

**REPUBLIC DAY ADDRESS BY THIRU CH.VIDYASAGAR RAO,**  
**HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU IN**  
**ALL INDIA RADIO AND DOORDARSHAN BROADCAST/TELECAST ON 26.1.2017**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters**

**Vanakkam**

I extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to you on the auspicious occasion of the 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our nation's Republic. I could not be amongst you to unfurl our National Flag and participate in the Republic Day Celebrations in Tamil Nadu at Marina, Chennai, as I have to hoist the National Flag at Mumbai at the same time.

Each and every citizen feels proud to be born in this great country. Republic Day celebrations are not only a proud moment for each and every citizen to rejoice but also to remember our bounden duty to be committed to the progress of our nation. The framework of our constitution has made India a role model for other countries in the world. Our Constitution was framed emphasizing equality for all. This reaffirms our commitment to the principles of socio-economic equality, equity and justice for all.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The fabric of our country is unique and colourful. Harmony among its religious pluralism, cultural diversity and linguistic multiplicity is its hallmark. Let us learn our lessons from the past. Pluralism, oneness and equality have been intrinsic qualities of our nation right through the ages. May this truth of oneness be cemented to further strengthen our national unity.

Freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhiji, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Netaji Subash Chandra Bose, Sardar Patel, Bhagat Singh, Rabindranath Tagore, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and many more have nurtured the spirit of patriotism.

Rabindranath Tagore represented the essence of Indian culture and functioned as the living voice of India. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya is credited for popularizing the term 'Satyameva Jayate' - Truth alone Triumphs. Though he is often described as Hindu Nationalist, he always strived for Hindu-Muslim unity.

Madan Mohan Malaviya in his Presidential Address at the Indian National Congress, Calcutta Session in 1933, said and I quote

"I implore all Hindus and Mussalmans, Sikhs, Christians and Parsees and all other countrymen to sink all communal differences and to establish political unity among all sections of the people."

No one can forget the heroics of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose who fought for the freedom of our motherland. The inspiration we draw from Netaji's life is the spirit of unity which stood above all religions, races, castes and communities, cutting across all barriers.

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Our technological competence and value systems with cultural heritage are highly respected by the world community. Also, Foreign Institutional Investors find investing in India attractive as the returns are high and assured. Indian industrialists are also investing abroad and opening new business avenues.

Inclusive development has been an important priority to eliminate poverty and inequality in our country. We the citizens of India owe a great responsibility to our nation.

Mahatma Gandhiji, the Father of our Nation laid emphasis on the duties of citizens. Gandhiji said and I quote,

“The emphasis laid on the principle of spending every minute of one’s life usefully is the best education for citizenship and incidentally, it makes basic education self-sufficient.”

Government of India has launched Green Urban Transport Scheme to improve climate friendly transport system in urban India. This scheme aims to reduce carbon footprint. Zero defect, Zero effect initiative gives impetus to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to produce products at par with global standards under ‘Make in India’ Scheme.

My Fellow Countrymen,

Each one of us should dedicate ourselves to the cause of the nation. Opportunities are wide open. I appeal to the youth to utilize them. It is your devotion and commitment that will help India to become a global leader.

The memorials constructed by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu in honour of the great freedom fighters and Tamil scholars are not only to make their sacrifice known to the people, but also for the youth to draw inspiration from the lives of these great personalities.

Tamil Nadu is known for its quality education. I am happy to learn that the net enrolment in the primary education in Tamil Nadu has gone up to 99.85% in the year 2015-16. I am pleased to note that in the higher education student enrollment is at 44.8% in Tamil Nadu as against the national average of 23.6% making it a leading State in the country.

I am delighted to learn about the developments made by Tamil Nadu. It is a front ranking state. The special schemes implemented by Late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, J Jayalalithaa, showcase her motherly affection and kindness towards the poor and common man.

Various Amma schemes like Unavagams, Fresh Farm outlets, Drinking Water, Cement, Salt, Pharmacy etc have eased the burden of price rise on the poor and middle class families. I am pleased to learn that many States and even countries have visited Amma Canteens and have studied the modalities to implement it in their places.

I am happy to learn that the e-Sevai Centres established throughout the state have been providing hassle free service to citizens. The aim of Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency to deliver services to public at their doorsteps through use of Information Technology in Governance deserves appreciation. e-Sevai Centre's initiative to provide different kinds of services under one portal is laudable.

Dear Fellow Citizens,

On this sacred occasion let us pledge and strive to fulfill the dreams of our forefathers to devote and dedicate ourselves to the progress and glory of India.

I conclude with the words of Dr.Shankar Dayal Sharma, Former President of India,

“Our Republic Day is a day of national resolve, a time to contemplate our position as a nation in relation to the world around us and to introspect upon our duties as individual citizens in enhancing and safeguarding the gains of freedom.”

Jai Hind. Jai Tamil Nadu.

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