

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AND CHANCELLOR THIRU.R.N.RAVI**  
**PRESIDED OVER THE 164<sup>TH</sup> CONVOCATION OF UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS,**  
**CHENNAI, TODAY (16.05.2022)**

Thiru.R.N.Ravi, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor, University of Madras presided over the 164<sup>th</sup> convocation of University of Madras, Chennai and conferred the degrees to 931 graduates and medals to the rank achievers in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru.M.K.Stalin who was the Chief Guest of the Convocation function held at the University Campus, today (16.05.2022).

Hon'ble Governor in his presidential address congratulated the young graduates for their achievement and appreciated the recent initiative of University of Madras for promoting the Tamil studies. He recalled how the Prime Minister has publicly stated time and again that Tamil language is the most ancient living language in the world with enormously rich intellectual, spiritual and cultural contents.

The Prime Minister has taken several initiatives for promotion of Tamil language including setting up Tamil Chair in the name of Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiar at the renowned Benaras Hindu University. Recently, Hon'ble Prime Minister in his speech at the Conference of Chief Justice of High Courts and Chief Ministers of the State emphasised the need for promoting the state languages as the languages of High Courts. Governor hoped that sooner than later Tamil should be the language of Madras High Court.

He further said that the Union Grants Commission has taken measures for promotion of state regional languages and has been persuading the Law Universities to confer the Law degree in state language. Governor urged the Tamil Nadu Law University to do so. The Ministry of Education, Govt of India is also persuading some state governments for including Tamil as one of the three optional languages for the non-Tamil students, in other states.

Hon'ble Governor desired that the flag of Tamil language should fly all over the country and Tamil language has to be taken outside the geographical boundaries of the state while the State Government should continue its efforts for spread of Tamil wide and deep in Tamil Nadu. He urged the Hon'ble Chief Minister to initiate setting up the Tamil Chairs in the universities of other states of India. Richness of the Tamil language, its culture, literature and philosophy should spread to all corners of the Nation.

Hon'ble Governor added that while our Nation is celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and commemorating and paying homages to our forgotten freedom fighters for their heroic deeds and sacrifices. The Nation is moving forward to achieve the goal of leading the world in the Golden period of Amrit Kaal of the next 25 years. Tamil Nadu being a progressive state has to play a greater role in the resurgence of the country. Tamil Nadu is duly qualified to lead the Nation to its glory.

Hon'ble Governor stated that the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is also about re-discovering the forgotten glorious past of India and its heritage. He elaborated how the British imperialism ruined the country's education, agriculture and industry. In 1750, the decade when the British began colonising India, the industrial production of India and China together

accounted for 73% of the global production. In this. India's share was larger. There was no America and Europe at the time.

Recalling the Hon'ble Chief Minister's recent announcement of archaeological findings of the fact of the use of iron by Tamil community about over 4000 years ago, Governor quoted data and details of iron production in Madras Presidency until the British destroyed it. Iron produced here was much better quality than the Sheffield which was the leading British company. The British copied the Indian technology and knowledge of producing this high quality of iron in India and then killed the indigenous iron industry.

Hon'ble Governor also mentioned that the technology used for the ship building in the period of Cholas was far better than later days European technologies. He narrated how during the initial years of East India Company they copied the technology for water proofing of the bottom of the ships which is crucial for long voyage. Having acquired this technology and craftsmanship they ruined the industry. Referring to agriculture, the Madras Presidency was producing about 6 MT rice per hectare till the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> Century which was equal to Japan's production.

Lord William Bentinck, the Governor of Madras Presidency in his report to the Company's Board had stated that how the excessively harsh taxation on the people had reduced the once prosperous people to a lamentable state of poverty. Thomas Munro, the subsequent Governor of Madras Presidency whose statue is at the Anna Salai, Chennai further tightened the taxation by levying more tax and brought the community land which sustained the community institutions like schools, vaidyasalas, Chatrams and temples from 35% to 5% resulting in great stress leading to decline and decay of these institutions.

Recalling the indigenous education system, Governor quoted from the report of the then Governor there was large number of educational institutions all over India including Madras Presidency. Subjects taught included literature, mathematics, astronomy, medicine, philosophy, music etc.

Governor urged the young scholars to do researches on the status of education, industry and agriculture in peninsular India during pre-colonial days. It would help to restore our glorious past and instil a sense of pride among our youth to move on with confidence into the future.

Hon'ble Governor cited Thirukural verse 666 to drive home the message that with resolute and firm conviction nothing is beyond reach.

Hon'ble Governor urged the young graduates and scholars to explore unprecedented opportunities available today and make the best application of their knowledge and skills to meet present and future challenges in the spirit of 'Compete and Conquer' as frequently urged by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

In the function, Dr.K.Ponmudy, Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education and Pro-Chancellor, University of Madras Prof.S.Gowri, Vice-Chancellor of University of Madras, Dr.D.Karthikeyan, I.A.S, Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu for Higher Education, Syndicate and Senate Members, faculties of University of Madras, students and parents, officials were in presence.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai-22.

Sd/-xx

16.05.2022

Addl.Director (PR)