector is one of the main drivers of the Goan economy. Goa is renowned world over as a top tourist destination. Goa is endowed with rich flora and fauna. Besides the State has a vibrant culture and heritage. Further, the people of Goa are friendly and peace loving. Different communities in Goa have existed in complete harmony. This combined with Goa's extraordinary beauty has made it a famous tourist destination, he added.

Shri. Pillai informed that at present Goa is a modern and forward-looking State. Goa was ranked at the top among the States and the Union Territories on 12 key indicators relating to quality of life in the Report of National Commission on Population. Goa was ranked to be the best amongst all the States in India in the categories of Education, Health, Infrastructure and Investment. In terms of social indicators such as literacy and infant mortality rate, Goa is among the top three States in the country. Eleventh Finance Commission ranked Goa as the Best Placed State in the country in terms of infrastructure facilities.

But more important than the ranking is the fact that Goa is a unique multicultural State. The people of Goa are nice, peace loving and friendly. Different communities in Goa co-exist in complete harmony. This, combined with Goa's extraordinary natural beauty, makes it a very popular destination to visit. No wonder, Goa is one of India's smallest State in size (area) but it has the highest per capita income in India. Goa is thus a prosperous state. Goa has a high rate of economic growth, among the highest in the country. Goa is well connected to metropolitan cities and centres of trade and commerce through road, railway and sea-routes as well as by air, he added.

Governor has further mentioned that the present State Government has been doing a commendable job for the progress and development of Goa by providing infrastructure in the form of roads, railways, airports and bridges. Governor highlighted that this year, Manohar International Airport at Mopa in Pernem Taluka has been honoured with the prestigious title of best domestic airport at the India's Best Award (IBA).

In addition to sports and tourism, Goa has gained another identity nationwide in recent years. State Government is promoting Goa as a major educational hub. Several institutions here have become dream institutes for students from across the country. Recently Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji inaugurated the permanent campus of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Goa, marking a significant milestone in the state's educational infrastructure, he added.

Shri. Pillai informed that the State Government has implemented the flagship scheme of the Central Government "PM Vishwakarma" with full vigour with the support of the Swayampurna Mitras. Due to the concerted efforts under the Swayampurna Goa Programme, around 33,000 Shramjeevis have been registered under 18 different notified traditional trades. Goa is the first State which has commenced training for these Shramjeevis .

Governor has further mentioned "Swayampurna Goa" is the mission of the Goa Government in line with the Atmanirbhar Bharat-Gharib Kalyan programme of Government of India, with the vision of "Transforming Goa into a Self-reliant, Self-Sustainable State with minimum Government and maximum Governance to ensure last mile delivery". Empowering villages, and reviving rural economy is a sole purpose of this programme. In order to continue the mission of Antodaya, Sarvodaya and Gramodaya for transformation of every Goan citizen into a self-reliant individual contributing towards a self-reliant Goa, Special drives were undertaken at the Village Panchayats/Municipalities/ Corporation in coordination with Government Departments and Swayampurna Mitras with an effort to reach Government schemes/services to every resident, he added.

Under the dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the State has implemented the "Goa Chief Minister's Apprenticeship Policy. Under this policy, youth irrespective of qualifications SSC/ HSSC/ Graduate/ITI passed who are eligible to enroll under the Apprenticeship Training Scheme have been given the opportunity to work with Government Departments for a period of 1 year to earn rich working experience and a monthly stipend.

Keeping in mind, the concept of Viksit Bharat 2047 Hon'ble Chief Minister has Putting all his efforts for a swaryampurna Goa Pt, and Developed Goa by focussing and creating awareness on welfare schemes such as Nari Shakti ,Yuva Shakti, Kisan Shakti and Garib kalyan

On this momentous occasion, the Governor mentioned that Raj Bhavan took initiative in promoting our traditional Vaman Vriksha Kala by having the biggest Public Vaman Vriksha Udyan (Bonsai Garden) on the lawns of Raj Bhavan. The Vaman Vriksha Udyan (Bonsai Garden) of Raj Bhavan artistically spread over three big lawns comprising of an assemblage collection of 1008 miniature numbers of potted Bonsai Trees contains 222 species of trees expressed in various curated styles.

Governor also informed that, Goa Raj Bhavan is having the Biggest Public Vaman Vriksha Udyan (Bonsai Garden) among Indian Official Sites. On the occasion of 74th Birthday of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji launched a historic initiative of protecting and preserving centenarian trees of Raj Bhavan. Raj Bhavan Goa has decided to pay glowing tribute to the glorious heritage of Indian Medicine by installing statues of Charaka, the "Father of Ayurveda" and Sushruta, the "Father of Surgery", on the lawns of Raj Bhavan. Maharushi Charaka is one of the foremost physicians who lived in ancient India much earlier to Maharushi Sushruta Charaka wrote a comprehensive treatise on Indian 'Medicine prevalent in ancient India known as Charaka Samhita. The Samhita is divided into eight parts (Ashtanga Sthanas) with the headings namely Sutra, Nidana, Vimana, Sarira, Endriya, Chikitsa, Calpa and Siddha, with multiple sub-chapters for each part. Charaka was the first great physician who contributed significantly to the history of medicine through his analysis on unique issues such as anatomy of the body, diet and metabolism. The depth and divergence of Caraka Samhita is so astounding that it has been aptly said "whatever is not here cannot be found anywhere else" Charaka is rightly regarded as 'Father of Ayurveda' and the medical heritage of ancient India owes much to this remarkable physician of ancient India, he added

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 Goa will continue to rise to higher levels of endeavor and achievement, Governor concluded.

DI/INF/NB/KBM/AS/PN/959

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Issued by the Department of Information & Publicity

Department of Information & Publicity,

Government of Goa,

Udyog Bhavan, Third Floor,

Near Azad Maidan,

Panaji – Goa.