

'அனைத்து மாவட்டங்களுக்குமான பரவலாக்கப்பட்ட வளர்ச்சி' என்ற திராவிட மடல் அரசின் அணுகுமுறை பலனளிக்க தொடங்கியது குறித்த டைம்ஸ் ஆப் இந்தியா நாளிதழின் செய்தி தொடர்பாக மாண்புமிகு தமிழ்நாடு முதலமைச்சர் திரு. மு.க. ஸ்டாலின் அவர்களின் சமூக வலைதளப் பதிவு

தென் மாவட்டங்களின் வளர்ச்சி குன்றியுள்ளது என்ற நீண்டகாலத் தவிப்பு தீர்கிறது!

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SOUTHERN SUCCESS
V O CHIDAMBARAM PORT, TUTICORIN

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Tamil Nadu's deep south is back in business. Here to some of the state's traditional business communities, the region had missed out to the modern era. But no more. First the recent Global Investor Meet in Chennai, there's been a rash of investor interest in south Tamil Nadu in general and Tuticorin/Tirunelveli in particular (see table). From green hydrogen to electric vehicles to electronics, investors are looking to set up in this region. And the Tamil Nadu part is a big reason as many of the projects are export oriented.

"The chief minister has directed us to work towards distributed growth, which is investments and job across the state. As part of this effort, we are paying special attention to south Tamil Nadu," says industries minister T.R.B. Rajaa.

To attract investors "away from established industrial clusters," state government is "creating tax breaks packages for investments in these regions." That includes improving industrial infrastructure and developing the talent pool with schemes such as Naxa Mudhalvan, adds Rajaa.

This two-pronged approach is beginning to show results. The region has attracted green hydrogen players, which plugs into its traditional strength in green energy such as wind power. But investments in electric vehicles and electronics are adding new depth to this emerging hub.

"Green hydrogen investments go to Tuticorin because of port access, but what's a game-changer is EV company VinFast choosing that region for its manufacturing plant. That way TN will get its third auto cluster after Chennai/Coimbatore/Sriperumbudur and Hosur," says Vishnu Venugopalan, CEO, Guidance Tamil Nadu.

"This government has been trying to create new clusters with employment-intensive industries (like non-leather footwear) located in rural areas and high-end R&D centres in Chennai, Coimbatore and other cities," says Vishnu Venugopalan. Apart from Tuticorin and Tirunelveli, Trichy is also in focus and together with Hosur "will see more investments in coming months", he adds.

Industry is clear about why the spotlight is shining on south TN. "This is the first time in the recent past that big ticket investments have come to southern districts such as Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram. The critical factors are availability of good infrastructure, skilled manpower and land," says Shankar Vinayaganesan, chairman, CII Tamil Nadu.

SIPCOT is the nodal agency for land acquisition and is acquiring a 2000-acre land bank in the region, say sources. VinFast is setting up its manufacturing facility at SIPCOT's industrial park. SIPCOT is also putting up a 60-million-litre desalination plant in Tuticorin to cater to industrial needs.

Part of the next-gen investment flow may well be in some of the new sunrise sectors such as aerospace. Video is focusing on developing Tuticorin as "the end-to-end destination for space manufacturing by setting up a space-focused industrial park near Rameswaram in a coastal town located 62 km from Tuticorin city, where the spaceport for launching small satellite launch vehicles (SSLV) will come up," says K. Krishnaswami, special secretary, project director, Video.

This park will host common facilities such as centres for environment, thermal and vibration testing, clean rooms and critical storage facilities, warehousing and logistic support, and R&D centres. The aim is to attract space-related startups and companies. A propellant park will safely house manufacturing of all propellants required for the launch complex. The government is also formulating a policy focused on space manufacturing to boost the development of the ecosystem.

While the investment rush is a recent phenomenon, this region's ability to incubate entrepreneurship is not. "The Tuticorin/Tirunelveli region has been known for pearl trading with foreigners from Sangam times," says business historian V. Sriram. More recently it is known as the home of the Nadar community which has birthed some of TN's best-known industrialists. "The Nadars were at the forefront of retail and later trade," says Sriram. In the 19th century they got into everything from manufacturing to banking.

As for Tirunelveli, a "small village called Kallidihurichal was known for its money-lending business in the 17-18th centuries," says Sriram. That history later birthed many of TN's best-known enterprises in the 20th century. Clearly, the time has come for south Tamil Nadu to reclaim that reputation once again.

GIM WINDFALL FOR SOUTH TAMIL NADU

COMPANY	SECTOR	INVESTMENT	DISTRICT
JSW RENEWABLES	Renewables	₹12,000 cr	Tuticorin & Tirunelveli
TATA POWER RENEWABLE ENERGY	Renewable energy	₹800 cr	Tirunelveli
LEAP GREEN ENERGY	Renewable energy	₹5,442 cr	Tuticorin
SEMBCORP	Renewable energy	₹38,238 cr	Tuticorin
TATA CHEMICALS	Chemicals	₹1,000 cr	Ramanathapuram
VINFAST	EV	₹15,000 cr	Tuticorin
INDIAL DEFENCE	Aerospace/defence	₹1,000 cr	Trichy

Source: IHS Markit

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SOUTHERN SUCCESS



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LEAP GREEN ENERGY	Renewable energy	₹5,442 cr	Tuticorin
SEMBCORP	Renewable energy	₹36,238 cr	Tuticorin
TATA CHEMICALS	Chemicals	₹1,000 cr	Ramnathapuram
VINFAST	EV	₹16,000 cr	Tuticorin
JINDAL DEFENCE	Aerospace/defence	₹1,000 cr	Trichy

Source: GIM TN

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வெளியீடு: இயக்குநர், செய்தி மக்கள் தொடர்புத்துறை, சென்னை-9

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