

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin Speech

at CII Seminar "Chennai 2020" :-

- **Thiru. L. Mansingh, Chairman, P N G R B**
- **Thiru. Ma. Subramanian, Worshipful Mayor, Chennai Corporation**
- **Thiru. T.T. Ashok, Deputy Chairman, CII Southern Regional Council**
- **Tmt. Nandini Rangaswamy, Chairperson, CII Tamil Nadu**
- **Thiru. S. Abhaya Kumar, Chairman, CII, Chennai Zone**
- **Distinguished Speakers,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Vanakkam! and a very good morning, to all of you.

I am extremely happy, to attend this Chennai 2020 event, and to release the Visual film of Chennai 2020. The previous speakers have elaborately touched-upon the History of Chennai.

From a small village and 'no man's sand', Chennai has come a long way. Today, Chennai the capital of Tamil Nadu State is the 4th largest metropolis in the country with a population of about 85 lakhs. Chennai's strength lies in its ability to offer opportunities in diverse areas. It is a major centre for manufacturing industries like Automobiles, Electronics, Textiles, and Leather. It is also a leading software centre. It is also the most important destination for health and educational facilities.

Chennai is well on the way to become a leading global city. Recently, the reputed US magazine Forbe's has listed 19 urban centers in the world as the emerging powerhouses. Three Indian and four Chinese cities have found place in this list clearly indicating the shift, that is underway in the world economy.

The three Indian cities that made the list are Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Chennai the ABC of Indian growth story. Forbe's said that Chennai has so far this year created over 1,00,000 jobs more than any other Indian cities, outside of the much larger Delhi and Mumbai. It added that Chennai's metropolitan area is taking full advantage of India's soaring industrial sector particularly the booming automobile sector. Electronics led by Dell, Nokia, Motorola, Samsung, Sony and Foxconn are also booming. Chennai is home to India's second-largest entertainment industry behind Mumbai.

We are all proud to be Chennaiits. I am particularly grateful to the people

of Chennai, who elected me as the Mayor of Chennai, with a massive mandate. During my tenure as the Mayor, I did my part to improve the infrastructure facilities of Chennai and also initiated measures to beautify the city into “Singara Chennai.” But, as the saying goes Rome was not built in a day. As the city is growing rapidly, we also need to continuously improve the infrastructure in the city. The Government of Tamil Nadu have launched a number of initiatives to make Chennai a global city. For want of time, I would like to confine myself to some of the major initiatives taken by our Government.

The work of providing Metro-Rail for Chennai is under implementation. In the first phase the Chennai Metro-Rail Project will cover a distance of 45Kms. Of this 24 Kms will be underground. Recently, the Government have decided to extend the scope of this project by extending the line from Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar adding nine more stations. The project is proposed to be completed in the year 2015. The Corporation of Chennai have also constructing 11 more flyovers and over bridges in addition to the 10 fly overs already constructed. The Government has also decided to construct circular High Speed Corridors making travel within the city faster and easier.

The government of Tamil Nadu is giving great importance for environmental management. Marina Beach and many City Parks have been upgraded. The Adyar Estuary is being improved as Adyar eco-park. Pallikaranai-marsh has been declared as a protected area and we have plans to restore the marsh area. A world class horticultural garden over an area of 22 acres with rare plants flower varieties and bonsais is coming up near Anna fly over. There has been a steady increase in the supply-demand gap for Water Supply of Chennai. The current water demand of around 650-700 MLD is largely met by the sources already identified. Chennai city is heavily dependent on ground water resources to meet its water needs. TN Government, with the objective of strengthening the water supply infrastructure, had laid emphasis on, Sea water desalination, as a realistic and feasible long term water source.

One 100 MLD desalination water plant is, already functioning under PPP mode, at Minjur. Another 100 MLD desalination plant in the public sector is

coming up at Nemmeli in south Chennai. We have also appointed a consultant to identify a suitable source within the State which will augment the supply by 15 tmc to meet the demand expected in the next 15 to 20 years.

The Government is determined in its efforts to make Chennai drought proof and to ensure 24 X 7 supply of water to CMA region. Chennai Airport is the 3rd busiest airport in the country and unlike many airports in the country the Chennai airport has good connectivity with Chennai city. However, passenger traffic is expected to rise to 27.6 million, and Cargo traffic is expected to expand to 10.4 lakh Metric Tonne by 2020.

To cater to this demand the Airports Authority of India is in the process of executing a project, which includes construction of Domestic terminal, Construction of a cargo complex, extension of the International terminal, extension of a secondary runway, through a bridge over Adyar river and construction of multi level car parking facilities. In line with the vision of the TN Government to develop an Aero Park and in terms of aggressive promotion of Chennai as an MRO destination for aircraft the current facility would not be adequate to meet the additional demands. Therefore, a Greenfield airport to cater to the projected traffic by 2020 is very much necessary and the Government is working towards this.

We are also taking all efforts to establish a Financial city, Sports City and a Media City. While growth is a welcome one it also creates its own problems. I am aware of the infra-structural bottlenecks facing Chennai. I assure you, that the Government will spare no efforts in providing international standard infra-structural facilities to Chennai. In the end all of us know that a city is not made merely of concrete buildings airports and parks. It is about the people in the city and the quality of life they enjoy. This requires the all out support, involvement and contribution of all the stake holders. In this aspect, I appreciate the initiative of CII in organizing this conference and in producing the film Chennai 2020. Come. Let us make our Chennai the best city. Nandri ! Vanakkam!!

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