

HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU THIRU. R.N.RAVI'S MESSAGE
ON "NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY"

Our handlooms have always been a part of our ancient Indian civilization. Our handloom products are living heritage. It has been an important part of the culture and our freedom struggle as well. I extend my gratitude to all the weavers specifically those from Tamil Nadu for preserving and promoting the great insignia of our culture.

In the early 20th century, when the colonial suppression was at its peak, our leaders called for Swadeshi Movement. It is often looked at as a political movement where foreign goods were boycotted. It was more than that, it was for reconnecting the mass with "Swa" (self) of Bharat. Even after independence, the core vision of the movement is still relevant beyond time. In 2015, our Prime Minister Thiru. Narendra Modi declared this day, the 7th of August as National Handloom Day. A day to commemorate the immense contribution of handloom weavers in the making of India.

Handlooms of Tamil Nadu hold a significant position in India. As per 4th All India Handloom Census (2019-20), with 2, 43,575 handloom weavers and allied workforce, Tamil Ndu, first among the Southern

States and third in the country. The craftsmanship of our weavers is unparalleled. Weavers of Anaparthi near Tambaram develop a wide range of handloom saris from banana fibre. According to the scriptures, Kanchi silk weavers are the descendants of Sage Markanda.

Today our handloom products are gaining more recognition in the international market. Our products are getting GI Tags, attaining even more recognition in the global markets.

This year we are celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, 75 years of our Independence, and the next quarter century is the Amrit Kal for India. Our handlooms have to continue playing a pivotal role in the resurgence of India as Vishwa Guru. Let us reiterate our collective resolve of contributing collectively and individually to the Nation's development.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai – 22

Date: 07.08.2022

Sd/-

Joint Director (PR)