

## **Press Release**

### **Meeting of Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru O. Panneerselvam with President of the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) Mr. Shinichi Kitaoka on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2016**

Mr. Shinichi Kitaoka, President, JICA and a high level team of officials from JICA, met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru O. Panneerselvam on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2016 at 12 noon in the Secretariat. The Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan, welcomed the visiting delegation.

The President, JICA expressed his condolences on the recent untimely demise of the late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Selvi J Jayalalithaa. He mentioned that the late Hon'ble Chief Minister was a personality of great charisma. The President, JICA also expressed sympathy for the damages caused by the recent cyclone.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that the meeting was taking place in sad circumstances, soon after the demise of the revered leader, the late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. The Hon'ble Chief Minister thanked the President, JICA for the condolences expressed and recalled that the late Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had inaugurated services from Airport to Little Mount on the JICA assisted Chennai Metro Rail Project on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2016 in the same room in which this meeting was taking place and that was the last official function the late Hon'ble Chief Minister attended. It was also mentioned that the Japanese Consul General in Chennai and the JICA Chief in India were present on the occasion.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also recollected that the then President of JICA had met the late Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned that there is a 30 year history of JICA assistance to Tamil Nadu and many large infrastructure, social and environment related projects have been implemented with Japanese assistance in the State. Tamil Nadu is also proud to be a favoured destination for Japanese industries and investors and nearly 500 Japanese companies have already invested in the State.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that while the leadership and guidance of the late Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma would be missed, the Government is committed to ensure that the policy goals laid down by Puratchi Thalaivi Amma are fulfilled. Hon'ble Chief Minister asserted that the Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 launched by the late Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma will be implemented.

Hon'ble Chief Minister thanked JICA for its full support and co-operation for some very important projects in Tamil Nadu including the Tamil Nadu Urban Infrastructure Project, Hogenakkal Water Supply Project, Tamil Nadu Bio Diversity Conservation and Greening Project, Tamil Nadu Transmission System Improvement Project, Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Programme Phase I, Tamil Nadu Urban Health Care Project and Chennai Metro Rail Project.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also mentioned that JICA is supporting the Chennai- Bengaluru Industrial Corridor Project, which is being implemented through the Government of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Industrial Promotion and Policy and that the Government of Tamil Nadu looked forward to the speedy implementation of the project.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister thanked the President of JICA for the special grant of Rs.88 crores provided for the construction of an Out Patient Block in the Institute of Child Health, Chennai and mentioned that this most modern facility is ready for inauguration and will greatly benefit the poor people of the State.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister requested the President of JICA for the early approval of some important projects proposed by Government of Tamil Nadu for JICA assistance including, the 400 MLD Desalination Plant for Chennai, Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase II, Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Programme Phase II, Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Project with Intelligent Transport System, and the Chennai Urban Infrastructure Project.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister highlighted that the involvement of JICA in Tamil Nadu has been very beneficial to the people of the State and that JICA is an important partner in implementing the Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 and that Government of Tamil Nadu looked forward to the continued support and assistance of JICA.

The President, JICA mentioned that he had extensive interaction with India and Indian officials through his diplomatic career. He expressed great satisfaction with his visit to the Institute of Child Health. He highlighted that while JICA was one of the biggest donors in the world with a large presence in this region, the success of JICA's assistance was equally dependent on the understanding and co-operation on the side of the recipient. In this context, Tamil Nadu was a model partner for JICA.

In the course of discussions, it was highlighted by the Japanese side that the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Programme (TNIPP) Phase I was a great success and JICA was ready to move to TNIPP Phase II within the current fiscal year. It was also indicated that the Chennai Metro Rail Phase I Extension Project is at the final stages of appraisal and approval. It was also highlighted

from the Japanese side that the implementation of ongoing projects is proceeding satisfactorily.

The President JICA was accompanied by Mr. Arai Toru, Director General, South Asia Department, Mr. Sakamoto Takema, Chief from JICA India Office, Ms. Hiroko Taniguchi Acting Consul General, Ms. Imoto Sachiko, Senior Representative, Mr. Mihir Sorti, Land Development Specialist, Mr. Naya Sho, Representative, Ms. Kitabatake Megumi, Project Formulation Advisor.

Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Highways and Minor Ports, Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development and Implementation of Special Programmes, Thiru S.P. Velumani, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Thiru M.C. Sampath, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. C. Vijaya Baskar, Chief Secretary to Government, Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan, IAS., Adviser to Government of Tamil Nadu, Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, IAS., (Retd.), Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Thiru K. Shanmugam, IAS., Additional Chief Secretary, Highways Department, Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, IAS., Principal Secretary, Industries Thiru Vikram Kapur, IAS., Principal Secretary, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Thiru S. Krishnan, IAS., Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply, Thiru K. Phanindra Reddy, IAS., Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, IAS., and other officials were present.

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