

Inaugural Address delivered by **Thiru Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the inaugural function of Global Investors Meet, 2019 on 23.1.2019 at Chennai Trade Centre, Nandambakkam, Chennai.

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மாண்புமிகு இதய தெய்வம் புரட்சித் தலைவி அம்மா தெய்வத்தை வணங்கி,  
அனைவருக்கும் வணக்கம்.

Hon'ble Defence Minister Tmt.Nirmala Sitharaman,

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Dr.M.Thambi Durai,

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.O.Panneerselvam

Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Heads of Country Delegations and partner Nations–France, UK, Japan, South Korea, Australia and Singapore,

Thiru.M.C.Sampath, Minister for Industries,

Hon'ble Ministers,

Members of Parliament and the State Legislative Assembly,

Chief Secretary, Dr.Girija Vaidyanathan,

Additional Chief Secretary, Industries Department Thiru.K.Gnanadesikan,

Senior officials of the State and Central Governments,

All the delegates seated on dais,

Captains of Industry,

Friends from the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend a very warm welcome to all the delegates to the Global Investors Meet. The response in terms of both investment proposals, as well as delegate registration for GIM-2019, has far exceeded our expectations. Proposals for new investments have been pouring in the last one year, since we started preparation for GIM-2019. This is a momentous occasion in the history of industrialisation of Tamil Nadu which will set new records of investment.

In September 2015, our Government under the visionary leadership of AMMA had organised the first edition of the Global Investors Meet 2015, which was a huge success, attracting 98 investment proposals with an investment commitment of Rs.2.42 lakh crores. These projects have investment period ranging from 3 to 7 years.

As a result of our close and continuous monitoring, several projects have been commissioned and many projects are in an advanced stage of commissioning.

Encouraged by the success of GIM-2015, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government has organised the Second edition of GIM. **If the response we have received is any indication, GIM-2019 is not only a grand success, but will be remembered as a historic event in the annals of industrialisation of Tamil Nadu.** The primary objective of our GIM is to showcase the opportunities in Tamil Nadu and attract investments, so as to retain the "**Numero uno**" position of our State.

Our leader AMMA had a Vision to set Tamil Nadu on a high growth path and to secure the benefits of rapid economic growth to all our people.

On 22.3.2012, in Amma's speech while unveiling the Vision 2023 document, Hon'ble Amma said and I quote

*"In my dream I envision a Tamil Nadu where no youth remains unemployed, where Poverty is totally eradicated, where every citizen has access to all basic amenities such as health care, education, water supply and sanitation and above all, where all the people of the State enjoy prosperity, security and peace. I have a dream wherein Tamil Nadu emerges as the numero uno in all economic and social indicators and emerges as the Knowledge economy in the new millennium" (Unquote).*

Tamil Nadu has a glorious past, dynamic present and a promising future. In the past 3 decades, Tamil Nadu's economy has registered the strongest and sustained economic growth among all States. It has, become the **second largest State economy** in India, contributing **8.4 percent to India's GDP.**

The 1992 industrial policy of my leader paved the way for automobile revolution and enabled the State to attract auto majors like Ford and Hyundai. Today, Chennai has become the World's largest auto clusters.

In 2003-04, Tamil Nadu did not have any major electronics industry worth mentioning. In that setting, the 2003 Industrial Policy triggered the Electronics industry revolution in Tamil Nadu by attracting global electronics companies making Tamil Nadu the hub for electronic manufacturing. **I would like to share with you that our Government has approved an investment proposal by Foxconn to assemble premium brand smart phones at Sriperumbudur.**

Tamil Nadu has ensured consistent investments in infrastructure. Investments in the electricity sector, by our revered leader **Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ensured that the State which had a huge power deficit in 2011, became a power surplus State. The Power sector in Tamil Nadu has witnessed a revolution in the past 7 years. Today we have completely eliminated power shortages and have become a power surplus State. We have also invested in conventional and renewable power projects which are in the pipeline and long term power supply agreements have been entered into, to ensure that the State will be power surplus in the future also. Major investments have also been made in the Highways sector to ensure

seamless connectivity to all parts of the State. The Chennai Metrorail Phase one and two have ensured world class urban transport facility in Chennai.

Tamil Nadu is one of the few States to reduce poverty at a rate faster than the All India average. This was possible, because of the vision, far-sighted policy making and an effective implementation record.

**The State's Human Development Index** is the second highest among large States and much higher than the national average. This was made possible because of the consistent level of social sector expenditure, especially in the areas of Health, Education, Nutrition, Welfare of Women and Children, Welfare of the Differently Abled, Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and Social Security. We have today, one of the, best educated and skilled work force, in the country. The **Composite Education Development Index**, places Tamil Nadu at the **Number One position**. The Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education in Tamil Nadu is the highest at 48.60 percent. Tamil Nadu has a rare model of development, which is business friendly, even as it ensures that adequate attention and funding is provided for welfare.

With a population of 7.2 crore, of which 80% are literate, and nearly 50% urbanised, Tamil Nadu is an innovation based economy, with a strong performance in manufacturing and services.

High quality skilled human resources, and infrastructure have made Tamil Nadu a very attractive investment destination. Tamil Nadu attracts the **third highest Foreign Direct Investment**, in the country. Recently, the International consultancy firm "**Frost and Sullivan**" and **NCAER** have ranked **Tamil Nadu as a leading State in investment potential**. Tamil Nadu's industrial base is diversified and holds the leading position in – **Textiles, Leather, Automobiles and Auto Components, Heavy and Light Engineering, Electronics Manufacture, Information Technology and Information Technology Enabled Services, and Health Care**.

The share of services sector in the economy is one of the highest in India. We are the leaders in renewable energy. Our effort will be to make a breakthrough in emerging and sunrise sectors. We aim to lead in bio technology, information and communication technology and the most modern techniques of manufacture.

Our Government enacted the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act, 2018 and introduced On-line Single window portal with time limits for according various approvals within 30 days. This Act ensures time-bound processing of applications and issue of Clearances by various departments of the State for establishing an Enterprise and for services that are required during normal course of business. Several Trade Bodies and Industry Associations have welcomed the successful implementation of the single window portal in the State.

We have also laid down the broad policy framework and strategies for the critical areas of development which includes the recently unveiled Eco Tourism Policy, Forest Policy, Youth Policy, Food Processing Policy, e-governance and ICT Policy.

A new start up and innovation policy has been unveiled by this Government to improve the start up environment. Tamil Nadu Government's "NEEDS" scheme which aims at promoting start ups and the new start up policy will ensure a vibrant MSME sector in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu will also introduce environmentally friendly electric buses in Metro cities and will shortly launch an "Electric Vehicles Policy" for promoting new gen electric vehicles with appropriate incentives.

**Today the Hon'ble Defence Minister has unveiled our Aerospace and Defence Production policy.** I understand that at present, around 35 companies from Tamil Nadu have already signed Transfer of Technology agreements with DRDO, including MRF, which manufactures Aero-muscle Tyre indigenously developed for Sukhoi fighter jets of the Indian Air Force. LMW is establishing an aerospace and defence components manufacturing unit in Coimbatore. Many more such projects are on the anvil.

To encourage aerospace and Defence manufacturing, our Government has promoted an exclusive Aerospace & defence park in 250 acres which can be expanded to 700 acres in Sriperumpudur, which is both an Automobile & components and Electronics Hub.

Very recently in November 2018, India Today, a leading magazine published its results of a survey on "State of States" in India. In this, Tamil Nadu has been adjudged as the "Overall Best performing State in all the sectors". Tamil Nadu was also ranked First in terms of Law and order maintenance, First in Tourism, Second in Infrastructure, Third in Inclusive Development, Third in education, Third in Entrepreneurship, etc.

Another research organisation called "Public Affairs Centre" in Bengaluru had published an index called Public Affairs Index (PAI-2017), wherein Tamil Nadu was ranked Second in terms of overall performance, First in terms of Law & order and Delivery of Justice and Environment.

I am giving a snapshot of recent facts published by Government of India organisations like CSO, DIPP, etc. on Tamil Nadu's performance:

1. Tamil Nadu is the **Second** largest economy in India
2. Tamil Nadu is **First** in terms of number of Factories
3. **First** in the number of workers employed in the factories sector
4. **First** in terms of Number of operational and exporting SEZs, with 38 SEZs

5. **First** in terms of annual turnout of engineering graduates and diploma-holders
6. **First** in terms of Wind energy capacity and generation
7. **First** in Arrival of Domestic and Foreign Tourists since 2014-15 to 2017-18
8. **Third** in Gross Industrial Output
9. **Third** in Net Value Addition in Factories sector
10. **Third** in terms of overall exports with US \$ 46.46 Billions in 2017-18

All these independent research reports bear ample testimony to the fact that Tamil Nadu is one of the best performing states in India.

At present, 62 Fortune 500 companies have established their facilities in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu attracts substantial FDI. Actual FDI inflows in to Tamil Nadu during April 2000 to June 2018 was 27,953 Millions US dollars. Out of this, more than 75% of the FDI was attracted in the last 7 years since April 2011.

Our Revered Leader, **Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** did not believe in resting on her laurels. Nor will we. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Vision Tamil Nadu 2023, remains our vision document for action. We will strive for achieving the goals of '**Peace, Prosperity & Progress**' she had set for us.

To revitalize our manufacturing sector, our Government is committed to putting through a package of Second Generation Reforms. This set of reforms includes rapid infrastructure development, assured supply of quality energy, deregulation to reduce transaction time and costs, labour reforms and State level tax reforms with an emphasis on simplification of procedures.

The two day event, GIM-2019, will showcase a variety of opportunities to explore deeper about investment opportunities in Tamil Nadu. We have organised 25 seminars, including five country seminars during the next two days. We have partnered with the following countries- France, UK, Japan, South Korea, Australia and Singapore and these countries also have established their stalls in the exhibition.

This edition of Global Investors Meet has targeted an investment of 2 lakh crore rupees, which I am happy to say has already been exceeded. **I hope to make an announcement on the resounding success of the meet and the investments garnered when we meet here tomorrow.**

Tamil Nadu looks to the future with confidence and with hope. I congratulate all those who are entering into a partnership with Tamil Nadu as your bright future is assured here as our State is a Land of immense opportunities.

Our Government will act as a catalyst in fulfilling your dreams. This is a State that delivers and we are partners in progress in the development of the State and the country. On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, I welcome you all once again to this Global Investors Meet, 2019. The historic and culturally rich city of Chennai, beckons you all and I wish you a comfortable stay in Chennai and a fruitful partnership in our aspirational journey.

Thank you

Nandri

Vanakkam.

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