

**REPUBLIC DAY ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE  
GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU IN ALL INDIA RADIO AND DOORDARSHAN  
BROADCAST/TELECAST ON 26.01.2021**

Dear Fellow citizens

Vanakkam

On the eve of our 72<sup>nd</sup> Republic Day, I extend my warm greetings to the people of Tamil Nadu.

We embarked our journey as a Republic on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, 1950, affirming to the principles laid down in our Constitution. Since then, every year we celebrate our Republic Day on 26<sup>th</sup> January. On this day we remember with gratitude the sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of our freedom fighters who with their blood and sweat paved the way for our Independence and laid the foundations for our Republic.

The values of our Republic are enshrined in our great Constitution which guarantees citizens Social, Economic and Political Justice; Liberty of Thought, Expression, Belief, Faith and Worship; Equality of Status and Opportunity. It is the duty of every citizen to treat fellow citizens equally and with dignity.

On this joyous occasion, let us express our gratitude to all those who enabled our country to move forward on the path of progress.

We all know that the Covid-19 pandemic is causing havoc in the lives of people globally. I can proudly say that India has faced the dreaded Covid pandemic in an exemplary manner and proved that both its Government and citizens have the mettle to meet any challenge with unity of purpose and determination.

In Tamil Nadu the first case of Covid-19 pandemic was reported on 7 March 2020. Though it increased to very high numbers once, now the average number of new cases in Tamil Nadu has been on the decline phase due to the swift actions taken by the Government.

During the first week of January 2021, about one crore and fifty lakh (1.50 crore) persons have been tested and more than eight lakh (8 lakh) persons diagnosed and treated for Covid-19. By these efforts of the Government, the recovery rate of Covid-19 increased to 97.54% and the death rate reduced to 1.4%. I am happy to inform that Covid-19 spread is successfully controlled in all the districts in our state. I congratulate the Health department staff and all other Government departments for incredible work. I am also happy to inform that Tamil Nadu is the only State to conduct more than one crore and forty five lakh (1.45 crore) RT-PCR Tests and the first State to announce

provision of free Covid-19 vaccination placing people's health above all else.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has launched several welfare schemes for the benefit of people. It is noteworthy to mention a few here on this important occasion.

The Kudimaramath scheme launched to manage the water resources, maintenance of supply channels, canals, tanks, shutters, strengthening and reconstruction of surplus weirs and sluices have produced much expected results and has effectively met the challenge of water crisis. It is heartening to mention here that Five thousand five hundred and eighty six (5,586) water bodies have been successfully restored at a cost of Rupees One thousand one hundred and thirty two crore (Rs.1,132 crore). With efficient water and agricultural management, I can say that, Tamil Nadu leads the way. This has been testified by the Government of India by presenting the State with "Best State in National Water Awards" for the year 2019.

The State Government has excelled in safeguarding the welfare of the farmers in the State. Tamil Nadu is the 11<sup>th</sup> largest State in India by area and the 6<sup>th</sup> most populous State. The Government has set on to usher in Second Green Revolution for doubling the crop production and tripling the

farmers' income and have formulated policies and innovative steps to achieve equitable, competitive and sustainable growth in Agriculture.

By the continuous efforts of the Government; an unprecedented Thirty two lakh and forty one thousand (32.41 lakh) metric tonnes of paddy was procured from the farmers in 2019-20. Tamil Nadu's food grain production crossed One hundred lakh metric tonnes (100 lakh metric tonnes) seven times in the last 9 years. Kuruvai cultivation hit an all-time high in 30 years. Tamil Nadu won the Krishi Karman Award 5 times for excellent performance in agriculture. The Uzhavan mobile app is used by over 9 lakh farmers to receive complete and real-time information about agricultural schemes. Tamil Nadu's Food Processing Policy 2018 aims to increase farmers' income, add value to farm products, reduce wastage of food products and create employment opportunities. Tamil Nadu stands first in the country in the implementation of micro irrigation scheme during 2019-20. A sum of Rupees three thousand eight hundred and ninety three crore (Rs.3,893 crore) subsidy was provided to Seven lakh and thirteen thousand (7.13 lakh) farmers for installing micro irrigation systems in Seven lakh and forty seven thousand hectares (7.47 lakh) in the last ten years. Six lakh (6 lakh) farmers through six thousand (6000) farmer producer

groups were able to acquire Twenty five thousand and two hundred (25,200) farm machinery with the corpus fund of Rupees three hundred crore (Rs.300 crore) provided by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Lakhs of farmers were successfully enrolled in the Crop Insurance Scheme and Compensation of Rupees Nine thousand two hundred and eighty seven crore (Rs.9,287 crore) were disbursed in the last 4 years. Seventeen lakh (17 lakh) farmers' loans worth Rupees Five thousand seven hundred and eighty crore (Rs.5,780 crore) have been waived in 2016. All these initiatives have improved the lifestyle of the farmers in the State and also has set an example for other states to follow.

I am happy to note that Tamil Nadu ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in India in poultry population and 5<sup>th</sup> in sheep & goat population. The State ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in egg production and 6<sup>th</sup> in meat production. Asia's biggest integrated Livestock Park is being established in Thalaivasal on an area of eleven hundred acres (1,100 acres) at a cost of Rupees One thousand and twenty three crore (Rs.1,023 crore).

Tamil Nadu also shows the way in providing empowerment to women and safety of children. To empower rural women one lakh and eleven thousand (1.11 lakh) milch cows and Fifty two lakh and eighty eight thousand (52.88 lakh) goats/sheeps were

distributed. To encourage women politically, 50 percent reservation implemented in local bodies. To encourage women's education, Twelve lakh and fifty one thousand (12.51 lakh) women were provided with 1 sovereign gold for Thirumangalyam and financial assistance up to Rupees Fifty thousand (Rs.50,000/-). To empower working women, two lakh and eighty five thousand (2.85 lakh) Amma Two Wheelers were given with a subsidy of Rupees Seven hundred and forty crore (Rs.740 crore). Twenty five lakh (25 lakh) post natal women were gifted with 15 baby care items in Amma Baby Care Kit. Tamil Nadu bagged the Central Government's Award for its Best Performance in 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' Scheme.

Tamil Nadu is one of the most progressive and industrialized states in the country. It is at the forefront of India's economic development and its manufacturing sector is one of the principal engines that drive the national vision of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024. It is the second largest state economy in the country, which contributes 8.4% of India's GDP. Tamil Nadu economy has registered an impressive growth of 8.17% during 2018-2019 and is continuing to maintain its growth momentum amidst national and global economic slowdown. The secondary sector contributes 32.4% and manufacturing contributes 21% to the State's economy

Gross State Value Added (GSVA) of Tamil Nadu in the manufacturing sector has grown at an average rate of 12.7% in the last 5 years. In addition, Tamil Nadu's economy has been consistently growing at a rate above the national average and the state stands out as the most attractive investment destination. Tamil Nadu has an outstanding record of converting investment proposals to actual investments. The conversion rate of Three hundred and four (304) MoUs signed during Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2019 is 89%.

It may be seen that since 2011, Tamil Nadu Government has signed Five hundred (500) MoUs till 2019 with an investment commitment of Rupees Five lakh ninety seven thousand seven hundred and fifty three crore (Rs. 5,97,753 crore). Out of these MoUs, Four hundred and twelve (412) MoU projects have either commenced commercial production or are in various stages of implementation amounting to an impressive conversion rate of 82.4%.

Tamil Nadu is leading the way in Governance and performance continuously year after year. The State is Number One in Government of India's Good Governance Index, Topped India Today's survey of Indian States 3 times in a row. Bagged the Government of India's Award for Best State in Safety and Education of Girl Children. Best Police Force in India as per

TATA Trust's report. Number One State in Water Management as per Government of India Rankings. India's Number One Investment Destination even in Covid times. Central Government's Award for successfully reducing death ratio in lactating mothers. Government of India's Award for Best State in Service to Senior Citizens. National Award for providing financial aid to differently-abled persons. Number 2 State in Economic Development Growth, Innovation & Leadership for 3 years running. Best rural cleanliness in India as per Central Government's survey. Central Government's Award for Best Performance in Road Safety and Number One State in Organ Donation for 6 consecutive years. All these accolades show that the Government of Tamil Nadu is wholeheartedly committed to the welfare of the people and a natural leader which shows the way for other states to follow.

Dear brothers and sisters, Mahatma Gandhi's ideals remain relevant in our nation-building efforts. It should be part of our daily routine to introspect on Gandhiji's message of truth and non violence, which is necessary for all times. We must hold fast to constitutional methods while achieving our social and economic objectives. As we march forward, we should remain committed to share our democratic ideals and the fruits of our development with other States and other Nations. This

will strengthen our relations. While we build a secure and prosperous future for ourselves, we should also engage the global community for the future of the entire humanity.

I once again convey my Republic day greetings to all of you.

Nandri Vanakkam.

Jai Hind

Jai Tamil Nadu