

**Speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu  
Thiru O. Panneerselvam - Inaugural Session of the  
India Today Conclave, Chennai (9-1-2017)**

Most Respected General Secretary of our Party, the All India Anna  
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, **Respected Chinna Amma Avargale,**

Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,

Dr.V.Maitreyan, Member of Parliament,

Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly,

**Shri Aroon Purie, Chairman,** India Today Group,

Shri Raj Chengappa, Group Editorial Director, India Today Group,

Senior Officers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the Press and Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

அனைவருக்கும் வணக்கம்.

- It is my privilege to welcome you to the great State of Tamil Nadu and the historic city of Chennai to the first India Today Conclave being held outside New Delhi.
- The last occasion on which so many Chief Ministers and leaders converged in Chennai was to pay homage to our revered leader, the late Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.
- That the India Today Conclave is being held here in Chennai is a tribute to the great leader. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's memory is being honoured with a photo exhibition which has been inaugurated by our Most Respected General Secretary, **Chinna Amma Avargal.**

- This photo exhibition portrays the remarkable life and achievements of the great visionary leader of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who devoted her entire life for the people of the State – மக்களால் நான் மக்களுக்காகவே நான் – **I am because of you, I exist only for you.**
- Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's memories will ever live on in the hearts of the people of Tamil Nadu.
- As you are all aware, the economic reform process was launched in 1991. That was the year Puratchi Thalaivi Amma first became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- In 1991, Tamil Nadu's per capita income was still below the national average. Today it is nearly 75 per cent above the average.
- Tamil Nadu's economy has registered the strongest and most consistent economic growth among all States. It has become the second largest State economy in India.
- This has been the fruit of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's vision, far-sighted policy making and effective implementation record.
- But it is not only economic growth in Tamil Nadu that has been significant. Tamil Nadu is the one State that has sustained its level of social sector expenditure.
- Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had in her first term in office formulated a "Social Safety Net" for which allocations were made in the Budget year after year 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.

- This has paid rich dividends in terms of human development achievements in the State.
- Alongside the human development achievements, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma ensured consistent investments in infrastructure.
- Investments in the electricity sector ensured that the State which had a huge power deficit in 2011, became a power surplus State by 2015.
- Major investments have also been made in Road, Urban Development, Transport and related sectors.
- High quality 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. The foreign investment actually coming into Tamil Nadu would be even more.
- A significant portion of the foreign investment made in Tamil Nadu is counted against other States where the Indian head offices of some foreign companies are located.
- Tamil Nadu has the largest number of factories and largest employment in Industry of close to 2 million persons amongst all States in India.

- Tamil Nadu today has a very diversified industrial base. The State holds the leading position in a number of industries in India – 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 the services sector in the economy is one of the highest in India.
- Tamil Nadu's sustained performance is now spoken of as an established model of development.
- The President of the World Bank in his meeting with Puratchi Thalaivi Amma appreciated Tamil Nadu's model of development.
- In a context where Governments have either a welfare agenda or a business friendly agenda, Tamil Nadu is a rare exception. Tamil Nadu combines a business friendly agenda with adequate attention and funding for welfare.
- But this is no accident. Tamil Nadu's appeal as an investment destination lies in its strong human development indicators.
- There has been sustained investment in the social sectors – education, health care and support for the most vulnerable sections.
- We have today one of the best educated and skilled work force in the country. The State's health indicators are amongst the best in the country.
- Industries in the State enjoy the social peace dividend which is the outcome of our policies.

- Industrial relations in Tamil Nadu are amongst the most orderly and peaceful in the country.
- Law and order is well maintained and Tamil Nadu is a haven of peace.
- Tamil Nadu has created its own inclusive Growth Model, wherein as our revered leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said, "Everyone should get everything and no one should want for anything" – எல்லோரும் எல்லாமும் பெற வேண்டும், இங்கு இல்லாமை இல்லாத நிலை வேண்டும்.
- Our Revered Leader, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma did not believe in resting on her laurels.
- We will diligently follow the path she has laid for us.
- We will strive for the aspirational goals she had set for us.
- In 2012, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had launched the Vision Tamil Nadu 2023. This remains our blue print for action.
- The goal is to ensure that Tamil Nadu's per capita income reaches that of upper middle income countries by 2023.
- The people of this State must have access to infrastructure and services comparable to the best available anywhere in the world.
- Tamil Nadu will be a knowledge hub for innovation.
- Tamil Nadu will become the most attractive investment destination in India and one of the three most attractive in Asia.
- A total investment in infrastructure of Rs.15 lakh crores is planned.

- These are not idle promises or mere ideas. Implementation of more than 100 of the 217 projects and programmes identified under the Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 has already commenced.
- We will continue our march towards realising the Vision of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.
- As the world moves forward, we in Tamil Nadu will move even faster to grow and develop.
- We will constantly update our policy framework and redouble our efforts.
- Our effort will be to not only retain Tamil Nadu's lead in the sectors that it is strong in, but also to make a breakthrough in emerging and sunrise sectors.
- We are the leaders in renewable energy. We will aim to lead in bio technology, information and communication technology, and the most modern techniques of manufacture.
- Our Revered Leader, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was a strong votary for preserving the autonomy of States.
- State Governments must be provided the necessary legislative, administrative and fiscal space to function effectively to fulfil the aspirations of the people of the State.
- Strong, performing States are essential for a strong Union.
- The India Today Conclave has come to Chennai at the right time. I am very happy that an important player in the National media has recognized the changes in the political economy of our country.

- South India is a rapidly growing region with States that complement each other.
- As States, we compete. We contest. We collaborate. We cooperate. We coordinate. We learn from each other and we grow. That is the true success of a healthy federal democracy.
- I am happy to note that the participants in the conclave will be exposed to the rich culture and heritage of the region. You will witness the contest of ideas and of free thought.
- The significant social and cultural contribution that Southern India and Tamil Nadu, in particular, make to India will be on display.
- On behalf of the Government and people of the State, I welcome you all to Tamil Nadu and hope you enjoy the experience.

Nanri! Vanakkam!

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