



सत्यमेव जयते

प्रधान मंत्री
Prime Minister

MESSAGE

The unveiling of the bust of Shri Chakravarti Rajagopalachari Ji, widely known as Rajaji, at the historic central courtyard of Rashtrapati Bhavan by the Honourable President is a moment of pride for the people of India.

This occasion and the celebration of 'Rajaji Utsav' honour the memory of one of India's important nation-builders. The celebrations, including a book and panel exhibition, film screening and other cultural performances that are part of the 'Rajaji Utsav' are a great tribute to a towering leader.

Rajaji, a leader of great courage and conviction, was at the forefront of the freedom struggle. He was also a scholarly writer with a deep knowledge of Indian culture and scriptures. As the first and only Indian Governor-General of independent India, he provided leadership and stability to our newly independent nation during an important transition period.

The close relationship that Rajaji shared with Mahatma Gandhi, marked by deep mutual trust and friendship, is well known. Therefore, it is fitting that Rajaji's bust is being installed right opposite the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. Further, the fact that Rajaji's bust will be positioned where Edwin Lutyens' bust used to stand is a crucial detail, making it an important act of mental decolonisation.

Post-independence, Rajaji was a fervent advocate of economic freedom for our people. He believed in the innate ability of every Indian to write his or her own destiny, free from the interference of the 'license-permit-quota raj', which was nothing but the continuation of a mindset of controlling people. Therefore, every act that frees our nation from a colonial approach, economically, culturally, or mentally, is a tribute to leaders like Rajaji.

The Honourable President herself embodies the spirit of Indian democracy, rising from humble beginnings, to the highest constitutional office of the land through perseverance, integrity and deeply rooted Indian values.

Under her leadership, Rashtrapati Bhavan has taken many laudable initiatives to ensure that the residence of India's first citizen reflects the soul of the nation and not the shadow of its colonial past.



The inauguration of the Param Vir Dirgha is a powerful statement that honours the courage and sacrifices of the nation's greatest heroes. In the very space where portraits of British military officials once existed, today the portraits of all Param Vir Chakra awardees adorn Rashtrapati Bhavan. This is decolonisation and civilisational correction. It replaces the memory of imperial authority with the memory of Indian courage. It tells future generations that the highest honour in this land belongs not to those who colonised India, but to those who defended the nation's sovereignty.

The establishment of the Granth Kutir carries a similar spirit. India's linguistic diversity and heritage are some of its greatest strengths. Housing thousands of books in our languages including Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali, it showcases the richness of India's languages and their literature. It upholds the vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.

Further, the inclusion of many manuscripts in Granth Kutir brings alive India's knowledge traditions as living streams of wisdom. It is also in alignment with the vision of the Gyan Bharatam Mission, which aims to preserve, digitise and celebrate India's intellectual heritage. Civilisational self-confidence is being built by using modern innovation to celebrate ancient heritage.

The replacement of colonial-era paintings and artefacts with works rooted in India's own artistic traditions is a noteworthy step. Sovereignty is not only important in political and economic spheres, but is also crucial in cultural spaces. This ensures that when citizens walk through these halls, they see their art, their creativity and their cultural imagination being celebrated in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The reimagining of banquets and 'At Home' ceremonies to reflect India's diverse ethos in culture and cuisine similarly strengthens democratic belonging. It signals that the Republic honours every region and every tradition.

The renaming of spaces such as Gantantra Mandap, Ashok Mandap and Amrit Udyan furthers this transformation. These are not cosmetic changes. They reiterate that the nomenclature and language of our institutions must arise from our own civilisational vocabulary.



Today, Rashtrapati Bhavan stands not as a seat of power, but as a visible embodiment of democratic self-confidence rooted in Indian civilisation. Initiatives such as the 'Rajaji Utsav' and the unveiling of a bust of Shri C. Rajagopalachari Ji reinforce this direction. They honour leaders who shaped the nation and remind us that freedom is sustained by celebrating their memory.

In this way, each of these steps taken at Rashtrapati Bhavan is not just administrative or symbolic, but also substantive. Together, they signal that India's democracy is not only politically independent, but also culturally self-assured, historically conscious and anchored in our timeless values.

As we move towards creating a Viksit Bharat by 2047, I am sure that the 'Panch Praan', our five-fold path, resolving to build an inclusive and developed India, shedding the colonial mindset, taking pride in our heritage, strengthening unity and fulfilling our duties, will continue to guide us.

(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi

फाल्गुन 03, शक संवत् 1947

22 February, 2026