

RAJ BHAVAN, TAMIL NADU - PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU THIRU. R. N. RAVI,
ADDRESS AT THE KANDADEVI THER AND SOCIAL HARMONY
FUNCTION AT DEVAKOTTAI, SIVAGANGA DISTRICT

Historic Temple Chariot Festival Showcases Communal Harmony in Tamil Nadu.

Kandadevi, Tamil Nadu – In a momentous event symbolizing unity and reconciliation, the long-stalled Kandadevi temple chariot was set in motion after several decades, thanks to the joint efforts of the Kallar and Devendrakula Velalar communities. Tamil Nadu Governor R.N.Ravi graced the occasion and delivered a powerful address highlighting the deep historical, cultural, and spiritual significance of the land and the event.

“This sacred land is where Lord Rama discovered the whereabouts of Sita and where Vibhishana surrendered to him. It is a land of immense historical sanctity,” the Governor said.

He praised the temple festival as a model of social harmony, emphasizing that unity among diverse communities is the foundation of Indian civilization. He noted that despite centuries-old divisions — many initiated by colonial ‘divide-and-rule’ strategies — the people have now come together to demonstrate that unity is not only possible but powerful.

The Governor further remarked: -

“It is not surprising that the British divided us. But what is truly surprising is that even 75 years after independence, such unity is only now being realized. Those who ruled us after the British also continued with the same divisive policies.”

Drawing from history, he cited examples of national solidarity — from Tamil Nadu’s response to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre to its participation in the INA led by Subhas Chandra Bose. He underlined that such episodes reflect India’s inherent spirit of togetherness and patriotism.

Addressing current societal narratives, the Governor criticized attempts to portray Hindu devotion as unscientific:

“Are the devotees of Shiva, Shakti, and Vishnu across this nation unscientific? Weren’t the Alvars and Nayanmars champions of devotion? It is unfortunate that attempts are being made to alienate people from temples and faith.”

Concluding his speech, the Governor lauded the two communities for coming together and setting an example for the entire nation:

“This united chariot procession is not just a local event, but a message to India — that even long-standing social rifts can be healed through mutual respect and cooperation.”

He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the leaders and members of both communities and wished for continued peace, unity, and shared progress in Tamil Nadu and beyond.

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