

IIT–GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 31-7-2008, 4 PM, IIT CAMPUS, CHENNAI:
CHIEF MINISTER’S SPEECH

Hon’ble Union Minister for State for Human Resources Development, Thirumathi.
D. Purandeswari;

Hon’ble Ministers of Tamil Nadu;

Dr. R.Chidambaram, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Chennai;

Mr. Bernd Mutzelberg, Ambassador of Germany to India;

Mr. R.P. Agrawal, Secretary, Human Resource Development, Govt. of India;

Professor.M.S.Ananth,Director, IIT Chennai, and Professor.V.G.Idichandy;

The faculty, staff, students of IIT, and friends,

I have great pleasure to be with you on this great occasion. It marks the beginning of the golden jubilee of the IIT Chennai.

My friend and Hon’ble Union Minister for Human Resources Development Thiru Arjun Singh could not participate in this function on health grounds. I wish him speedy recovery and good health.

The name IIT has always been associated with excellence. Its students shine as bright stars in the field of technology, research and education all over the world. This institution has set high standards for itself. It has always been aiming to do better. Tamil Nadu takes pride in having the IIT in Chennai.

I have recently released the Information Technology Policy of Tamil Nadu. In this policy we have set ourselves an ambitious vision to “be the Information Communication Technology Hub of South Asia and to promote socially inclusive growth to achieve a 25 percent production share of the Information Communication Technology industry.”

Nurturing of talent and giving boost to the research and development activities in Tamil Nadu are the two key components of the knowledge driven eco-system.

For the development of I.T Sector, the Government of Tamil Nadu makes investments in infrastructure, implements

e-Governance, and extends fiscal and other incentives. Our primary aim is to create 3 million new jobs by the year, 2011 as stated in the I.T. Policy.

I have no doubt that this goal will be reached. I am able to make this firm assertion because of the availability of highly skilled man-power in Tamil Nadu. International Companies choose Tamil Nadu for the same reason.

The presence of world renowned institutions like the IIT, Anna University and several other Universities have been instrumental in producing this vast reservoir of talent in the State.

To add to our strength, the Government of India has recently sanctioned three Institutions, namely, an IIM at Coimbatore, a World Class University at Tiruchy and a Central University at Tiruvarur. I take this opportunity to thank the Hon'ble Union Minister of Human Resources Development, Thiru Arjun Singh for these great centres of learning to Tamil Nadu.

To maintain and improve the quality of technical man-power in the State, the Government of Tamil Nadu has launched a number of initiatives. The foremost among them is the setting up of an Information Communication Technology Academy. I invite the teachers, students of the IIT and its alumni to be a part of this Project.

To further improve the supply of quality man-power and to accommodate the meritorious poor students, the Government of Tamil Nadu has established six New engineering colleges this year at Villupuram, Tindivanam, Panruti, Ariyalur, Nagapattinam and Ramanathapuram.

I am happy to inform you that Tamil Nadu has become the No.1 State in providing technical education by creating 163 seats in Engineering Colleges per one lakh population. The intake capacity in engineering institutions in Tamil Nadu has crossed the mark of one lakh students.

Apart from increasing the numbers, we should also focus on Research and Development. The efforts of the IIT Chennai to develop a Research Park are indeed step in the right direction. The State Government has recently allotted 11 acres of precious land adjoining the IIT campus for this purpose. The Government of Tamil Nadu has also announced the setting up of a Research Park in the Industrial Policy of the State.

I would like to end, quoting the words of the great Tamil Saint - Ayyan Thiruvalluvar,

“தொட்டனைத்து ஊறும் மணற்கேணி; மாந்தர்க்குக் கற்றனைத்து ஊறும் அறிவு”.

which means,

“Water will flow from a well in the sand in proportion to the depth to which it is dug and knowledge will flow from a man in proportion to his learning”.Let us create such institutions of learning that produce an everlasting fountain of wisdom and take our country and people to glory.

I wish you all well; Thank you.

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