

**REPUBLIC DAY ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE  
GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU IN ALL INDIA RADIO AND DOORDARSHAN  
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Sisters and Brothers of Tamil Nadu.

The Republic Day is an occasion for formal observance by the nation to honour the day on which the Constitution of India came into effect.

The making of our Constitution was the result of sustained consultation and profound decision making over a period of three years between 1946 and 1949 and it was on January 26, 1950 that India became a republic. We are all celebrating the 69th anniversary of our Republic, today. On this day let us resolve to be true to the ideals of the founding fathers of the Constitution who dedicated their lives for the nation.

The democratic character of our national framework has made the common people, the masters of our destiny. India is one of the few countries where universal adult suffrage was guaranteed in the Constitution right from the beginning without any discrimination of education or gender.

The fact that the Constitution makers reposed complete faith in the common people for electing the governments at the Centre and the States speaks volumes of the future that was envisioned and the greatness of our civilisation which has continued all through history for thousands of years.

Tamil Nadu is home to a rich culture, an ancient language and friendly people who greet you with a smile, every step of the way.

The State is endowed with good infrastructure, and a work culture where people work hard and work with efficiency and sincerity.

Tamil Nadu is the second largest State economy in India, contributing about 8.4 per cent to India's GDP. Tamil Nadu is also one of the few States to reduce poverty at a rate faster than the All India average.

The State's Human Development Index is the second highest among large States and much higher than the national average because of the consistent level of social sector expenditure in the

areas of Health, Education, Nutrition, Welfare of Women and Children, Welfare of the Differently Abled, Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and Social Security.

I have been the Governor of Tamil Nadu for fifteen months now and I am extremely happy to see the status that education enjoys in the State. The achievements of the State in the field of education are exemplary. The Composite Education Development Index, places Tamil Nadu at the Number One position. The dropout rate is extremely low. Nearly 49% of the children who finish school education take to higher education.

Tamil Nadu, by virtue of its excellent infrastructure in higher education, is well placed to

become a model for other States to follow. All this requires enterprise, innovation, commitment and hard work. With the joint coordinated support of the Central and State Governments, institutions in Tamil Nadu can soar to greater heights, making the State the educational hub of our country. I am sure that the reforms in higher education particularly in the appointment of Vice-Chancellors will pave the way for this in coming years.

Tamil Nadu has always been an important centre for medical diagnosis and treatment. The State enjoys an impressive record in the reduction of infant mortality and maternal mortality rates.

The State ranks first in the country in terms of number of children immunized and takes pride in the

thousands of eminent medical practitioners specializing in various fields of medicine. Hence, it is no wonder that Tamil Nadu serves as a hub for medical services in the eastern part of the globe.

The Central and State Government have pooled their resources together to raise the level of health insurance coverage from Rs.2 lakhs to Rs.5 lakhs per family with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

For the celebration of the Pongal festival 2019, a gift hamper, comprising a kg of raw rice, a kg of sugar, a two-foot-long piece of sugarcane, 20 grams of cashew nut, 20 grams of dry grapes and 5 grams of cardamom is being distributed to family card holders. Following in the footsteps of the late Chief Minister Selvi. J. Jayalalitha who gave a

Pongal Cash award to all family card holders in 2013, the Government of Tamil Nadu has in the Governor's address provided a cash award of Rs.1,000/- for Pongal this year to benefit nearly 2 crores families in the State.

I have toured the State extensively and have visited 28 districts and interacted with the senior officials. I am able to see that the administration is toiling very hard to satisfy all the requirements of the people. For these efforts to bear fruit fully, it is necessary to emphasise that we practise the qualities of honesty, efficiency and accountability in administration.

The Government is run for the people and it is important that every member of the Government

looks at the benefit that the common people will receive by the work that he is performing.

The Government of India have brought in a number of useful initiatives for the people of India. These include Digital India, Skill India, Stand Up India, Start Up India, Make in India and Amruth Schemes, etc.

Implementation of these schemes with zeal and vigour by the State Government in coordination with the Government of India will enable the expansion of employment opportunities paving the way for economic development.

We achieved Freedom 72 years ago after a long struggle and enormous sacrifice. Many people sacrificed their education by boycotting the

educational institutions under the British. Lakhs of people lost their lives in the freedom struggle. The British Govt. was merciless even against non-violent agitators and firing and merciless lathi-charging on the assembled public were common. Indians were treated as inferior people and there was no system of having a say in the policy making process.

Freedom has changed all this. It is important that we utilize the hard fought freedom for the benefit of our people. Poverty should be eliminated. Employment opportunities must be available to all. Educational opportunities should be expanded liberally. The health and nutrition of our people status should be safeguarded. There should be justice and fairness in Society and eradication of

corruption. The true essence of democracy should be understood in the sense that the common people are the masters of the nation. Mahatma Gandhiji wrote a Article in young India on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1925 and cautioned against seven deadly sins that can destroy a Nation. They are:-

1. Wealth without work,
2. Pleasure without conscience,
3. Knowledge without character,
4. Commerce without morality,
5. Science without humanity,
6. Religion without sacrifice and
7. Politics without principle.

Let us identify the people who practice these sins in our midst and reform them without any further delay.

Each of us should think about what he has done for the nation and not look at what the nation has done for him. This is the spirit we need to promote among the people, particularly the youth. I am sure that with the large educated work force that Tamil Nadu has, the beneficial climatic conditions which enable work to go on for all 365 days of the year and the resourceful entrepreneurship of the people and the attractive position that it enjoys as a investment destination, the State will play a highly significant role in India's growth and development.

People all over the country are celebrating the joyous occasion of our Republic Day with ceremonial splendour and cultural gaiety. The culturally vibrant State of Tamil Nadu, whose literature, music, dance and fine arts are internationally renowned, also plays host to a variety of cultural programmes in every village, district and city on Republic Day.

I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of Tamil Nadu for a glorious future.

May the spirit of our Constitution fill the air and devotion to the nation be the life breath that sustains and inspires us.

Nandri Vanakkam.....

Jai Hind.....