

Press Release

Speech by Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin at the American Tamils' Meeting in San Francisco on 31.08.2024

Hon'ble Minister Thiru. T.R.B. Raaja, Consul General Thiru. Sreekar Reddy, Chairman Of NRT Welfare Board Thiru. Karthikeyan Sivasenapathy, Senior Officials of the Tamil Nadu Government, Thiru. Jayarajan, Mayors, Deputy Mayors, and Council Members, Esteemed Indian-Americans who have given us a warm welcome, Fellow Tamils, a warm greeting to all!

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude and best wishes for the warm reception we received upon our arrival at this event, with traditional music and Tamil verses. You have made me feel as if I am in Tamil Nadu, whether in San Francisco or Chennai. I extend my heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Consul General Sreekar Reddy for organising such a warm and engaging event.

It gives me immense joy to see Consul General Sreekar Reddy always speaking with a smile and kind words. I am visiting the third-largest country in the world. Back in 1971, the then Chief Minister, the great leader Muthamizh Arignar Kalaingar, visited here. Today, I am here as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, following in his footsteps. It fills me with pride and joy to see you, the Indian diaspora in this esteemed country, which is highly valued globally. Seeing so many Indian faces here makes me feel as if I am in an Indian state rather than in America. No matter where in the world we are, there is always an Indian presence. Every country in the world is a home to Indians. Particularly, America has always been a country that attracts Indians.

You, who reside in various parts of America—New York, New Jersey, Washington, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, Baltimore, Boston, Dallas, Houston, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and many others—are spread across this vast land. The Tamil diaspora, along with other Indian communities of different languages and religions, is well-represented here. Even though I came to attract industrial investments, my main purpose in being here is to see the faces of my dear Indian relatives.

India and America are two of the most important countries in the world. Both are democracies. While America is the world's largest economy, India is the fifth-largest. The friendship between America and India has been long standing. Trade, science, and computing sectors continue to strengthen. According to Gallup, India ranks seventh on the list of countries Americans like. Similarly, Indians are the second-largest group among immigrants to America. Indian students are the second largest group among international students in the U.S. Last year, among those who gained American citizenship, Mexicans were 12.7%, and Indians were the second-largest group. This shows how attractive America is to Indians. Despite the small number of Indians in America, they hold significant positions in higher education, business, and esteemed roles.

Many Tamilians hold high positions in American companies. Indian-origin scientists are at NASA. Bilateral trade has increased threefold since 2000. These are all signs of the friendship between our two nations.

The India-America relationship is crucial for global welfare. Seeing the joy in your faces, it is clear that Indian-Americans are thriving here. The friendship between India and America is not just between the governments but also between the people of the two countries. This is the unique aspect of the relationship between our nations. Tamil Nadu, in particular, holds significant appeal for America. Renowned American companies are operating in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu's status as the second-largest economy in India contributes to this.

Over 300 American companies have set up projects in Tamil Nadu. In the past three years, American companies have increasingly invested in Tamil Nadu. I have come here to invite them personally. I urge the Indian-Americans present here to encourage American companies to invest in Tamil Nadu.

A plant or a tree may not thrive when moved from one place to another, but despite crossing borders, you all have flourished. This is the pride of being Indian and the wealth of America. Some of you might have come voluntarily, others due to circumstances, from comfortable situations or less favourable ones. However, you all have achieved prestigious positions due to your hard work, intelligence, talent, confidence, and perseverance.

It is the excellent education, sharpness of knowledge, unique talents, confidence in what can be achieved, and unwavering efforts that have brought you to this esteemed position. These qualities have contributed to your success more than wealth, fame, power, or opportunities. I urge you to demonstrate these virtues to others and be a pillar of support for everyone's growth.

Unity in diversity is the key to our nation's development. I request everyone to live with the spirit of being one people, regardless of differences. I conclude by thanking Consul General Sreekar Reddy and all those who supported him for organising this wonderful event.

Thankyou!
Greetings!

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