

**ADDRESS BY THIRU. BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR
OF TAMIL NADU AT THE REPUBLIC DAY RECEPTION "AT HOME" AT
RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI ON 26.01.2019 AT 05.30 P.M.**

ANAIVARUKKUM MAALAI VANAKKAM

Distinguished invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a privilege and an honour to be addressing all of you on the occasion of the 69th anniversary of our Republic Day. On this day every year we proclaim our commitment to be true and loyal to the Constitution of India which was drafted with great care and concern for the welfare of the people of India.

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. In this context let me quote from the speech made by Dr. Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly on 25th November 1949.

He said, “The working of a Constitution does not depend wholly upon the nature of the Constitution. The Constitution can provide only the organs of State such as the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. The factors on which the working of those organs of the State depends are the people and the political parties they will set up as their instruments to carry out their wishes and their politics.

Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy. Social democracy means a way of life which recognizes liberty, equality and fraternity as the principles of life.”

The Republic Day is an occasion for us to pledge ourselves to respect these principles of life and develop the nation and its people to the maximum extent, utilising our resources optimally and in a manner that is guided by technology, fuelled by sincerity and driven by concern for the common people.

I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to you and through you 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.....