

**PRESS NOTE NO.129**

**DATED 22-9-2006**

**INAUGURATION OF NEW BUILDING OF WORLD  
BANK AT CHENNAI.**  
**22-9-2006**

**SPEECH OF THE  
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU**

**Mr. La Via, Chief Financial Officer of  
the World Bank,**

**Mr. Choudhury, Vice-President and  
Controller,**

**Mr. McDonough and Mr. Pulley,  
Directors,**

**Hon'ble Finance Minister and  
Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of  
Tamil Nadu,**

**Chief Secretary to Government and  
Friends !**

**I am extremely happy to be here today to inaugurate the new building of the World Bank in Chennai. Tamil Nadu has had an enduring relationship with the World Bank. The Bank has made significant contributions to this State in urban development, water supply, infrastructure and irrigation. Currently, five WorldBank-funded projects are being implemented. Their total value is 7 Thousand 211 crores of rupees. They cover highways, health, urban**

development, rural poverty and tsunami relief. Other projects are under consideration. Our State is proud of its record in successfully implementing World Bank projects.

It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate this grand building today, because, I was the Chief Minister at the time when the World Bank took the decision to set up this office. The Bank had carefully considered several places before deciding on Chennai. This is the first and only World Bank Office of its kind in the world, situated outside the

**capital of the country.**

**Mr.Choudhury and others had visited Tamil Nadu in April 2001, after signing the agreement with the Government of India for setting up this office. Our Government had promised full support for this initiative. The initiative has been a grand success. Many high valued-added activities are now based at Chennai instead of Washington. The United Nations Secretary General has mentioned this office as an encouraging example for the United Nations to**

**emulate. This is a matter of pride for  
Tamil Nadu and India.**

**I wish this office every success.  
I hope that the warm relationship  
between the World Bank and the  
Government of Tamil Nadu will go from  
strength to strength.**

**Thank you.**

**வணக்கம்!**

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