

## Security tight in Tamil Nadu for I-Day

Security has been stepped up across Tamil Nadu ahead of Independence Day celebrations with as many as 15,000 security personnel deployed in the city and its outskirts to guard vital installations.

Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi has been provided with a bullet-proof car for Friday's function. 'The place where Karunanidhi hoists the national flag and the dais have been made bullet-proof,' Director General of Police K.P. Jain told the media here Thursday. He said the awards ceremony will also be held on the same bullet-proof stage.

More than 100,000 personnel are on security duty in Chennai, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Coimbatore cities.

Railway stations, bus stands and places of worship are being guarded.

Governor Surjit Singh Barnala Thursday extended his greetings to the people with a call to remain 'vigilant' and support the government's fight against terrorism.

'The message of India to the rest of the world has been of peace and friendship. Let us be cautious about the destructive forces which try to destabilise our country and its economy,' he said, adding, 'it requires public vigil and support to uproot terrorism.'

Recalling how British rule came to an end, Chief Minister Karunanidhi greeted the people saying, 'The benefits of independence are many. This day reminds us that we should rise above caste, creed and linguistic differences.'

On the occasion, the government said it will support special prayers in 33 temples across the state.

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