

PRESS RELEASE

**Meeting of Hon'ble Chief Minister with Mr. Richard.
R. Verma Ambassador of USA to India**

Ambassador of the United States of America to India, Mr. Richard Verma called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru O. Panneerselvam today (19.02.2015) at the Secretariat. The Ambassador was accompanied by Mr. Phillip A. Min, Consul General of the United States of America in Chennai.

The strong economic ties between USA and India in general and Tamil Nadu in particular were highlighted in the context of the presence of a large number of US companies in Tamil Nadu. Investments made by some of the large American companies including Ford, Caterpillar, Cognizant Technology Solutions, Amway, Delphi, Allison Transmission, Dell and Flextronics in Tamil Nadu were mentioned as some of the most successful US investments into India.

The Chief Minister underscored that Tamil Nadu was proud of being one of the top three industrialized States in India and the second largest economy in the Country and stated that under the guidance of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, "Vision Tamil Nadu 2023", has been conceived as the blueprint of development agenda of the State. The vision is to make Tamil Nadu the most favoured investment destination in India and one of the top three in Asia.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister pointed out that Tamil Nadu offers a number of competitive advantages for investors in terms of its stable Law and Order record, harmonious industrial relations and skilled work force. The Chief Minister also noted that Tamil Nadu has immense potential for cooperation with USA in areas like automobiles and auto parts, electronic hardware, Information Technology, Biotechnology, and Renewable Energy.

The Ambassador recalled the recent visit of the President of the United States to India and emphasized the need to carry forward the engagement between the two Countries in areas like clean energy, Defence, trade etc. He noted that the US Consulate in Chennai issues the largest number of employment related Visas and the very fact that Tamil Nadu has a large presence of US companies in itself signifies how the State has been a model in attracting investments. He also called for greater engagement between Universities in terms of student-faculty exchange programmes and the need to further tap the investment opportunities.

During the course of the meeting, sectors that have significant potential for collaboration and cooperation like Renewable Energy with particular focus on solar and wind energy, tourism, health, development along the proposed Madurai- Thoothukudi Industrial Corridor, improvement to minor ports and the potential of Colachel as a potential transshipment port were discussed.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister invited business delegations and investors from the United States of America to attend the Global Investors Meet proposed to be organized by the State Government on 23rd and 24th May 2015 in Chennai.

Thiru K. Gnanadesikan, I.A.S., Chief Secretary to Government, Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, I.A.S. (Retd.) Adviser to Government, Thiru K.Ramanujam, I.P.S.,(Retd.) Adviser to Government and Thiru K. Shanmugam, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department were present.

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