

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU PRESIDED OVER
COMMEMORATION OF JAMBUDWEEP PROCLAMATION AND
FELICITATION OF RESEARCHERS OF SPECIAL RESEARCH
PROJECTS ON UNSUNG NATIONAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS FROM
TAMIL NADU AT RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI TODAY (16.06.2024)**

Raj Bhavan celebrated Jambudweep proclamation, a strategic and visionary document to liberate Bharat from colonial rule made public this day on June 16, 1801 by Marudhu brothers, the great warrior leaders of Tamil Nadu. Some living freedom fighters and descendants of Marudhu Brothers were felicitated. 89 Research scholars and their mentors who through their painstaking research documented the life and works of about 100 freedom fighters of Tamil Nadu were felicitated at the Bharathiar Mandapam, today (16.06.2024).

Hon'ble Governor, in his address, elaborated how the Jambudweep Declaration was a clarion call to all the sections of the society to drive the European out of Bharat. It was not only for the freedom of Sivagangain but for the whole of Bharath (Jambudweep). Governor added that in a research work by the Centre for South Indian Studies has revealed more than 5000 young people from Tamil Nadu had joined the Indian National Army and fought along with Netaji Subhash Chadra Bose. Many of them sacrificed their lives in the battles against the British. There are countless

freedom heroes who gave their lives for this country. He mentioned how after the battle of Panchalankurichi, the entire city along with the Fort was razed to the ground, and salt was spread on the ground to make the entire land barren.

It is unfortunate that in our state our National heroes have been reduced to caste leaders since they were abandoned by the governments.

He recalled how the sense of one-ness was revived during the National Freedom Movement, bringing everyone together as a Kutumb. He gave an account when, in 1905, when Bengal was divided on a communal line and people across Bharat revolted, V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, who was from this land, revolted. He further mentioned how the Jallianwala Bagh massacre jolted the young Kamarajar and inspired him to join the National Freedom Movement.

Hon'ble Governor lamented that we remain so much colonized that those who inflicted the worst atrocities on our people, we keep glorifying them. Unfortunately, real history of the sacrifices of our forefathers for our National freedom is yet to be recorded. Unless we don't know the heavy cost of freedom, which we enjoy today, we will be made to believe that the freedom came as a gift by the British. It will be the worst kind of disrespect to our forefathers.

Therefore, Raj Bhavan conceived this research project about a

year ago to identify, research, document and celebrate the lives, struggles, and sacrifices of unsung heroes. The beginning was done with 100 freedom fighters, but the work will keep going on, adding more unsung heroes to the list.

Some other eminent scholars and researchers who have worked on the freedom struggle in Tamil Nadu during late 18th and early 19th century shared their experience and they were felicitated. Thiru P. Senthil Kumar, author of the “Battle of Panchalankurichi- 1798- 1801” elaborated how he found plenty of documents in British and Madras Archives on the atrocities of the British on the people of Tamil Nadu and how valiantly our warriors fought them.

Earlier, Hon’ble Governor along with the other dignitaries paid floral tributes to Marudhu brothers. He felicitated and honored some living freedom fighters in the function. He released the book ‘Contribution of Tamil Nadu Lawyers to the Freedom Movement in India’ published by The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai.

Thiru.R. Kirlosh Kumar, I.A.S., Secretary to Governor, Prof. (Dr.) N.S. Santhosh Kumar, Vice Chancellor, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Vice-Chancellors of various State Universities, Thiru.P.Senthil Kumar, Author of Book ‘Battle of Panchalankurichi’, Thiru.B. Kolappan, Senior Deputy Editor, The Hindu, Prof. (Dr.) K.S.

Sarwani, Director IQAC & Director DDE, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, members of Jambudweep Proclamation Committee, freedom fighters, descendants of Mahakavi Subramaniya Bharathiyar and V.O.Chidambaranar, dignitaries, special invitees, research mentors, guides and scholars from state universities, members of various freedom fighters' Associations, officials and staff of Raj Bhavan were present during the function.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai-22

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