

Press Release

Meeting of Hon'ble Chief Minister with Ms.Nikki Haley, Governor of South Carolina, USA

Ms Nikki Haley, Governor of South Carolina along with a delegation from South Carolina met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru O.Panneerselvam today (21.11.2014) at the Secretariat.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned that USA and Tamil Nadu have a strong economic relationship and that USA is one of the Top 5 investing countries in Tamil Nadu. There are over 250 US Companies in Tamil Nadu with an investment of over US Dollars 4 Billion. They employ over 175,000 persons directly and another 250,000 indirectly. Some of the important companies include Ford, Caterpillar, Cognizant Technology Solutions, Amway, Delphi, Allison Transmission, DELL, and Flextronics. Automobiles, auto components, Electronic hardware and Information Technology are the prime areas of investment in Tamil Nadu by American companies.

The Chief Minister also highlighted that although today Tamil Nadu is one of Top Three industrialised states in India, the State wants to go further. For this purpose, he indicated that his Beloved Leader Puratchi Thalavi AMMA, had unveiled "Vision Tamil Nadu 2023". This is the blueprint of the State's our development agenda. This grand Vision aims to raise Tamil Nadu's per capita income six-fold to US dollars 10,000 by

2023. It also aims to make Tamil Nadu the most favoured investment destination in India and one of the top three in Asia.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister highlighted competitive advantages Tamil Nadu offers investors. The State's biggest asset is the rich human resource endowment. Abundance of skilled human resource and harmonious and peaceful industrial relations make Tamil Nadu a preferred investment destination.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister drew parallels between Tamil Nadu and South Carolina which are both south-eastern States in their respective countries. Both States have become attractive investment destinations, for the automobile sector in particular. Tamil Nadu is one of the Top 10 automobile hubs globally with a production capacity of 1.40 million passenger cars per year, while South Carolina has the largest BMW factory in the world. The Hon'ble Chief Minister pointed out that there is a natural affinity that needs to be taken forward. He pointed out that Tamil Nadu offers immense potential for cooperation with USA in the areas like Automobiles and auto parts, Electronic hardware, Information Technology, Biotechnology, and Renewable energy. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also highlighted the excellent social infrastructure Tamil Nadu offers.

The Chief Minister cordially invited Governor Haley to attend the Global Investors Meet to be held in Chennai on 23rd and 24th May, 2015 along with a big business delegation from South Carolina.

Governor Haley highlighted that South Carolina has done very well by taking care of businesses. It is now a centre for aircraft manufacture with Boeing having shifted base there and was a leading location for cars, tyres, and carbon fibre industries. She highlighted that the training programme of South Carolina which adopts an outreach approach to the industries is one of the big strengths of the State. She looked forward to further business to business contacts and a two-way interaction.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned that Tamil Nadu has a large number of engineering colleges and trained engineers and the Governor responded that there was a shortage of engineers in South Carolina. Other possible areas of collaboration which were discussed were the development of a Finance City in Chennai, renewable energy projects including solar energy and wind energy and entrepreneurship development initiatives.

The Governor of South Carolina was accompanied by Mr. Michael Haley, the First Gentleman, Mr. Rob Godfrey, Director of Media Relations, Ms. Katherine Veldran, Special Assistant to the Governor, Mr. Philip A Min, Consul General of USA in Chennai Mr. John Fleming, Principal Commercial Officer, US Consulate in Chennai and Ms. Mala Venkat, Senior Commercial Specialist, US Consulate in Chennai. Thiru Mohan Verghese Chunkath, 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, Thiru S.Krishnan, I.A.S, Principal Secretary to Government, Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Department and

Thiru T.Udhayachandran, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government i/c ,
Finance Department were present.

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Issued by : DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai – 9.
Dated : 21.11.2014