

**Speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,  
Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami for the India Today Awards  
Function at New Delhi 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2018**

Hon'ble Chief Ministers,

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha,

Hon'ble Ministers,

Mr. Raj Chengappa of India Today and his team,

Friends from the Press and Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon,

It is a matter of great pride, to receive the "**India Today**" awards. It is fitting that, Tamil Nadu is being recognized, as the best performing State in the categories of "**Overall Performance**", "**Maintenance of Law & Order**" and "**Tourism**" by an important group of the National Media.

2. I am proud to say - I come from a farmer's family and thanks to the training I received for 33 years from my mentor, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I reached this level.

3. In the past 3 decades, Tamil Nadu's economy has registered the strongest and sustained economic growth among all States. It has, become the **second largest State economy** in India, contributing **8.4 percent to India's GDP**. Tamil Nadu is one of the few States to reduce poverty at a rate faster than the All India average. This was possible, because of the vision, far-sighted policy making and an effective implementation record.

4. **The State's Human Development Index** is the second highest among large States and much higher than the national average because of the consistent level of social sector expenditure in the areas of Health, Education, Nutrition, Welfare of Women and Children, Welfare of the Differently Abled, Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and Social Security. We have today, one of the, best educated and skilled work force, in the country. The **Composite Education Development Index**, places Tamil Nadu at the **Number One position**. The Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education in Tamil Nadu is the highest at 48.60 percent.

5. With a population of 7.2 crore, of which 80% are literate, and nearly 50% urbanised, Tamil Nadu is an innovation based economy, with a strong performance in manufacturing and services.

6. Tamil Nadu has ensured consistent investments in infrastructure. Investments in the electricity sector, by our revered leader **Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ensured that the, State which had a huge power deficit in

2011, became a power surplus State by 2016. Major investments have also been made in the Road, Urban Development, Transport and related sectors.

7. High quality skilled human resources, and infrastructure have made Tamil Nadu a very attractive investment destination. Tamil Nadu attracts the **third highest Foreign Direct Investment**, in the country. Recently, the International consultancy firm "**Frost and Sullivan**" and **NCAER** have ranked **Tamil Nadu as a leading State in investment potential**.

8. Tamil Nadu has more number of factories and largest employment in Industry. Tamil Nadu's industrial base is diversified and holds the leading position in – **Textiles, Leather, Automobiles and Auto Components, Heavy and Light Engineering, Electronics Manufacture, Information Technology and Information Technology Enabled Services, and Health Care**.

9. The share of services sector in the economy is one of the highest in India. We are the leaders in renewable energy. Our effort will be to make a breakthrough in emerging and sunrise sectors. We aim to lead in bio technology, information and communication technology and the most modern techniques of manufacture.

10. Recently, we have formulated a new **Environment Policy, an e-Governance Policy, an Eco-Tourism policy, an Information Communication Technology Policy, State Forest Policy, Youth Policy and Food Processing Policy**. Policies in other critical sectors will also be announced to provide clarity and guidance to investors.

11. The Tamil Nadu **Business Facilitation Act, 2018**, has ensured that business enterprises are given mandatory clearances within 30 days, failing which deemed clearances are accorded. Following up on the success of the Global Investors' Meet held in 2015, the next Global Investors' meet is to be held on **23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 in Chennai**.

12. Tamil Nadu has a rare model of development, which is business friendly even as it ensures that adequate attention and funding is provided for welfare.

13. The State's health indicators are amongst the **best in the country** and is ranked amongst the top three States in the "**Healthy State Progressive India**" Report of the **NITI Aayog**. Tamil Nadu is the most sought after health care destination in India.

14. Some believe that Tamil Nadu's welfare schemes are populist in nature. In reality these schemes are popular. They are oriented towards the welfare of the people. These schemes serve a specific need. The laptop scheme has reduced the '**digital divide**'. Many schemes pioneered in Tamil Nadu like the "**Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Noon Meal Scheme**", the

**Maternity Benefit Scheme**, etc., have been adopted as national model schemes. They have been appreciated by the, Hon'ble Supreme Court, Government of India, and international agencies. All these are visionary and multi-di-mensional schemes having direct impact on the decrease in poverty level.

15. Tamil Nadu has thus, created its own inclusive Growth Model, which "**offers everything, for everyone**" as promised by my mentor Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

16. **Firmness** in maintaining **law and order**, has made Tamil Nadu **a haven of peace**. Tamil Nadu Police is a professionally competent and well equipped force with high levels of morale and motivation. This has kept communal tension, left wing extremism, religious fundamentalism and labour un-rest at bay.

17. Tamil Nadu has been at the fore-front of adopting technology for law enforcement. The CC-TNS was effectively implemented. CC-TV cameras installed in many police stations and public places are helpful in pulling down the crime more effectively. Technology has been, adopted in many other ways also. A **mobile app** called "**Kavalan – SOS**" has enhanced the safety and security of women and children in particular. Due to these efforts, Chennai has been declared as the **safest Metro City** and Coimbatore the **safest Big City for women in India** as per the National Crime Record Bureau Report.

18. A "**Police well-being Programme**" has been introduced in association with "**NIMHANS**", Bengaluru, to relieve the mental and physical stress of the police force and their families.

19. Tamil Nadu has always attracted the largest number of domestic and foreign tourists, amongst all States. Tamil Nadu is endowed with cultural tourist sites like ancient temples and heritage centres and places of natural beauty and adventure. Good infrastructure, a culture of hospitality and safe environment for visitors, under the brand "**Enchanting Tamil Nadu**" makes the State a **very attractive tourist destination**.

20. Tamil Nadu's work has been recognized by a number of awards. The **Krishi' Karman** Award in Agriculture, various **performance awards** for implementation of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**, **Best Practice Award** for the Computerisation of the **Public Distribution System**, awards for **Renewable Energy**, recognition of **high quality health services**, including best performance in **Organ Transplantation** and performance standard awards for the **State Transport Corporations and for many Urban Local Bodies**, are testimony to effective performance. This was evident when the **State obtained second rank for good governance** in the Public Affairs Index, created by the Public Affairs Centre, Bengaluru.

21. These awards are the result of the vision of **Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, and of the hard work put in by **my Government**, including **my colleagues in the cabinet, MPs, MLAs** and the team of **civil servants**.

22. Our Revered Leader, **Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** did not believe in resting on her laurels. Nor will we. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Vision Tamil Nadu 2023, remains our blue print for action. We will strive for achieving the aspirational goals '**Peace, Prosperity & Progress**' she had set for us.

23. Tamil Nadu is a strong and silent performer and it is no surprise that it has bagged these "**India Today awards**". I once again thank the "**India Today Team**" for these awards.

Nandri.

Vanakkam.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Issued By :- DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.**