

Presidential Address of SELVI J JAYALALITHAA, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the release of Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 Document at Hotel Taj Coromandel, Chennai on 22.3.2012

I am delighted to participate in this function and release the "Tamil Nadu Vision 2023" document today. I consider today's function as an important landmark in the economic history of Tamil Nadu. When my Government took over in 2011, I had set the goal of making Tamil Nadu "numero uno" among the Indian States. Like Martin Luther King who had a great dream about the USA, I also have a dream or vision for Tamil Nadu. 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. This Vision 2023 document articulates my dream and sets certain tasks to be accomplished.

Good leaders create a vision, articulate the vision, passionately own the vision, and relentlessly drive it to completion. Vision gives you the impulse to make your own art work. Vision entails a task to accomplish. {HYPERLINK "http://thinkexist.com/quotation/vision_without_a_task_is_only_a_dream-a_task/15258.html"} {HYPERLINK "http://thinkexist.com/quotation/when_you_have_vision_it_affects_your_attitude/13030.html"}

Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President of the USA, once said and I quote: *"You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand"*.

Leaders must invoke an alchemy of great vision. Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality. Where there is no vision, there is no hope.

My Vision is to set Tamil Nadu on a high growth trajectory and to secure for all its people the benefits of rapid economic growth. It is in this context that we have embarked, for the first time in Tamil Nadu, on the preparation of a Vision Document for the State as a strategic plan for achieving overall development. The goals and themes of the vision are determined as clearly perceivable outcomes that will impact the lives of the common citizens in the most direct manner. We are setting for ourselves certain ambitious growth targets to be achieved within the next 10 years.

The vision for Tamil Nadu for 2023 is to become, by then, India's most prosperous and progressive State with no poverty, and where its people enjoy all the basic services of a modern society and live in harmonious engagement with the environment and with the rest of the world. The sweep of Vision 2023 is daring, and seeks to be an aspirational statement for the people and my Government to catapult the State into the league of developed regions of the world and to the top of the league plateau of Indian States.

The world is going through a major realignment of economic power. Industrialised countries are slowing down due to recessionary conditions, emerging market economies are gaining weight and regionally, India is gaining stature. As a progressive State in India, we stand to gain. Victor Hugo, the famous French poet, playwright, novelist and essayist once said and I quote: "*No power on earth can stop an idea whose time has come*". I want to say that the emergence of Tamil Nadu as a major economic power happens to be one such idea.

Over the next 11 years, Tamil Nadu, given its factor endowments and combination of strengths and opportunities, will aim to increase its GSDP at a growth rate of 11% or more per annum – about 20% more than the expected growth rate of India's GDP over the same period. Given the expected increase in population of 15% over the next 11 years, the increase in per capita income would amount to 6 times over this period. Several countries in Asia, in particular, Thailand, Malaysia and China have grown at around 7% to 10% per annum for more than 20 years during the 1980s and later. Considering the fact that several countries in Asia and a few States in India have consistently grown at high rates, the aspiration for Tamil Nadu to make its economy grow at over 11% per annum in real terms over the next 11 years is an achievable goal. Even more so when we consider that, during 2005-2006, Tamil Nadu clocked an impressive growth rate of 13.95% and the Manufacturing Sector registered an all time high growth rate of 15.10%. Although this growth momentum decelerated in subsequent years, there is no reason to believe that we cannot reclaim the high growth path. I am confident that Tamil Nadu will be able to increase its per capita income at today's prices by 6 times to reach 4,50,000 rupees or 10,000 US dollars in 2023, in line with the per capita income of Upper Middle Income countries.

Along with a high rate of economic growth, Vision 2023 also seeks to simultaneously reduce inequality of incomes across the State. Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 places substantial emphasis on inclusive growth by channelling considerable resources to the lowest income groups and ensuring that Tamil Nadu becomes poverty free. Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 resolves that by 2023 nobody in Tamil Nadu will be left behind.

My Vision is to provide piped and pressurised water to all our citizens and ensure that all of them, i.e. 100% of them have access to safe sanitation before the end of 2023. Open defecation will be completely eliminated in the State. My Vision is to create a slum free and hut free

Tamil Nadu by constructing 25 Lakh affordable houses for the poor, achieve universal secondary education, and increase enrolment in colleges (including vocational education) to over 50%. The State should be criss-crossed with high-speed, safe multi-lane highways and every district should have high quality roads before the end of 2023.

My Vision is that every household, every village, every industry or commercial establishment in Tamil Nadu should get uninterrupted power with stable quality. To ensure the long term energy security of our State, my Vision is to build 20,000 MW of additional power generation capacity in the next 10 years.

The single most important resource for the success of Vision 2023 is the availability of trained, knowledgeable and skilled manpower in Tamil Nadu. Vision 2023 envisages training and equipping 20 million persons with skills over the next 11 years. I recognise the need to establish ten or more top of the league institutions as Centres of Excellence in various fields that will attract the best talents from across the globe.

Food Security and the Second Green Revolution constitute an important part of our overall Growth Strategy. After a robust growth of 8-10% during the period 2000-2005, the Agriculture Sector witnessed negative growth during 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. My Vision is to achieve substantial improvement in agricultural productivity by introducing scientific agricultural methods and building an institutional network to support the continued adoption of the same.

Vision 2023 envisages developing ten world class cities in Tamil Nadu (essentially existing towns whose infrastructure is to be upgraded significantly) which will become the nuclei and engines of economic growth, thereby facilitating regional and balanced development across the State.

All these initiatives warrant substantial investments. We project an overall investment requirement of 15 lakh crore rupees. I am aware that the State Government alone cannot meet the resource requirements. A substantial portion of the financing for infrastructure has to be mobilised from non-governmental sources, including Private Sector organisations, banks, and Foreign Direct Investment. The Government will play the central role of a procurer of infrastructure services on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu and will facilitate private investment and service delivery in the Infrastructure Sector. Under the PPP mode, the Government will play the role of a change agent and will originate infrastructure projects in line with Vision 2023, and will also focus on the important functions of regulation and overall governance.

To attract Private Sector participation in infrastructure building, we need to improve the standing of Tamil Nadu with regard to the investment climate which is one of the key planks of Vision 2023. While Tamil Nadu already enjoys a good position in India from the perspective of investment flows, Vision 2023 envisages Tamil Nadu becoming one of the top three destinations for investment in Asia, and also emerging as

the most attractive State for investments in India. Attaining one among the top three positions in Asia would be tantamount to benchmarking Tamil Nadu with countries such as South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia, which are ranked 8, 17 and 18 respectively in the world by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in its study on 'Ease of Doing Business'.

My Government will nurture a culture of responsive and transparent Governance that ensures progress, security, and equal opportunity to all stakeholders. The Government's role will focus on planning, effective regulation and facilitation, while the Private Sector would be welcomed more and more in the area of service delivery. My Government will fully reap the benefits of the use of Information and Communication Technology in Government with an ambitious e-Governance policy. Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 is an aspirational and ambitious statement that aims to propel Tamil Nadu to realise and attain her potential along multiple dimensions of economic prosperity, social progress, inclusiveness, cultural plurality, and environmental sustainability. These are stretch targets – intended to inspire and challenge. But I am confident that, with unstinted and undaunted effort, and with your co-operation, we will achieve these targets.

Leaders establish the vision for the future and set the strategy for getting there; they cause change. They motivate and inspire others to go in the right direction and they, along with everyone else, sacrifice to get there. James Allen, a British philosophical writer and a poet, in his best known work titled "As a Man Thinketh" said and I quote: "*Dream lofty dreams, and as you dream, so you shall become. Your vision is the promise of what you shall one day be; your ideal is the prophecy of what you shall at last unveil*".

On this occasion, I wish to assure the people of Tamil Nadu that I will not rest or give up till I realise my cherished dream or Vision outlined in this Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 Document. I invite you all to participate in achieving my Vision and in making it a reality. I share this vision with you and invite you all to walk with me on the path towards attaining it. Let us all build a strong, vibrant, prosperous and wealthy Tamil Nadu where our people will lead a very happy and contented life.

Thank You.

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