

PM MODI ECHOES AS THE VOICE OF TAMILS (MANN KI BAAT SPECIAL)

March 2021

About Cricketer Mithaali Raj

- My dear countrymen, today I have to thank Soumya ji who lives in Indore. She has drawn my attention to a subject and urged me to mention it in 'Mann ki Baat'.
- This subject is – the new record of Indian cricketer Mitaali Raaj. Recently Mitaali Raaj ji has become the first Indian woman cricketer to have made ten thousand runs. Many congratulations to her on this achievement.
- She also is the only international woman player to score seven thousand runs in one day internationals. Her contribution in the field of women's cricket is fabulous.
- Mitaali Raj ji has inspired millions during her more than two decades long career. The story of her perseverance and success is an inspiration not just for women cricketers but for men cricketers too.

About Lighthouses in Tamil Nadu

- My dear countrymen, do you remember the Maritime India Summit held some time ago? Do you remember what I had said at this summit? Naturally, so many programmes keep happening, so many things get said, how does one remember all and how does one pay attention either... naturally!
- But I felt nice that Guru Prasad ji carried forward one of my requests with interest. At this summit, I had talked of developing tourism facilities around the light house complexes in the country. Guru Prasad ji has shared experiences of his travel in 2019 to two light houses - Chennai light house and Mahabalipuram light house.
- He has shared very interesting facts which will astonish even the listeners of 'Mann ki Baat'. For example, Chennai light house is one of those select light houses of the world which have elevators. Not only this, it is also the only light house in India which is within the city limits. It has solar panels too for electricity.
- Guru Prasad ji also talked about the heritage Museum of the light house, which brings forth the history of marine navigation. Giant wicks of oil lamps, kerosene lights, petroleum vapour, and electric lamps that were used in olden times are exhibited at the museum.
- Guru Prasad ji has also written in detail about the oldest light house of India- Mahabalipuram light house. He says that beside this light house there is the 'Ulkaneshwar' temple-built hundreds of years ago by Pallava king MahendraVerman First.
- Thousands of people had lost their lives to this tsunami. A similar tsunami had hit India in 2004. During the tsunami we lost 14 of our employees working at our light house; they were on duty at the light houses in Andaman Nicobar and Tamil Nadu.
- I pay respectful homage to these hard working light keepers of ours and have high regard for their work.

About Marimuthu Yoganathan

- For example, there is Marimuthu Yoganathan who works as a bus conductor in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Yoganathan ji while issuing tickets to the passengers of his bus also gives a sapling free of cost. In this way, Yoganathan ji has got planted of innumerable trees!
- Yoganathan ji has been spending a big chunk of his salary towards this work. Now after listening to this story, who as a citizen will not appreciate the work of Marimuthu Yoganathan? I heartily congratulate his efforts, for his inspirational work.

February 2021

About Water conservation

- Friends, there was a time when in villages, people would collectively look after wells and ponds. Now one such effort is underway at Thiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu.
- Here, local people have been running a campaign for the conservation of their wells. These people are rejuvenating public wells in their vicinity that had been lying unused for years.

About Sir C.V Raman

- My dear countrymen, today happens to be the 'National Science Day' too. The day is dedicated to the discovery of 'Raman Effect' by the great scientist of India, Dr C. V. Raman.
- Yogeshwaran ji from Kerala has written on Nammo App that the discovery of Raman Effect had changed the direction of science in its entirety.

About Murugesan

- Friends, many experiments of creating wealth from agricultural waste too are being run successfully in the entire country. Like, Murugesan ji from Madurai made a machine to make ropes from waste of banana.
- This innovation of Murugesan ji will solve the issues of environment and filth too, and will also pave the way for additional income for the farmers.

About Tamil language

- Few days ago Aparna Reddy ji of Hyderabad asked me one such question. She said "You have been PM for so many years and were CM for so many years. Do you ever feel that something is missing?" Aparna ji's question seems simple but is equally difficult.
- I pondered this over and told myself that one of my shortcomings was that I could not make much effort to learn Tamil, the oldest language in the world; I could not make myself learn Tamil! It is such a beautiful language, which is popular all over the world. Many people have told me a lot about the quality of Tamil literature and the depth of the poems written in it.

January 2021

- Kirti ji writes from Madurai that many of her foreign friends are messaging her thanking India. Kirti ji's friends have written to her that the way India has helped the world in the fight against Corona has enhanced the respect for India in their hearts.

December 2020

About Gayatri

- Friends, I read about a heart-touching effort at Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu. You too must have seen visuals of this on social media. We have seen wheelchairs for humans, but daughter Gayatri in Coimbatore, along with her father, made a wheelchair for a suffering dog. This sensitivity is inspiring and can happen only when a person is filled with kindness and compassion towards all life forms.

About Teacher Hemalata

- I read about a teacher from Tamil Nadu. Her name is Hemalata N. K., and she teaches the oldest language of the world Tamil at a school in Villupuram. Even the Covid 19 pandemic could not create hurdles in her teaching work. Yes! Challenges definitely were there but she found out an innovative way.
- She recorded all the 53 chapters of the course, created animated videos, put them in a pen drive and distributed that amongst her students. Her students got a lot of help from this; they understood the chapters visually. Along with this, she kept interacting with her students telephonically. Thus, studies became quite interesting for the students.

About Scholar Srinivasacharya

- I came to know of an example of such energy of inquisitiveness, about Shri T. Srinivasacharya Swami ji, an elderly person from Tamil Nadu! Shri T Srinivasacharya Swami Ji is Ninety-Two years old. Even at this age, he is writing his book on the computer; that too, typing himself.
- You must be thinking that writing a book is fine.... but in the times of Srinivasacharyaji, there were no computers. So, when did he learn the computer? It is right that there was no computer during his college days. But, there still is as much curiosity in his mind and self-confidence as it was in his youth.
- In fact, Srinivasacharya Swamiji is a scholar of Sanskrit and Tamil. He has written about 16 spiritual books so far. However, with the advent of the computer, when he realized that the method of writing and printing books had changed, he learned the computer and necessary software at the age of 86... yes, at the age of eighty-six. Now he is completing his book.
- Shri T Srinivasacharya Swamiji's life is a living example of the fact that life remains full of energy, as long as the curiosity in life, the desire to learn, does not die. Hence, we should never think that we lagged behind; we missed. "Only if...we too had learnt this!" We should not even think that we cannot learn, or cannot move forward.

November 2020

About Arsha Vidya Gurukulam

- I got an opportunity to know about the work of Jonas Masetti, also known as Vishwanath. Jonas teaches Vedanta & Geeta to people in Brazil. He runs an institution named Vishwavidya. Jonas studied Vedanta Philosophy in India, staying at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam in Coimbatore for four years.

October 2020

About Pon Mariyappan

- My dear countrymen, It is said that learning is growing. Today in Mann ki baat I will introduce you to a person who has a novel passion. This is the passion of sharing the joys of reading and writing with others.
- He is Pon Mariyappan from Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu. Thoothukudi is also known as the Pearl City. Once it was an important centre of the Pandyan Empire. My friend from this town Pon Marriyappan is associated with the profession of hair cutting and runs a salon. A very small salon.
- He has done an exemplary and an inspiring piece of work. He has converted a small portion of his salon into a library. If a customer, while waiting for his turn, reads something from the library and writes on that, Pon Marriyappan, offers him a discount.....isn't it interesting?

Come lets go to Thoothukudi ...lets talk to Pon Mariyyapan ji

P.M. Pon Marriyyapan ji Vannakaam, How are you?

Pon : Respected Prime Minister, Vanakkam

P.M: Vanakkam vanakkam, how did you get the idea of this library?

Pon Mariyappan: I have studied up to class 8th. I could not further my studies beyond that due to family circumstances. When I see educated people, I feel something amiss in me. So, I thought why not establish a library, which would benefit many people, this became an inspiration for me.

Prime Minister: Which book do you like a lot?

Pon Mariyappan: 'Thirukkural' is very dear to me.

Prime Minister: I felt very happy talking to you. Best wishes to you.

Pon Mariyappan: I too am feeling extremely happy while talking to respected Prime Minister.

Prime Minister: Best wishes

Pon Mariyappan: Thank you Prime Minister Ji.

Prime Minister: Thank you.

- We just spoke to Pon Mariyappan ji. See how he dresses people's hair, he gives them an opportunity to dress up their lives too. It felt nice to learn about the popularity of Thirukkural.
- All of you too heard about the popularity of Thirukkural. Today, Thirukkural is available in all languages of India. Given an opportunity, one must read it. In a way, it is a guide for life.

September 2020

About Villu Paatu

- In Tamil Nadu and Kerala, there is a very interesting style of storytelling. It is called 'Villu paat'. It comprises a fascinating confluence of story and music.

About Story teller Srividya

- Srividya Veer Raghavan of Chennai is also engaged in popularizing and disseminating stories related to our culture, while two websites named, Kathalaya and The Indian Story Telling Network, are also doing commendable work in this field.
- Geeta Ramanujan has focussed on stories at kathalaya.org, whereas a network of story tellers from various cities is being created through the Indian Storytelling Network.

About Banana Farmers

- Another example is from theni district of Tamil Nadu, here the Tamil Nadu Banana farmer produce company; This Farmer Produce Company is a company just in name; in reality, these farmers together have formed a collective.
- It has a very flexible system, and that too has evolved five-six years ago. This Farmer Collective purchased hundreds of metric tons of vegetables, fruits and Bananas from nearby villages during the lockdown, and supplied a vegetable combo kit to the city of Chennai.

August 2020

About Thanjavur Toys

- Some parts of India are developing also as Toy clusters, that is, as centres of toys. Like, Channapatna in Ramnagaram in Karnataka, Kondaplli in Krishna in Andhra Pradesh, Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu, Dhubari in Assam, Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

About Rajapalayam dogs

- Friends, I have also been told that Indian breed dogs are also very good and capable. Among the Indian breeds, Mudhol Hound and Himachali Hound are of excellent pedigree. Rajapalayam, Kanni, Chippiparai and Kombai are fabulous Indian breeds.

July 2020

About Student Kaniga

- Come! Let us again go far south. Will speak to our daughter Kaniga from Tamil Nadu, Namakkal and talk with Kaniga is very inspirational.

Modi ji - Kaniga ji, Vanakkam !

Kaniga - Vanakkam sir

Modi ji – How are you

Kaniga - Fine sir

Modi ji - First of all I would like to congratulate you for your great success.

Kaniga - Thank you sir.

Modi ji - When I hear of Namakkal I think of the Anjaneyar temple

Kaniga - Yes sir.

Modi ji - Now I will also remember my interaction with you.

Kaniga - Yes sir.

Modi ji - So, Congratulations again.

Kaniga - Thank you sir.

Modi ji - You would have worked very hard for exams, how was your experience while preparing.

Kaniga - Sir, we are working hard from the start so, I didn't expect this result but I have written well so I got a good result.

Modi ji - What were your expectation?

Kaniga – 485 or 486 like that, I thought so

Modi ji - And now

Kaniga - 490

Modi ji - So what is the reaction of your family members & your teachers?

Kaniga - They were so happy and they were so proud sir.

Modi ji – Which one is your favourite subject.

Kaniga - Mathematics

Modi ji - Oh! And what are your future plans?

Kaniga – I’m going to become a Doctor if possible, in AFMC sir.

Modi ji - And your family members are also in a medical profession or somewhere else?

Kaniga – No sir, my father is a driver but my sister is studying in MBBS sir.

Modi ji - That’s great! so first of all I will do Pranaam to your father who is taking lot of care of your sister and yourself. It’s great service he is doing.

Kaniga - Yes sir

Modi ji - And he is an inspiration for all.

Kaniga - Yes sir

Modi ji - So my congratulations to you, your sister and your father and your family.

Kaniga - Thank you sir.

June 2020

About defence

- Similarly, Mohan Ramamurthy from Madurai, writes that he wishes India to be self-reliant in the defence sector.

About Pallanguli and Paramapadam

- Friends, our country has a very rich heritage of traditional sports. For example, you may have heard the name of a game called “Pachisi”. This game is played as “Pallanguli” in Tamil Nadu, is called “Ali Guli Mane” in Karnataka and is known as “Vaman Guntlu” in Andhra Pradesh.
- It is a type of game employing strategy in which a board is used with many pits, in which the players have to catch hold of the pellet or seed. It is said that this game has spread from South India to Southeast Asia and then to the rest of the world.
- Friends, today every child knows about the game of snakes and ladders. But, do you know that this is also another traditional Indian game, called “Moksha Patam” or “Paramapadam”.

May 2020

About Barber K.C Mohan

- There are innumerable people who are willing to give their all in the service of others. One such gentleman is K.C. Mohan of Tamil Nadu. Shri Mohan ji runs a salon in Madurai.
- Through sheer hard work, he had saved five lakh rupees for his daughter’s education. But he spent the entire amount in the service of the needy and the underprivileged in these difficult times.

About Amurtha Valli of Puducherry

- Amurtha Valli of Puducherry had a similar experience. For her also, 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme appeared as a saviour! Amurtha Valli's husband had tragically died of a heart attack.
- Her 27-year-old son Jeeva also had heart disease and Doctors had suggested surgery for Jeeva, but, for Jeeva, a daily wage laborer, it was near impossible to get such a large operation done on his own earnings.
- However, Amurtha Valli registered her son in the 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme, and nine days later son Jeeva had heart surgery performed on him.

February 2020

About Tamil Nadu painting

- A few days ago, at a small place at the Hunar Haat in Delhi, I witnessed hues of our country's diverse expanse, cultures, traditions, cuisines & the warmth of emotions. As a matter of fact the repertoire comprising traditional attires, handicrafts, carpets, utensils, Bamboo & brass products, Phulkari of Punjab, exotic leatherwork of Andhra Pradesh, beautiful paintings from Tamil Nadu, brass products of Uttar Pradesh, Bhadohi carpets, copper work of Kutch, a number of musical instruments & innumerable stories.

About Tamil poetess Avvaiyar

- The great Tamil poetess Avvaiyar writes: Katrathu Kai Mann Alavu, Kallathathu Ulagalavu". This means, what we know is but just a handful of sand; what we do not know is like a universe in itself.
- Similar is the case with the biodiversity of this country. The more you know, the more you realize the magnitude of what you do not know.

January 2020

About borewell

- A very innovative idea of harnessing a borewell for rainwater harvesting sprung up from Tamil Nadu.

About Weight lifter Purnashree

- Similar is the story of Yogananthan of Tamil Nadu which fills you with great pride! Yogananthan makes beedis in Tamil Nadu, but his daughter Purnashree won everyone's heart by bagging the Gold Medal in Weight Lifting.

About Pongal and Thiruvalluvar day

- My dear countrymen, a couple of weeks ago, different parts of India were celebrating a variety of festivals. When Punjab was spreading the warmth of enthusiasm by celebrating Lohri, sisters and brothers of Tamil Nadu were celebrating Pongal and birth anniversary of Thiruvalluvar.

December 2019

About Swami Vivekananda memorial

- My dear countrymen, many of you must be aware of the rock in Kanyakumari where Swami Vivekanand ji had entered into the meditative state, the spiritual 'Antardhyan'. That very rock Memorial is completing 50 years of existence.
- For the last five decades, it has earned a place of pride for India. Kanyakumari exudes a special attraction, nationally as well as for the world. For anyone seeking to experience spiritual consciousness filled with national pride, this has become a centre of pilgrimage, a temple of faith.
- Swamiji's Memorial has inspiringly instilled a sense of national pride amongst people, irrespective of their sect, age or class. It has shown the way to realize & follow the mantra, 'In service of the poorest of the poor'.
- Whoever visits the place, naturally experiences a surge of inner energy, a sense of positivity; the resolve to contribute something to the country.

About Tiruppur Garment unit

- Parveen Fatima has become a Supervisor-cum-Coordinator following a promotion in a Garment Unit in Tirupur, Tamil Nadu. Until a year ago, she was living in a small village in Kargil.
- At present, her life has undergone a major change, she has become confident – she has become self-reliant and has also brought an opportunity for prosperity for her entire family!
- Like Parveen Fatima, the 'Himayat Programme' has changed the fate of other daughters and residents of Leh-Ladakh region and all of them are working in the same firm in Tamil Nadu today.

About Thiruvalluvar

- The countrymen have the proud privilege to celebrate the last day of Pongal as the birth anniversary of the great Thiruvalluvar. This day is dedicated to the great writer-philosopher-saint Thiruvalluvar and his life.

November 2019

About Pushkaram

- My dear countrymen, Pushkaram, Pushkaraalu, Pushkaraaha. – have you ever heard these terms? Do you know what these are? Let me tell you. These are the different names by which festivals organized on 12 different rivers across the country are called.
- Pushkaram is a festival in which the greatness of the river, the glory of the river, the importance of the river in our lives...all these are brought forth naturally. Last year the Pushkaram was held on the Taamirabarani river in Tamil Nadu.

About Mahakavi Subramania Bharathi

- Towards the end of the 19th century, Mahakavi (Great Poet) Subramanya Bharati had said, and he had said in Tamil.

मुप्पदु कोडी मुगमुडैयाळ- Mupppadu kodi mugam udai yaal

उयिर् मोइम्बुर ओंदुडैयाळ- uyir moim bura ondrudaiyaal

इवळ सेप्पु मोळी पधिनेट्टूडैयाळ ival seppu mozhi padinettudaiyaal

एनिसिन्दनैओंदुडैयाळ enil sindanai ondrudaiyaal

- And he said it back then, I am referring to the second half of the 19th century. And he said that Mother India has 30 crore faces, but one body. She speaks 18 languages, but thinks as one.

October 2019

About Mudaliar brothers

- Soon after Partition in 1947, our neighbour had cast an eye on Lakshadweep; a ship bearing their flag was sent there. When Sardar Patel was informed of this, he wasted no time in initiating stern action.
- He urged the Mudaliar brothers, Arcot Ramaswamy Mudaliar and Arcot Laxman Swamy Mudaliar to immediately undertake a mission with people of Travancore to Lakshadweep and take the lead in unfurling the Tricolour there.
- Following his orders, the Tricolour was promptly unfurled there and the nefarious dreams of the neighbour of annexing Lakshadweep were decimated within no time. After this incident, Sardar Patel asked the Mudaliar brothers to personally ensure all assistance for development of Lakshadweep.

June 2019

About Naga Nadhi at vellore

- I was reading about the collective endeavour in Vellore of Tamil Nadu where 20 thousand women came together to revive the Nag river.

February 2019

About Madurai Chinna Pillai

- Madurai Chinna Pillai is the same person who at first tried to empower the downtrodden and the exploited through the Kalanjiyam movement in Tamil Nadu and initiated community based micro financing.

January 2019

About Former President Kalam's poem

- In the year 2007 on the occasion of the Centenary celebration of Sri Sri Sri Shivakumar Swamiji our former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam had paid a visit to Tumukur. On this occasion Kalam Saheb had recited a poem dedicated to revered Swamiji.

I quote him:

“O my Fellow Citizens – In giving, you receive happiness,

In Body and Soul- You have everything to give,
If you have knowledge – share it,
If you have resources – share them with the needy,
You, your mind and heart.

To remove the pain and suffering, and cheer the sad hearts.

In giving, you receive happiness Almighty will bless, all your actions”

Dr. Kalam Saheb’s poem potrays the life of Shri Shri Shri Shivakumar Swamiji and the mission of the Siddhganga Mutt beautifully. Once again, I pay tribute to this great man.

December 2018

About Doctor Jayachandran

- My dear countrymen, this December we had to bear the loss of some extraordinary, exemplary countrymen. On the 19th of December, Dr. Jayachandran passed away in Chennai. People fondly called him ‘Makkal Maaruthuvar’ since he had a special place in their hearts.
- Dr. Jayachandran was known for his efforts of making the most economical treatment possible available to the poor. People tell us that he would be ever ready & eager, when it came to treatment of patients. In the case of elderly patients, he would even bear the cost of their travelling to and fro.
- On the betterindia.com website, I have read about many of his endeavours that serve as an inspiration to society. I just referred to the betterindia.com, where I got to read about Dr.Jaya Chandran.

October 2018

About Toda community

- Tribal communities make their dwelling units from natural material which are strong as well as eco-friendly. In the isolated regions of the Nilgiri plateau in South India, a small wanderer community Toda make their settlements using locally available material only.

August 2018

About Tamil language

- Every language has its own significance, sanctity. India takes great pride in the fact that Tamil is the most ancient of world languages.

About Former President Dr Radha Krishnan

- On the occasion of Teachers’ Day, we remember the great philosopher, former President of India Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnanji. His birth anniversary is celebrated as Teacher’ Day across the country.

June 2018

About Waste management

- Young school students from Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Goa are working on an important topic like waste management in their school's tinkering lab.

May 2018

About Thaayam game

- I know of a game played in Gujarat called Chomal Isto. It is played with cowries or tamarind seeds or dice on an eight by eight square board. It used to be played in almost every state.
- Known as Chowkabara in Karnataka, Attoo in Madhya Pradesh, Pakidakaali in Kerala, Champal in Maharashtra, Daayaam and Thaayaam in Tamil Nadu, Changaa Po in Rajasthan, it had innumerable names.

April 2018

About ancient irrigation system

- Those of you who might be getting a chance to visit Tamil Nadu might have noticed that in some temples in the state, there are carvings on stone depicting irrigation system, water conservation methods and drought management.
- There are vast stone inscriptions in these temples and devotees get a chance to read these educative messages. May it be Mannarkovil, Chiran Mahadevi, Kovilpatti or Pudukottai – you will get to see massive stone inscriptions to this effect.
- Several baodis (stepwells) are famous as tourist spots but please do not forget that these are the living symbols of the water conservation campaigns which our forefathers had accomplished.

March 2018

About Exam warriors of Chennai

- Anagha, Jayesh and many other children from Chennai have written & posted to me their heartfelt thoughts on the gratitude cards, the post script to the book 'Exam Warriors'. Let me tell Anagha, Jayesh & other children that these letters enliven me up after a hard day's work.

February 2018

About Scientist Sir C V Raman

- All of us have seen that the sea appears blue, but we know from routine life experiences that water has no colour at all. Have we ever thought why water acquires colour in rivers and seas?
- The same thought occurred to a young man in the 1920s. The same question gave rise to a great scientist of modern India. When we talk about Science,

the first name that strikes us is that of Bharat Ratna Sir C.V.Raman. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for his outstanding work on light scattering.

- One of his discoveries is famous as the Raman Effect. We celebrate the 28th of February as National Science Day since on this very day, he is said to have discovered the phenomenon of light scattering, for which the Nobel Prize was conferred upon him.

January 2018

About Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

- Shriman Prakash Tripathi writes that the flight of our courageous Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a Sukhoi 30 fighter plane is inspirational for him.

November 2017

About Chola Navy

- This country, our land has an unbreakable bond with oceans. And as we peep into our history, we come to know that about 800 to 900 (eight to nine hundred) years ago, during the rule of the Cholas, the Chola Navy was considered one of the strongest navies.
- This navy had a big role in the expansion of the Chola-rule and in making it an economic super power. Numerous references of voyages and expeditions of the Chola-Navy are found even today in “Sangam – literature”.
- Very few people might be aware that most navies of the world allowed women on their warships pretty later. But in the Chola Navy, a large number of women played leading roles and that too about eight to nine hundred years ago; to the extent that women actively took part in battles.
- The Chola rulers possessed a very rich and sound knowledge of ship building.

October 2017

About Women empowerment

- Renowned nationalist and Tamil poet Subramanya Bharati is well known for his revolutionary poem Pudhumai Penn or New woman and is renowned for his efforts for Women empowerment.

September 2017

About Former President Abdul Kalam

- India's former President Shriman Abdul Kalamji used to speak of Nanaji's contribution in rural development while talking to the youth. He used to mention Nanaji's contribution with great respect and he even went to a village to see Nanaji's work there.
- If you refer to Mahatma Gandhi, Lokmanya Tilak, Swami Vivekanand, our former President Abdul Kalamji then you will notice that when they toured

around India, they got to see and understand India and they got inspired to do and die for the country.

- All these great men travelled widely in India. At the beginning of their endeavour, they tried to know and understand India; tried to live India within themselves.

August 2017

About Former President Radhakrishnan

- My dear countrymen, we celebrate 5th September as Teacher's Day. It is the birthday of our former President, Dr. Radhakrishnan ji. He was the President, but all through his life, he saw himself as a teacher.
- He preferred to live a teacher's life. He was committed to being a teacher. He was a scholar, a diplomat, the President of India and yet, quintessentially a teacher. I salute him.

June 2017

About Arulmozhi Saravanan

- Recently, I had the opportunity to read a letter, which I feel, I should share with you. From the far south, in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, Arulmozhi Saravanan, a housewife, sent me a letter. And what was in that letter?
- She wrote, that she thought about engaging in some economic activity keeping in mind her responsibilities such as children's education, to lend some financial assistance to her family. She got some money from the bank, under the 'Mudra' Scheme and commenced working towards procuring some items from the market for sale.
- Then she came to know of the 'Government E-Marketplace' system initiated by the government. She tried to find out the details, and asked people about it. And then she registered herself for the scheme.
- Now whatever goods Arulmozhi Madam could supply, she got all those registered on this government website. And the best part is, what she has written in this letter is very interesting. She has written that she got the money from the 'Mudra' Scheme and started her business, then she registered the inventory of all her products on the E-GEM website, and then she got an order from the Prime Minister's Office.
- It was news to me also, I wondered what the PMO would have ordered. She wrote that the PMO had ordered two thermoses, and she was paid Rupees 1600/-. This is empowerment. This is an opportunity for encouraging entrepreneurship.
- Had Arulmozhi not written to me I wouldn't have realised that because of E-GEM, a housewife living far away and running a small business can have the items on her inventory purchased directly by the Prime Minister's Office.

April 2017

About Saint Ramanujacharya

- This year, we the hundred & twenty-five crore countrymen are celebrating the thousandth birth anniversary of Saint Ramanujacharya. Even today breaking the shackles social orthodoxy is so difficult. How would society be a thousand years ago? What kind of a mindset would be prevalent then?
- Not many would know that Ramanujacharya relentlessly struggled against rampant social evils such as the class divide, the chasm between touchable and untouchables and the caste system. Through his own conduct, he embraced those who were ostracized by society.
- A thousand years ago, he launched an agitation allowing their entry into temples and succeeded in facilitating the same. We are indeed fortunate that in every era, for eradicating social evils, noble souls, great men were born in this society itself.
- Now that we are celebrating the 1000th birth anniversary of Ramanujacharya, we should gain inspiration from him in our endeavour to foster social unity, to bolster the adage 'unity is strength'.
- In memory of Saint Ramanujacharya, the government of India is releasing a stamp tomorrow, the 1st of May. I respectfully salute Saint Ramanujacharya and pay tributes to him.

February 2017

About Cuddalore children

- In a way, a positive mindset towards our daughters is leading towards societal acceptance. I have heard that in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu, child marriage has been banned under a special campaign.
- About 175 child marriages have been prevented so far. The district administration has opened bank accounts of over 55-60 thousand daughters under 'Sukanya Samridhi Yojana'.

January 2017

About Former President Abdul Kalam

- We all have before us the extremely inspiring example of our former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. He appeared at the test for recruitment into the Air Force, and failed in that.
- Now suppose that this failure had caused him to become dejected, to concede defeat in his life, then would India have found such a great scientist and such a glorious President? No, never!

August 2016

About Former President Dr Radhakrishnan

- 5th September happens to be the birthday of India's former President Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan ji and the country celebrates this as Teachers Day.

Whatever post he held in his life, he always tried to live like a teacher, an educator.

- Not only this, he always said that “a good teacher can only be one who keeps the student within always alive”. Dr. Radhakrishnan ji showed this by living as a teacher and by keeping alive the student within him despite holding the highest office of the President.

July 2016

About Former President Dr Abdul Kalam

- A young man Mr. Ankit has reminded me of the death anniversary of President Abdul Kalamji, which was observed last week. The country, in fact the world paid glowing tributes to him. The mere mention of Abdul Kalamji's name brings to mind vivid images of science, technology, missiles – in fact the entire spectrum of strengths and capabilities of India in the days to come.
- I firmly believe that the real tribute to Abdul Kalamji will consist of harnessing research and innovation for developing technology to find solutions to problems we face in day to day life, and ridding us of the difficulties we face to make things easier for us all.
- The more the new generation devotes itself to this task, the greater will be their contribution with immense significance for the modern India of the 21st century. That will be the real tribute to Abdul Kalamji.

June 2016

About Sathyabhama College students

- On similar lines as achieved by these Pune students, the students of Sathyabhama University of Chennai in Tamil Nadu also created their satellite; and their SathyabhamaSAT has also been launched.

April 2016

About positive news

- You may remember that the former President of India, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, used to always say, “Please print only positive news on the front page of the newspaper”. He used to continuously repeat that.

February 2016

About Chess Wizard Vishwanathan Anand

- Someone who can express this better than me is the person who is a master at checkmating others, who has checkmated some of the greatest minds in the world. He is chess champion Vishwanathan Anand and he will relate his experiences. Come, why don't you learn how to checkmate in exams from him!
- “Hello, this is Viswanathan Anand. First of all, let me start off by wishing you all the best for your exams. I will next talk a little bit about how I went to my

exams and my experiences for that. I found that exams are very much like problems you face later in life.

- You need to be well rested, get a good night's sleep, you need to be on a full stomach, you should definitely not be hungry and the most important thing is to stay calm. It is very, very similar to a game of Chess. When you play, you don't know, which pawn will appear, just like in a class you don't know, which question will appear in an exam.
- So if you stay calm and you are well nourished and have slept well, then you will find that your brain recalls the right answer at the right moment. So stay calm. It is very important not to put too much pressure on yourself, don't keep your expectations too high. Just see it as a challenge – do I remember what I was taught during the year, can I solve these problems.
- At the last minute, just go over the most important things and the things you feel, the topics you feel, you don't remember very well. You may also recall some incidents with the teacher or the students, while you are writing an exam and this will help you recall a lot of subject matter.
- If you revise the questions you find difficult, you will find that they are fresh in your head and when you are writing the exam, you will be able to deal with them much better. So stay calm, get a good night's sleep, don't be over-confident but don't be pessimistic either. I have always found that these exams go much better than you fear before. So stay confident and all the very best to you."
- Vishwanathan Anand has really said something very important. You must have also seen that when he plays in international tournaments, he sits with such a healthy composure. He is so focussed. You must have seen his eyes don't wander off the chess board.
- We have all heard of how Arjun focussed his attention on the eye of the bird. In the same way, when we watch Vishwanathan playing chess we see his eyes set on the target, focussed on the game very attentively, and that is a reflection of his inner tranquillity.

About Math genius Ramanujan

- Who doesn't know of Srinivas Ramanujam, one of the greatest names among modern Indian mathematicians? Do you know that he had no formal education in Mathematics?
- Yet he made a significant contribution to various topics like mathematical analysis, number theory, etc. He had a life riddled with difficulties. Despite that, he gave a lot to this world before passing away.

About Scientist Sir C V Raman

- On 28th February 1928, Sir C.V. Raman had declared his discovery of the "Raman Effect". This was the discovery for which he received the Nobel Prize. And so the nation celebrates this day as National Science Day.
- I humbly pay my homage to Sir C.V. Raman and I appeal to you all to raise the level of your interest in science.

November 2015

About Tamil Nadu floods

- In our country itself, we have experienced torrential rains, that too without season and for a very long duration. Tamil Nadu has suffered heavy losses and other states suffered too. Many people lost their lives.
- My heart goes out to all those people in this hour of crisis. The state governments have braced themselves up for rescue and relief work. The Central government too has joined them in their efforts.
- Right now, a team of the Central government officials are in Tamil Nadu. But I have full faith in Tamil Nadu's potential and know that post this crisis it will rise again and speedily move forward and will continue to deliver in its role of taking the country forward.

October 2015

About Organ donation

- By reducing the paper work, some of the states have made a good effort in speeding up the process involved in organ donation. Today, I can say that Tamil Nadu today ranks first in the field of organ donation. Many social organizations and NGO's are doing commendable job in this direction.

July 2015

About Suchitra

- We have received quite a few suggestions from Suchitra Raghavachari from Chennai in this regard. She has suggested me to speak on the topics like Save our Daughters, Educate a Girl Child, Clean Ganges, Swachh Bharat.
- With this I got an idea and I am requesting you all to send suggestions about what should be the topics for my 15th August speech.

May 2015

About Kalam ji

- I am reminded of our nation's ex-President, Shri A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. In his book "My Journey- Transforming dreams into Action", he has mentioned an incident that took place in his life.
- He says that he always aspired to become a pilot. However, when he tried to become a pilot, he failed and could not clear his exams. Now, you can see that his failure gave him a great opportunity in his life.
- He became a great scientist of our nation. He became the President of India and his contribution stands unparalleled in the field of nuclear energy in India.