<u>MESSAGE</u>

On this auspicious and joyous occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, I convey my heartiest greetings and warm wishes to the people of Goa.

- 2. Lord Ganesh is a deeply venerated God, loved and worshipped by everyone with equal zeal. Lokmanya Tilak had observed that Lord Ganesh is "the God for everyman". Hence, the Ganesh festival is a very popular festival. Tilak made the festival a National Symbol of Unity. During this festival time, one can see 'Sarvajanik Ganesh' idols, worshipped at every nook and corner of many states including Goa. The "Sarvajanik Ganesh Utsav" serves as a meeting place for all communities irrespective of caste and community.
- 3. This festival is the time of family reunion, when all the members of the family wherever they may be located, return to their ancestral home to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi with grandeur, solemnity and devotion. It is an occasion for preparation of delicious varieties of sweets loved by Lord Ganesh and many things that are produce of the earth are used to decorate the idol in colourful and bright manner. It is indeed a great joy for anyone to be part of this unique celebration that strengthens amity, social harmony and mutual understanding. This festival epitomises the unity and spiritual harmony of Goa.
- 4. On this joyous occasion, may Lord Ganesh shower choicest blessings on the people of Goa and may this occasion bring renewed peace, happiness and prosperity to all.

P.S.Sreedharan Pillai Governor of Goa