

**Speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Sixth Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog, New Delhi,
20th February 2021**

Hon'ble Prime Minister,

Hon'ble Union Ministers,

Hon'ble Chief Ministers and
Lieutenant Governors,

Vice Chairman and Members of NITI Aayog,

Senior Officials.

Vanakkam.

It is a privilege to address this august gathering of leaders of the States and Union Territories of the Country, led by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

We are meeting after a year, during which period the World has been struck by the most extensive pandemic we have seen. A series of timely and effective measures taken in Tamil Nadu by calibrated relaxations, effective RT/PCR testing, tracking and conduct of fever camps have ensured total control of the spread of COVID in our State.

At this juncture, I recall with **a sense of pride**, the appreciation of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the

effective handling of the COVID-19 pandemic by Tamil Nadu as well as his request to other States to follow the Tamil Nadu model.

Tamil Nadu has been ranked **Number One in the Good Governance Index released by the Government of India.**

1. Making India a Global Manufacturing Hub

Tamil Nadu received the highest share of investment proposals (16 percent) in India during April 2020 to September 2020, as per the CARE ratings report and has also been ranked first by the '**Projects Today**' in attracting investments.

- Through the on-line single window portal, investment of 22,332 crore rupees and employment potential of 76,835 persons have been cleared.
- A Multi-Modal logistics park is being developed near Chennai in around 150 acres of land.
- Since 2019, Tamil Nadu has attracted investment into 453 major industrial projects with a cumulative investment of 4.07 lakh crore rupees offering employment to 13 lakh persons.

- The new Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy encourages the industries to create more jobs.

2. Re-imagining Agriculture

The Tamil Nadu Protected Agricultural Zone Development Act, is a historic enactment to protect the fertile agricultural lands and safeguard the livelihoods of farmers and agricultural labourers in the Cauvery delta.

- In the last 4 years, 10 lakh hectares of dry land benefitting 9.49 lakh farmers, at an cost of 803 crore rupees has lead to an increase of 34% in area under millets and 27% under oilseeds.
- The State has been promoting Farmer Producer Organisations.
- Tamil Nadu has bagged the "**Best Performing State**" title in the **National Water Award**, 2019.
- The implementation of the hugely popular farmer centric '**Kudimaramath**' scheme has led to 6,211 works being taken up at an estimated cost of 1,418 crore rupees.

- Tamil Nadu stands first in the country in coverage under Micro Irrigation in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.
- **I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to declare the Godavari – Cauvery river linking project as a National Project so as to benefit lakhs of people in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.**
- **The river Cauvery and its tributaries have to be rejuvenated on lines of "Namami Gange". Government of India is requested to accord sanction and extend financial assistance to Tamil Nadu, at the earliest.**
- Lakhs of farmers were successfully enrolled under the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme and compensation of 9,365 crore rupees was disbursed in the last 4 years to 54.12 lakh beneficiaries.
- **The contribution of Livestock sector to Agriculture and allied activities sector, increased from 30% in 2011-2012 to 53% in real terms in 2019-2020.**

- Diversification of Trawl Fishing to Deep sea fishing, development of fishing harbours and marketing facilities are being taken up in a big way.

3. Improving Physical Infrastructure

- Tamil Nadu is committed to the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- A key element of infrastructure in Tamil Nadu is the supply of quality and reliable power and has transformed itself into a power surplus State. Tamil Nadu stands first in wind installed capacity and third in solar installed capacity.

4. Accelerating Human Resource Development

Education continues to be a very high priority investment in the State. 19 new Government Arts and Science Colleges, 5 Government Polytechnic Colleges, 3 University constituent Colleges, 6 Law Colleges and 3 Veterinary Colleges have been established since 2017-2018. The State has also received approval for establishing 11 Medical Colleges and we will be admitting students from the 2021-22 academic year onwards.

The challenge to education due to COVID, is being faced by facilitating online classes by providing data cards with 2GB per day capacity to college students for four months.

- School Children are able to access educational content through Kalvi TV of the State and 10 private TV channels. 60 Lakh Free laptops have been distributed to Government school students. This has been effectively leveraged, by uploading video lessons.
- The Tamil Nadu Private Job Portal, brings employers and jobs seekers on a single platform.

5. Improving service delivery at grassroots level

- An Integrated and Inclusive Public Grievance Chief Minister Helpline Management System for effective grievance redressal with a citizen call centre with a dedicated number 1100, web portal, mobile app and social media integration have been recently launched.

- Every month about 10 lakh citizens are served through e-sevai Common Service Centres, apart from on-line portals.
- Government of Tamil Nadu has set up a **Center of Excellence in Emerging Technologies (CEET)** focusing on Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and Data Analytics.

6. Health and Nutrition

The Siddha system is the proud contribution of Tamil ancestors to the World. The International Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy Medical Sciences is being established in Tamil Nadu. Overall budget to AYUSH at the Central level must necessarily be increased.

I would like to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister and **NITI AAYOG** for this opportunity.

Nanri,

Vanakkam.

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