

**REPUBLIC DAY ADDRESS BY
THIRU R.N.RAVI, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU
ON 26.01.2026**

My dear brothers and sisters of Tamil Nadu,

Vanakkam,

Today, we are celebrating the Republic Day. On this historic occasion, I extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to you.

On this day, we remember with profound sense of gratitude our countless freedom fighters who sacrificed and suffered for the freedom of Bharat Mata.

We also pay our heartfelt homage to the members of the Constituent Assembly, who gave us a profoundly powerful and resilient Constitution to guide and run the affairs of the Republic to serve the people of Bharat.

We are proud of our Constitutional institutions which have not only stood the stress of time but through the passage of times have emerged more robust, efficient and credible. We have all the reasons to be proud of our robust democracy.

Democracy is our living heritage. It runs in our DNA and is reflected in the day-to-day life of our people since thousands of years. The renowned Uttaramerur inscriptions stand as a glorious testament to Bharat's ancient and sophisticated traditions of participatory self-governance. In this long and unbroken continuum, Bharat stands as the Mother of Democracy.

Friends,

Today the entire world is watching the rise of new Bharat with hopes and expectations. For the last several years, Bharat has been the fastest growing large economy. In the midst of unending global geo-political tensions and uncertainties which have severely hit the global economies, Bharat is the beacon of hope and recovery. We are about to become soon the 3rd largest economy of the world. In the last ten years, over 25 crores of our citizens have come out of absolute poverty.

A rapidly emerging neo-middle class and an aspirational, enterprising youth are together reshaping the nation's economic landscape.

From no-where a decade ago, Bharat today stands among the world's top three start-up ecosystems. In science and technology today, it is among the leading nations of the world.

In the domain of space, we scripted a new history when our Subhansu Shukla became the first Bhartiya to be at the International Space Station where he conducted several crucial experiments in space which would enhance and accelerate our space exploration programmes. With opening of the space sector, today there are over 300 start-ups in this sector and we are looking forward to a flourishing space economy.

In the domain of defence, Operation Sindoор demonstrated the technological superiority of Bharat's indigenous defence industry and capabilities. In response to Pahalgam terror attack by Pakistan, Bharat destroyed the terrorist infrastructures in Pakistan, killed over 100 terrorists and neutralised Pakistan's capacity to strike back. Today,

we have over 1000 defence start-ups and our defence export is increasing every year.

Bharat's defence production has reached a record ₹1.54 lakh crore, with exports rising to ₹23,622 crore - a 12 percent growth over the previous year. Domestic industry now accounts for nearly 65 percent of defence acquisitions and Indian-made defence systems serve the security needs of nearly 80 countries. With targets of ₹3 lakh crore in production and ₹50,000 crore in exports by 2029, Bharat is firmly establishing itself as a global hub for advanced, trusted, and indigenous defence capabilities.

In the domain of new age technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Robotics, Quantum Computing, Nano-technology, Bharat is among the top few countries.

In renewable energy, Bharat is emerging as a global leader, achieving its clean energy targets well ahead of schedule. For the first time, non-fossil fuel sources account for over 50 % of total installed electricity capacity - a milestone originally set for 2030. With total power capacity surpassing 500 GW, this shift away from fossil fuels underscores Bharat's commitment to sustainable growth, climate responsibility, and energy security.

There has been a quantum transformation in infrastructure, with world-class roads, railways, airports, and seaports reshaping connectivity and economic potential. Tamil Nadu has been a key beneficiary, with the current railway budget allocation of ₹6,626 crore, modernising over 80 stations and enhancing regional connectivity through Vande Bharat trains. The Tuticorin Airport terminal, capable of handling approximately 20 lakh passengers annually, is boosting connectivity to southern districts, while the North Cargo Berth-III at

V.O. Chidambaranar Port has expanded cargo handling and streamlined logistics. Together, these multi-modal developments are enhancing mobility, facilitating trade, generating employment, and improving access to goods and opportunities, strengthening Tamil Nadu's economy and the quality of life of its people.

In the month of December 2025 alone, UPI processed 21.6 billion transactions worth nearly ₹28 lakh crore. This scale highlights the exceptional capacity, reliability, and global-class strength of Bharat's digital payments infrastructure, reinforcing that our digital infrastructure is among the best in the world.

The process of comprehensive reform started about a decade ago has gained much momentum and become Reform Express. The scale and speed of transformation is bewildering for the world.

Along with our economic and technological progress, our rise on the global sports stage has been equally inspiring. Our women's cricket team lifted the World Cup for the first time, a shining testament to **Nari Shakti**. Bharat's para-athletes achieved a historic haul of 22 medals at the World Para Athletics Championships and our Blind Women's Cricket Team claimed the first-ever Blind Women's T20 World Cup - a remarkable display of determination, resilience, and the unstoppable spirit of Bharatiya athletes.

Healthy competition among states is driving efficiency and innovation. Policy reforms and structural measures are further catalyzing growth, enabling regions once considered lagging to script new success stories. Bharat has emerged as a preferred destination for global investors, attracting opportunities across technology, manufacturing, and green energy.

Friends,

Bharat rises with **Vikas** and draws strength from its timeless proud heritage - **Virasat**, inspiring every Bharatiya with the enduring spirit that has guided us for millennia. And when it comes to heritage, every Bharatiya takes pride in our Tamil legacy - so rich, so ancient, and ever-inspiring.

In recent years, we have witnessed a vibrant resurgence of our rich Tamil heritage. In 2025, our people celebrated the legacy of Kavichakravarthi Kamban with great enthusiasm. The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, organised a ten-day festival at Therazhundur, Kambar's birthplace, during Ramanavami. The Kamban Kazhagams came alive with renewed energy and several thousand school and college students participated enthusiastically in elocution and writing competitions on Kambar, organised by Lok Bhavan, Chennai, reflecting a deepening engagement of the youth with our literary and cultural legacy.

Friends,

Recently the nation celebrated the proud legacy of our great Cholas. The 1000th year of Rajendra Chola was celebrated as a grand festival at the historic Gangaikonda Cholapuram. The Union Ministry of Culture actively assisted the celebrations. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India - a great admirer of Tamil heritage - took part in it and announced the construction of magnificent statues of Raja Raja Chola and Rajendra Chola, reaffirming Bharat's pride in its timeless legacy.

We also celebrated the deep and ancient connect between Tamil Nadu and Kashi through the annual Kashi-Tamil Sangamam, a festival conceived and guided by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Thiru.Narendra Modi, to rejuvenate the millennia-old cultural and

spiritual continuum linking the two regions. In 2025, the fourth edition of this festival was celebrated with unprecedented enthusiasm, under the theme “Tamil Karkalam”, which infused the celebrations with new vitality and highlighted our unity in diversity - Ek Bharat – Shreshtha Bharat.

Over 300 students from Uttar Pradesh immersed themselves in Tamil Nadu, learning the language and exploring its literature, heritage, traditions, cuisine, and the warmth of its hospitality firsthand. Simultaneously, over 50 teachers from Tamil Nadu travelled to Uttar Pradesh, introducing students to the fundamentals of Tamil, with more than 1,500 students participating. Inspired by these exchanges, the Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to include Tamil as the third optional language in schools. Additionally, Guwahati University has begun offering certificate and diploma courses in Tamil for the youth of the North-East.

Tamil is finding new voices and hearts across Bharat, as students at universities outside the state eagerly are taking up Tamil language courses. I was deeply moved when students from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh held conversations in fluent Tamil - a moment full of joy and pride. These lively exchanges reflect the true spirit of Ek Bharat – Shreshtha Bharat, our languages and culture bring people together, fostering understanding and harmony and creating lasting bonds that celebrate the timeless unity of our civilisation.

Friends,

Vande Mataram has long held a special place in the hearts of the people of Tamil Nadu, inspiring generations with its message of patriotism and unity. Composed by the great patriot Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1875, the nation today celebrates its 150th anniversary. Visionary nationalist leaders like

Mahakavi Subramania Bharati, through its reinforced Tamil rendition, brought its ideals deep into the consciousness of society, while V.O.Chidambaram Pillai inspired people to action during the national freedom struggle. Heroes such as Tiruppur Kumaran, who held the national flag in his final moments, and Vanchinathan, who gave his life fighting the oppressive British, embodied the courage, devotion, and selfless love for the nation that Vande Mataram symbolizes. From workers in the 1908 Coral Mills strike to the youth of today, the anthem continues to ignite courage, devotion, and unwavering love for Bharat, resonating deeply with the youth of Tamil Nadu.

Today, schools and colleges across the State are celebrating the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram in their own unique ways. Let us join this national celebration, and let the spirit of the anthem guide and energize us in building a fully developed Bharat - Viksit Bharat 2047. Friends,

The farmers and fishermen of Tamil Nadu have long been at the heart of our nation's growth. Today, many young and progressive farmers are leading the way in natural and organic farming, blending traditional knowledge with modern technology to nurture the soil, produce healthy food, and sustain high yields. This movement draws inspiration from Dr. G. Nammalvar, whose vision continues to guide Bharat's journey in sustainable agriculture. In November 2025, thousands of these farmers showcased their innovation at Coimbatore, earning praise from our Hon'ble Prime Minister, who highlighted in the 128th episode of Mann Ki Baat the remarkable efforts of South India's young professionals in adopting natural farming and emphasized that promoting it is our duty to protect Mother Earth.

Friends,

The energy and initiative of our youth are reshaping the nation's future. Young innovators and creators are turning ideas into action, driving progress across every field, and strengthening communities with their courage, creativity, and enterprise. Their dynamism ensures that Bharat advances with confidence and self-reliance.

Women-led development is the cornerstone of our national resurgence. As the Hon'ble Prime Minister highlights, our Nari Shakti is leading enterprises, transforming communities, and empowering families. Their leadership fosters inclusive growth, strengthens societal bonds, and ensures that when women lead, Bharat advances with greater strength, equity, and resilience.

Friends,

Our State has the finest human resource. I urge our youth, our women, our farmers, our fishermen, our weavers and artisans and all sections of our society to commit ourselves to the pledge of Nation First. Let us unleash our enterprise and make a self-reliant developed Bharat by 2047.

I once again extend my best wishes to you all.

Vazhga Tamil Nadu,

Vazhga Bharat Mata,

Vande Mataram,

Nandri.

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Lok Bhavan, Chennai-22

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