

## **PRESS RELEASE**

It is with great consternation and a feeling of concern directed by public good that this press release is being issued today. India is a nation with a great culture and Tamil Nadu is particularly marked out by history for the great philosophical leadership that it has enjoyed over the centuries from Thiruvalluvar to Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. Hence it is to be asserted without a doubt that the people of the state will stand by the side of righteousness, truth and goodness.

The need for Raj Bhavan to narrate the truth has indeed shown the limits towards which fear of the antisocial and lumpen elements has taken society to. This is most unfortunate and reminiscent of the days under the British till the father of the Nation came to the fore to teach the people to resist fear and stand on the path of truth and goodness.

There is only absolute falsehood and not a shred of truthfulness in the links attributed to the Honourable Governor or the Raj Bhavan to the issue concerning a college Assistant Professor of Aruppukottai known by the name of Tmt. Nirmala Devi. The statement given by her before the police will itself bear out the truth. This being the case, it is a matter of humour to hear people say that press freedom is being threatened on the count, of action, being taken under the law after much patience and tolerance to stop a slanderous, vulgar and cowardly way of attacking the first citizen of the state.

Every issue has its limits and Raj Bhavan was maintaining a dignified silence for more than six months since the issue came to light since the law was taking its course and the matter was under investigation and subsequently placed before the Honourable court for trial. It was indeed shocking to see a resurfacing of yellow journalism in an issue of the magazine Nakkeeran in late

September after the charge sheets had been filed and all investigation completed. Those who claim to be engaged in investigative journalism have not even bothered to verify the actual statement given by Tmt. Nirmala Devi before the police. The height of casualness and cowardice in journalistic ethics had been reached with the publishing of the article. The truth is that Tmt. Nirmala Devi has never entered Raj Bhavan in the last one year and she does not have any acquaintance with the Honourable Governor or the Secretary to the Governor or any of the Officers working in the Raj Bhavan. In Madurai, the Honourable Governor never visited the University guest house when he was invited there for the Mother Theresa University Convocation which was being held in the Madurai Kamaraj University. He has at no point of time stayed in the guest house. The Secretary to the Honourable Governor did not even accompany him on any visit to the Madurai Kamaraj University. It can only be a deep sense of hatred towards goodness and truth that could have driven any journalist to have written the articles in the manner they appeared in the Nakkeeran. It is a matter of regret that such utter falsehood and this kind of yellow journalism is being supported by respectable people who, it appears, are not aware of the facts.

Freedom Fighters like Subramania Bharathi and V.O.Chidambaranar, leaders like Perarignar Anna and Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, Bharat Ratnas like Dr. M.G.R. and Dr. Abdul Kalam have done this State proud by their thoughts, deeds, speeches and writings. It is to be understood that no action even bordering on the excessive use of state power will be initiated or supported by Raj Bhavan. Having been hurt by the continuous baseless slander a complaint has been given under the law.

In a democracy there can be a healthy exchange of ideas. But no threats direct or indirect on a constitutional authority as the Honourable Governor will be tolerated. The Raj Bhavan can and will never be cowed down by actions aimed at hurting the dignity of the High Office.

---

Raj Bhavan, Chennai -22

Sd/-

Date : 12.10.2018

Joint Director (PR)