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HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER
OF TAMIL NADU – SPEECH AT CII CONNECT 2020
15th - 19th Sep 2020

வணக்கம்,

Thiru RB Udayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Disaster Management & IT, Government of Tamil Nadu

Mr. Hari Thiagarajan, Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu

Dr. S Chandra Kumar, Vice-chairman, CII Tamil Nadu

Members of CII

Officers of Government of Tamil Nadu

Friends from Media

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies and gentlemen

It is a moment of great pleasure for me to address the Valedictory Session of the 19th edition of CII Connect 2020. I would like to extend my best wishes to all of you. I could see the growth and impact, the CII Connect has created over the years, being a platform for policy

initiatives of the Government and also establishing various successful organisations and institutions in the field of Information Technology in Tamil Nadu.

Ladies & Gentlemen, we are all aware that the world is going through a severe economic crisis due to COVID pandemic. My Government is working tirelessly in the fight against COVID which is evident in the number of cases and the falling mortality rate. This was made possible by increasing the number of tests and conducting various awareness campaigns across the State. So far, I have personally travelled and reviewed the action taken in 25 districts.

We have been gradually opening up the economic activities which will ensure that Tamil Nadu returns to normalcy at the earliest. We have been attracting investments over the years and I would like to mention here that 81 projects, signed during the Global Investors

Meet, 2019 have commenced commercial production, while another 191 are under various stages of implementation. Subsequent to the GIM 2019, the State has also attracted 63 projects, including those that have taken shape during my visit to USA and UAE, with an investment of Rs.19,000 crores, which would create 83,300 jobs. Even during COVID lock down period, we have signed 42 MoUs, involving an investment of Rs.31,464 crores, with a potential to create 69,712 jobs. The Government headed by me, is implementing various reforms, in the areas of 'Ease of Doing Business', Online Single Window System Clearances etc., which has resulted in the State topping in the good governance index, export preparedness and investment potential index.

In the Information Technology sector, Tamil Nadu has emerged as one of the leading States in certain verticals of the Information Technology (IT) and Information

Technology enabled Services (ITeS) sector. Tamil Nadu continues to be a **"Destination of Choice"** for the IT/ ITeS sector in India. The State has been upgrading its IT-infrastructure in a dynamic manner, so as to facilitate speedy access to information and delivery of various services of the Government of Tamil Nadu to the citizens in a faster and efficient manner.

My Government aims to transform our State as the **"Innovation Hub and Knowledge Capital"** of the country through creation of world class institutions in various fields and by utilizing the human talent available in the State. To achieve this, the State has been effectively leveraging the IT-skills of its human resources to match the growing demand of the skilled workforce.

Further, to promote IT/ITeS industry in the State and to attract more investments, Eight Special Economic Zones (ELCOSEZs) were established in Chennai & Tier-II

cities by ELCOT and Start-up Warehouse was established at Chennai and Coimbatore. A Centre of Excellence in FinTech and Centre of Excellence in Emerging Technologies (CEET) were also established at Chennai.

To revolutionize the way Government services are offered to citizens, the Knowledge Proof Identity Based Services Delivery Project will be implemented by establishing and leveraging the State Family Data Base (SFDB) and Block-Chain Backbone infrastructure. This pioneering initiative will "take Government to the Citizens", thus eliminating the need for the citizens to request G2C services. The ambitious BharatNet and TamilNet projects will be implemented to connect all 12,524 Village Panchayats of the State with minimum 1 Gbps high-speed connectivity, which will help to achieve the targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of United Nations.

I am confident that these steps will strengthen Tamil Nadu's position as an International IT hub in the country. In this journey, I look forward to the partnership with CII. It is our endeavour to work with industry in addressing and resolving all the issues impacting the economic and industrial growth of the State.

With these words, I wish the CONNECT 2020 a grand success!

Thank you

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