

REPUBLIC DAY MESSAGE BY
THIRU R. N. RAVI, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU
ON 26.01.2024

On the auspicious occasion of the 75th Republic Day of Bharath, I extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to all my brothers and sisters of Tamil Nadu.

On this Day, I pay my heartfelt tributes and homage to countless martyrs and freedom fighters whose sacrifices liberated our Country from the clutches of the foreign rule and gave us the freedom.

I pay my earnest tributes to the Valliant members of our armed forces, security agencies and police who with their relentless vigil, valor and sacrifices defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our Country, ensure internal peace, stability and social harmony, and provide needed rescue and relief to the victims of natural disasters.

I express my deep appreciation and sincere gratitude to the volunteers and voluntary organisations for their self-less and outstanding rescue and relief to the victims of cyclonic storm Michaung and torrential rains and floods in southern districts of our state. I convey my gratitude to the fishermen for their rescue and relief services in the flood affected southern districts.

I share the nation's pride in our scientists for bringing glories to the nation with successful Missions to the Moon – Chandrayaan - 3 and the Sun – Aditya – L1.

I congratulate our outstanding sports men and women for making the country proud by bringing record numbers of medals in International sports. I congratulate our young women cricketers for bagging the Championship trophy in under 19 T-20 World Cup - 2023.

Friends, Bharat made several spectacular achievements in 2023.

Some of the notable achievements are:

- Bharat is the fastest growing large economy in the World,
- From the global 10th Bharat today is the 5th largest economy of the world poised soon to be the 3rd,

- 25 crores of our citizens have been pulled out of poverty,
- We launched our own 5G Network – the fastest among the few top countries in the World,
- We became the 3rd largest start-up eco-system in the World,
- We commissioned the first Aircraft Carrier – INS – Vikrant and became among the top global naval powers,
- Through our G-20 presidency we offered an inclusive, equitable, human-centric development model for a sustainable global future along the theme “One-Earth, One-Family, One-Future”,
- The historic Women’s Reservation Bill was passed by the Parliament giving quantum boost to women empowerment by women’s participation in democratic governance at the highest level

Friends, our Nation, in the spirit of “Sabka-Saath, Sabka-Vikas and Sabka-Prayas” made quantum leap towards providing crucial ingredients of a healthy citizenship to all our citizens – universal health care, education, access to drinking water, cooking gas, toilet, electricity and digital connectivity. Some 40 lakhs homes were built for the homeless poor. Bharat’s Digital Public Infrastructures and Direct Benefit Transfer became envy for the developed countries and inspirations for the developing countries.

Friends, in the year 2022, our State Tamil Nadu hosted the World Chess Olympiad (FIDE) in an impeccable manner and we demonstrated our capability to host international sporting events.

Our young men and women from Tamil Nadu brought glory to the nation and pride to the state by winning medals in International and national sports. Master R.Praggnanandhaa, Vaishali Rameshbabu, Mariyappan Thangavelu, Dipika Pallikal, Joshna Chinnappa, C.A.Bhawani Devi, Sharath Kamal, Sathiyam Gnanasekaran are the protagonists of making India sports superpower by 2047.

Friends, the New Year for Bharat has begun with enthusiasm, energy, self-confidence and resolve to make our country a fully developed nation, Viksit Bharat, in the Amritkaal of the next 25 years.

The epochal event of the Pran Pratishtha of Sri Ram Lalla at the magnificent Sri Ram Temple at Ayodhya took place a few days ago. This historic event has enthused the entire nation, filled it with self-confidence, and infused new energy that will help to build a fully developed Bharat.

Sri Ram has been our national icon and inspiration. He is the Common thread that unites Bharat and lives in the hearts of every Bhartiya. He is an inspiration and his rule – Ram Rajya is an ultimate example of the good governance, the ideals of which are enshrined in our Constitution.

Friends, Sri Ram has deep connect with Tamil Nadu. His story has inspired and enriched Tamil literature since the Sangam period, constitutes the soul of Carnatic music and has enriched our classical dance. It is in Tamil Nadu that the most ardent among the devotees of Sri Ram and great poet Kambar wrote in Tamil, the ‘Ramavataram’ - long before the story of Sri Rama was told in other Bharatiya languages after the first one in Sanskrit.

Friends, I felt blessed visiting Therazhandur, the holy place where the great Kambar was born. At the Kambar Medu, believed to be his birth site, I could feel his unseen yet palpable presence. I was deeply touched by the intensity of love and devotion of the local people towards Kambar. It is believed that the great Kambar after writing ‘Ramavataram’ placed it before Sri Ranganatha Swamy at Sri Rangam. There is a Kambar Mani Mandapam in the Sri Rangam Temple premises where he is believed to have recited his verses. I felt blessed to sit and meditate at the Kambar Mani Mandapam.

In the last some two years, I have had the fortune of visiting several parts of our beautiful state, meeting our enterprising women, farmers, fishermen and the youth. Our women through numerous Self Help Groups are writing beautiful stories of emerging women power in emerging new Bharat. Our farmers are progressive, innovative and enterprising. Their increasing interest in natural and organic farming, climate resilient farming, millet farming, diversified farming and agro-based value addition industries including food processing are highly commendable.

Our fishermen have been making valuable contributions to our nation's economy. In the face of serious adversities like the recent unprecedented rains and floods in the south Tamil Nadu, the contributions of our fishermen in rescue and relief are highly commendable.

Our enterprising youth are driving the Micro, Small and Medium Sectors and making great contributions to our nation's economy and creating more and more jobs. Our Vishwakarmas, artisans in various sectors, have been rendering valuable essential services to our society. The Central Government's Vishwakarma scheme will help them earn more for themselves and contribute more to the nation.

Friends, our State with outstanding human resource, good infrastructure and good industrial base has potential to be an engine of the nation's growth. It is necessary that our youths get more and more skill oriented education, specially the skills relevant to today's age of advancing technologies. It is necessary to motivate our youth towards entrepreneurship. The prevailing attitude of seeking job should change and more and more of them should be job creators. The Atal Innovation Mission of the Central Government has helped creating more and more innovation labs and innovation centres in schools, colleges and universities. Our State Government has also taken initiatives in this regard. I urge our school teachers and college – university professors to be enterprising. They should inspire the youth by setting examples.

Bharat is transforming at an unprecedented scale and speed. Today, all the States are aspirational and competitive. Several states which for long were behind in development are moving forward with clarity and resolve. Businesses of the world are looking at our country as a preferred investment destination and a crucial link in the global supply chain. The global and regional geo-political environment is immensely favourable to Bharat. This is a historic opportunity for us. Our state must take full advantage of it. Each one of us should be conscious of this historic opportunity and do our utmost for the nation. We should do it with pride in our rich Tamil heritage and confidence in our future.

Friends, in this national mission we must remain united like a family. Intermittent media reports of social discriminations and resultant violence are extremely painful. Reports about some of our youth wearing

caste wrist bands in public are soul tormenting and shameful. Such practices and behaviour are extremely regressive and I appeal to all my brothers and sisters of Tamil Nadu to consciously work towards their earliest eradication.

There is enormous inherent positive energy in our people. Many people at their personal initiatives are doing great service to the society. Some are helping the needy, deprived and disabled among our fellow citizens, some are improving the community assets or even building new ones, some are dedicated to cleaning and restoring rivers, streams and natural waterbodies, some are committed to preservation of forests. The Hon'ble Prime Minister in his Mann-ki-Baat invariably mentions such unsung heroes from our state. The inherent goodness among our ordinary people should be further encouraged and harnessed. The Raj Bhavan, Tamil Nadu has taken a modest initiative in this regard and instituted awards for such services to felicitate some of the unsung heroes doing social service and environment protection in our state at the Republic Day At Home.

Friends, it is the golden moment for Bharat. The world is looking at us with hope and expectations to solve the global problems and show the way to a sustainable future. The inherent cultural ethos of Bharat that looks at the world as a family – Yaadhum Oore, Yavarum Kelir - has earned us the global trust. Let us rise to fulfil the global expectations and contribute our best to build a fully capable Bharat.

I once again extend my best wishes to you all.

Vazhga Tamil Nadu,

Vazhga Bharatam.