

PRESS RELEASE

A delegation headed by Mr. Yukio Edano, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry, Govt. of Japan met Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu today (10.1.2012) at 2.15 P.M. at Secretariat, Chennai-9.

Japan is the sixth largest foreign investor in India. About 286 Japanese Companies including major Companies like Toshiba, Nissan, Mitsubishi, Komatsu, and Asahi Glass have set up their industrial units in Tamil Nadu. 35% of Japanese industries in India are located in Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Selvi J Jayalalithaa has already constituted a Working Group consisting of Officials from Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan and senior officials from the Government of Tamil Nadu for the mutual benefit of Japan and Tamil Nadu in industrial investment and infrastructure development. Now, accepting the request of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Govt. of Japan, Hon'ble Chief Minister has constituted a Joint Working Committee to discuss a broad range of issues such as social developmental issues, cultural and educational exchange, improvement of investment climate and business environment including infrastructure etc., in a comprehensive manner to strengthen the overall relationship.

During the course of the meeting, Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu made a brief speech, which is as follows:-

"I extend a warm welcome to you all.

It gives me immense pleasure to be present here today to witness the important event of the signing of Memoranda of Understanding between JETRO and Ascendas on the one side and the Guidance Bureau of the Government of Tamil Nadu on the other.

As you are all aware, the people of Tamil Nadu have a tradition of adopting and accommodating anything that is new and positive, be it in the field of arts, literature, culture and science and technology. It is common knowledge that people from this part of the country had trading relations, even centuries ago, with China, Rome and many South East Nations.

I understand that Cultural exchanges between India and Japan began as early as in the 6th century with the introduction of Buddhism to Japan from India. Linguistic Scholars who studied Japanese and Tamil have found that there are some similarities between the two languages. Researchers claim that many Tamil and Japanese words bear phonetic and semantic resemblances. According to Professor Tsutomu Kambe of Japan, "There are more than 500 Tamil words in the Japanese language".

With such rich traditional linkages behind us, it is but natural that we strive to build on it to take our economic, cultural and social relations to the next higher level. In this connection, I consider today's signing of the MOU with JETRO in the presence of the Japanese Minister for Economy and Trade very significant and indicative of the commencement of a new epoch.

Japan, being the sixth largest investor in India, looks upon Tamil Nadu as one of its most favoured States for investment. We have some of the major Japanese business houses in Tamil Nadu like Toshiba, Nissan, Mitsubishi, Komatsu, and Asahi Glass apart from 286 small and medium Japanese industrial units. I am glad to note that 35% of Japanese industries in India are located in our State.

The Government of Tamil Nadu and Japanese institutions have a strong relationship endorsed by MoUs signed by the Guidance Bureau, the Single Window Agency of the Government, with the Mizuho Bank, Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), Government of Hiroshima and Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (JCCI) for investment and trade promotion related facilitations.

I assure you that my Government will extend its full support to the existing and new Japanese units. We welcome businessmen from Japan with a warm heart and a kind and positive approach. Proactive steps are being taken by us towards making Tamil Nadu regain its top position in the country. A New Industrial Policy will shortly be announced by this Government, which will not only be investor friendly but also be aiming at balanced and sustainable growth.

During my meeting with the Japanese Ambassador to India, Mr. Saiki at Chennai on 8th September, 2011, it was suggested that a new framework of dialogue should be evolved to cover a broad range of issues such as social developmental issues, cultural and educational exchanges, improvement of investment climate and business environment including infrastructure etc. in a comprehensive manner, to strengthen the overall relationship between Tamil Nadu and Japan. I am happy to announce that I have accepted this suggestion and recently ordered the constitution of a Joint Working Committee (JWC) for this purpose. The Working Group already constituted will report the outcome of its discussions to the JWC and the decisions taken by the JWC will be followed by the Working Group.

My Government is committed to providing high class infrastructure in the State as it is the basis of all growth and development. Particular emphasis will be laid on improving the quality of roads and bridges. Recently, I have sanctioned 1900 crore rupees under the Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme

of the State's Highways Department. Further, to address the specific need of Japanese Industries for improving the infrastructure around Ennore port, I am glad to inform you that the State Highways Department is undertaking a study to form a separate road called the Northern Port Access Road. The Ennore Port authorities are also taking steps to complete the dredging work expeditiously.

Developing the infrastructure and improving the connectivity between Chennai and Bengaluru are high on the agenda of both the State and Central Governments. A Comprehensive Integrated Master Plan will soon be drafted to work on it.

With all these positive steps that we have taken and in an atmosphere of trust and co-operation, I am confident that the people of Tamil Nadu and Japan will prosper and flourish. It is my desire that the relationship and understanding should extend from the field of economy to the fields of art, culture, social and educational exchanges also.

To end, I would like to recall the words of William James, 'The greatest discovery of our generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind. As you think, so shall you be.'

Thank you."

On behalf of the Japanese delegation, Mr. Yukio Edano, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan informed the Hon'ble Chief Minister that Japanese companies consider Tamil Nadu to be an ideal destination for investments and requested Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to facilitate Japanese investments in Tamil Nadu. He requested that the access roads to Ennore Port may be improved. He also offered the assistance of the Japanese Government for undertaking a comprehensive study on the infrastructural requirements of the Chennai - Bengaluru industrial corridor. Hon'ble Chief Minister replied that as already pointed out by her, the State Highways Department has already commissioned a feasibility study on the Northern Port Access Road; and improving the Chennai - Bengaluru corridor is high on the agenda of the State Government.

During this occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Tamil Nadu Industrial Guidance & Export Promotion Bureau (Guidance Bureau) and Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) for setting up a Business Support Center at Chennai to support Japanese companies planning to invest in the State of Tamil Nadu. Dr. N. Sundaradevan, I.A.S., Chairman, Guidance Bureau signed the MoU on behalf of Guidance Bureau. Mr. Shinya Fujii, Director General, JETRO signed the MoU on behalf of JETRO.

M/s. Ascendas of Singapore in association with Japanese Group of Companies are taking steps to set up an Integrated Industrial Township in Old Mahabalipuram Road near Chennai in an area of about 1500 Acres with an investment of about Rs.3,500 crores within a period of 5 years. This Township will have various facilities like Manufacturing Zone, Commercial, Residential, Institutional and Social Infrastructure facilities. The Manufacturing Zone to be established within this Industrial Township is likely to attract an investment of about Rs.15,000 crores and has the potential for providing employment for 40,000 persons. Government's support and co-operation is required for this Industrial Township Project. For this purpose, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Guidance Bureau, Ascendas and Japanese Group of Companies. Dr. N. Sundaradevan, I.A.S., Chairman, Guidance Bureau signed the MoU on behalf of Guidance Bureau. Miss. Chong Siak Ching, Chief Executive Officer & President, Ascendas Land International Pte Ltd., Mr. Mitsuhiro Nagahama, Deputy President, Mizuho Corporate Bank, Mr. Yoshihiro Shigehisa, Chairman, Emeritus of JGC Group have signed the MoU on behalf of Ascendas and Japanese Group of Companies in the presence of Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

During this event, Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department, Principal Secretary to Government, Industries Department and other senior officials of Government of Tamil Nadu were present. On behalf of Japan and Singapore, senior officials from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Govt. of Japan, Consul General of Japan at Chennai, Chairman, JETRO and the High Commissioner of Singapore to India have participated.

Issued by: Director of Information & Public Relations, Chennai-9.
Date : 10.1.2012