

**ADDRESS BY THIRU. BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT
THE REPUBLIC DAY RECEPTION "AT HOME"
AT RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI ON 26.01.2018 AT 05.30 P.M.**

ANAIVARUKKUM MAALAI VANAKKAM

Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Ms. Justice Indira Banerjee
Hon'ble Chief Justice, Madras High Court

Thiru O. Panneerselvam
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru P. Dhanapal
Hon'ble Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly

Thiru M. K. Stalin
Hon'ble Leader of Opposition,
Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today, we are proudly celebrating the 68th Anniversary of our Republic Day. The Republic Day is a day of formal observance by the nation when, we recall to ourselves the supreme contribution of our freedom fighters and law makers who gave us our Constitution. 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. The Indian Constituent Assembly which gave us the Constitution consisted of legal luminaries, thinkers, writers and freedom fighters who had risen above narrow sectarian tendencies such as discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, language, religion etc.

It is because of the lofty ideals and the precision in execution, that the Constitution makers practised, that we have a written legal gospel that has stood the test of time and is being celebrated by the nation.

Let us all, therefore, on this day resolve to be true to the letter and spirit of the Constitution so as to make our nation proud. As we celebrate the sovereignty of our nation and proclaim to the world that we are a self-reliant, self-respecting and self-governed people, I bow my head in respect and reverence to the lakhs and thousands of freedom fighters and leaders of the freedom struggle who threw off the yoke of foreign rule.

Today is a day of rejoicing. All over the country, March Pasts and Parades were conducted at which the common people gathered to watch and applaud. 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. All this is meant to inspire and invigorate us and renew the spirit in us to work towards the common goals of ensuring the territorial integrity of the nation, economic upliftment of the people and preservation of our cultural freedom while celebrating the togetherness of our social communities.

I compliment the contributions made by the illustrious sons and daughters of Tamil Nadu who have been honoured by the Nation on this Republic Day. It is a matter of pride that Thiru Ilayaraja has been decorated with the Padma Vibhushan Award and Thiru Nagaswamy with Padma Bhushan Award.

Tmt. V. Nanammal, Thiru Rajagopal Vasudevan, Thiru Rojulus Whitaker Tmt. Vijayalakshmi Navaneethakrishnan have been conferred Padma Shri Awards. They are all outstanding performers in their respective fields and we are happy to record our appreciation and admiration for their services to the Nation. My hearty greetings and best wishes to them.

I also extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all the distinguished invitees and through you to the people of Tamil Nadu. I am sure that this Republic Day is going to spur an outburst of increased national spirit and cultural devotion by the people particularly the youth. The zeal to serve the cause of the nation and the State should be paramount. May freedom fill the air and sovereignty be the life breath that sustains and inspires us.

Nandri

Vanakkam

Jai Hind

Jai Tamil Nadu
