

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O.Letter dated 5.1.2017 of **Thiru O.Panneerselvam,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi,** Hon'ble Prime Minister of India:-

"As you may be aware, 2017 is the Birth Centenary year of Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR, the late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR was one of the most illustrious, charismatic and popular Chief Ministers of the State. Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR is remembered nationally and internationally for having launched several innovative welfare programmes which have become model schemes implemented throughout the country. The Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR Nutritious Meal Programme implemented in all schools in Tamil Nadu has been commended by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and ordered to be replicated across the country. Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR laid the foundation for the rapid socio-economic growth of Tamil Nadu in the last 3 decades. The Government of India honoured Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR with the highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna Award for his unparalleled public service.

To the people of Tamil Nadu and to Tamils across the world, Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR continues to be an inspirational figure who is always remembered for his qualities of magnanimity, generosity, commanding leadership, and determination to fight for the legitimate rights of the States. Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR's life story will continue to inspire millions to strive for the greater public good through dedicated service.

On the occasion of Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR's birth centenary, it would be a fitting tribute to a great leader, an inspiring icon, who is eternally embedded in the hearts of the people of Tamil Nadu, to issue a **Commemorative Coin and a Special Postal Stamp**. The issue of a Commemorative Coin and a Special Postal Stamp would be welcomed and greatly appreciated by all sections of people in Tamil Nadu, elsewhere in the country and across the globe.

I have directed the Chief Secretary to immediately send the required details as per the Government of India's guidelines for issue of Commemorative Coins and Special Postal Stamps.

I would be grateful if an expeditious decision is taken and the announcement of the issue of the Commemorative Coin and the Special Postal Stamp could be made to coincide with the commencement of the Birth Centenary celebrations of the great leader Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR on 17th January, 2017."

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