

RAJ BHAVAN, TAMIL NADU - PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU PRESIDED OVER TRIBUTES
TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS FUNCTION ORGANISED ON THE 155TH
BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF MAHATMA GANDHI AT RAJ BHAVAN,
CHENNAI, TODAY (02.10.2023)**

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, today(02.10.2023) presided over the Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations on the occasion of 155th birth anniversary of the Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi conducted at Raj Bhavan, Chennai.

Hon'ble Governor accompanied by the First Lady of Tamil Nadu Tmt. Laxmi Ravi paid floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Bhavan Campus and inaugurated the special photo exhibition on "Tributes to Freedom Fighters" showcasing the life history and freedom struggle movement of Mahatma Gandhi and distinguished contributions of freedom fighters to Nation's independence.

During the occasion, Governor interacted with the research students, mentors and the nodal officers who are doing "Special Research Projects on Unsung Freedom Fighters of Tamil Nadu" with the special initiative and under the guidance of Hon'ble Governor of Tamil

Nadu. Governor witnessed the glimpse on ongoing projects of 85 Researchers, 60 mentors and 18 nodal officers, displayed in the exhibition.

Governor and the Lady Governor also inaugurated the stalls of banana farming and associated industrial products held under the under Indian Council of Agriculture Research and ICAR-National Research Centre for Banana (ICAR-NRCB), Tiruchirappalli at Raj Bhavan campus and commenced the sales by purchasing the items.

Hon'ble Governor and the Lady Governor hosted "Tributes to Freedom Fighters" function and greeted and felicitated the freedom fighters, INA veterans and unsung freedom warriors, the family and descendants of martyrs for their immense contributions and sacrifices for our Nation. Street theatre display, cultural dance, drama and mime on freedom fighters of Tamil Nadu and their contribution for Independence were performed by the traditional artistes and village folk groups during the event.

In his address, the Hon'ble Governor mentioned our freedom is hard earned because of the unfathomable sacrifices of our ancestors. The history of our freedom struggle began in 1750–52. Our ancestors fought the Battles of Kalakkadu (Pulithevar fought), Panchalankurichi (Veerapandia Kattabomman fought), and Vellore (Sepoys' uprising)

against the British for freedom. Their contributions and sacrifices must be acknowledged and duly respected. He said when he came here as Governor and inquired about the number of freedom fighters of the state, it was around 40. It was unbelievable that a place with such a great legacy of patriots and martyrs having such a low number. Later, he found that the number of freedom fighters is multiple fold. Some of them are alive as well. He said that because of political greed, only a handful of the freedom fighters were remembered; unfortunately, the rich legacy of a large number of such heroes went unacknowledged, unheard, and unappreciated. Our nation can never grow if we remain ungrateful to such great people who suffered and sacrificed for our Nation. Therefore, Raj Bhavan has taken it as a mission to do research, acknowledge, document, and give long-due respect to those unsung freedom fighters. With the active participation of researchers and their mentors, research on more than 100 unsung freedom fighters has been going on in the universities of Tamil Nadu. A Freedom Fighter Gallery was put up to remember those freedom fighters. (Today, a Freedom Fighters gallery was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor in Raj Bhavan, where those researchers came up with their research work, giving more insights on the life and history of those unsung freedom fighters.)

Hon'ble Governor said that the Raj Bhavan felt blessed and sanctified with the presence of our Freedom Fighters. Their felicitation is a way to express our gratitude to them. He said this function will be organised annually; more and more unsung freedom fighters have yet to be identified and have to be given their befitting, long-due respect.

On this day, let us resolve ourselves to take this as a mission to honour the freedom fighters and work together to build the Bharat of their dreams.

Hon'ble Governor mentioned that Tamil Nadu Raj Bhavan is transforming into "Makkal Maaligai" ("Lok Bhavan"). He mentioned that the Banana Farmers, Agri-entrepreneurs and FPOs have put up their stalls as a part of this celebration to promote and make people aware of their innovative and eco-friendly diverse products. He said more such interventions will be taken in the future. (Hon'ble Governor Thiru. R.N.Ravi and Tmt. Laxmi Ravi inaugurated the stalls today in the morning).

In this celebrations, Honorary Consuls, Hon'ble Judges, Central and State Govt. Officials, Defence officials, Police officials, heads and representatives of political parties, Chancellors of private universities, Vice-Chancellors of state universities, Padma awardees, dignitaries, National award sports winners, industrialists, start-ups entrepreneurs,

MSMEs heads, eminent medical professionals, ex-servicemen, farmers, prominent persons from MNCs of G-20 Nations, heads from press and media, differently skilled persons, religious heads, NGOs representatives, researchers, faculties, students,officials and staff of Raj Bhavan were participated in the celebrations.

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