

**REPUBLIC DAY MESSAGE BY THIRU. BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE  
GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU IN ALL INDIA RADIO AND DOORDARSHAN  
BROADCAST/TELECAST ON 26.01.2020**

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Sisters and Brothers of Tamil Nadu

Vanakkam

I extend my warm greetings and felicitations to the people of Tamil Nadu on the joyous occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Indian Republic.

On this occasion, I wish to pay my tributes to all those brave souls who suffered and sacrificed for the noble cause of our country's freedom from British rule. Let us express our gratitude to all those who enabled our country to move forward on the path of progress.

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 70<sup>th</sup> 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 to 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 flourishing all through history for thousands of years.

Tamil Nadu is home to a rich culture, an ancient language and friendly people. The State is endowed with good infrastructure, and a work culture where people work hard and work with efficiency and sincerity.

Tamil Nadu secured the second rank in the Growth Innovation and Leadership (GIL) Index for Economic Development in India for the second year in a row. Tamil Nadu's high rank was an outcome of its impressive scores in Health Improvement, Digital Reach, Educational Attainment and Investment Attractiveness.

The Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions recently released Good Governance Index, wherein Tamil Nadu has topped the Good Governance Index among 18 big States in the country. The State ranked among top five in six parameters like, Public

Infrastructure, Judicial and Public Security, Public Health, Environment, Human Resources Development and Economic Governance.

Tamil Nadu is the second largest State economy 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 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.

On a historic occasion like Republic Day, we must undertake an assessment of our national scenario and ponder about the future of our society. It is my belief that, howsoever good our past achievements and accomplishments may have been, there is much that remains to be done.

During the year, Tamil Nadu marched forward with appreciable achievements. The Government has formed 5 New Districts, 7 Revenue Divisions, 25 new Revenue Taluks, one new Revenue Firka and 6 new Revenue Villages.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu took direct responsibility for attracting investment to Tamil Nadu by visiting UK, USA and Dubai in September, 2019 and by chairing the High Power Committee to expedite single window approvals. The Global Investors Meet held in January, 2019 was a major success attracting Rs.3,00,501 crore worth of investments providing employment to 10.5 lakh persons. Till date, 53 projects have already commenced commercial production and 219 projects are at various stages of implementation. After the Global Investors Meet, 63 new MoUs have been signed, committing an investment of Rs.19,136 crore with employment potential for 83,837 new jobs.

The important scheme, “Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery” - Rejuvenation of Cauvery by effective curbing of sewerage pollutant was also announced. Government of Tamil Nadu got sanction for 9 new Government Medical Colleges during the year.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2019, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi and Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of

China Mr. Xi Jinping held discussions at Mamallapuram. It is to be mentioned that both the leaders greatly praised our Police Department for making excellent safety arrangements for this event.

The State remains peaceful and maintains law and order. The major occasions like Vinayagar idol immersion processions, Athivaradhar festival, etc., went off peacefully.

The Government of India has 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.

There have been a number of important governance measures in the past where Tamil Nadu has shown the way for other States. Among these, a special mention needs to be made of the Nutritious Midday Meal Scheme, the Old Age Pension Scheme, the Maternity Assistance Scheme, The Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, Amma Baby Care Kit, Free House-Site Pattas, Amma Two Wheeler Scheme, Distribution of Laptop Computers etc.,

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 status of our people 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.

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.

Administration is expected to work with total transparency, highly disciplined and corruption-free. I expect all of you to work hard with total dedication to make Tamil Nadu Number one state in all the fields.

People all over the country are celebrating the joyous occasion of our Republic Day with ceremonial splendour and cultural gaiety. 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.....

Jai Tamil Nadu....