

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE EPCES ANNUAL EXPORT AWARDS ORGANISED BY
EPCES & MEPZ SEZ AT C.T.S AUDITORIUM, IV FLOOR, MEPZ-SEZ,
TAMBARAM, CHENNAI ON 08.02.2020 AT 11.00 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Vanakkam

Thiru.M.C. Sampath,
Minister for Industries,
Government of Tamil Nadu,

Thiru T.R. Balu,
Member of Parliament,

Thiru S.R. Raja,
Member of Legislative Assembly

Thiru N. Muruganandam, I.A.S.,
Principal Secretary to Government,
Industries Department

Thiru M.K. Shanmuga Sundaram, I.A.S.,
Development Commissioner of MEPZ SEZ,

Thiru Bhuvanesh Seth,
Vice Chairman of EPCES,

Distinguished awardees,

Distinguished Invitees,

Friends from Media,

Ladies and gentlemen

It is my pleasure to be a part of this prestigious event and presenting the Export Awards to the illustrious exporting units operating in Tamil Nadu under EOU and SEZ Schemes.

We all know about the famous ancient Tamil Poet **Avvayaar**. In her book titled

“Kondrai Vendhan” there is a quote saying

“Thirai Kadal Oodiyum Thiraviyam Theddu”

This means that **You should earn your wealth even by crossing the seas**. This is exactly what you all as exporters do. You are not only manufacturing goods and services for our country, but by exporting them to other countries you are also earning precious foreign exchange, which is a yeoman service for our country.

The objective of the awards being distributed today is to recognise the meritorious contributions of the Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Units in Tamil Nadu for

- increasing exports,
- generating employment,
- attracting foreign investment,
- bringing new technologies,
- adopting best managerial practices,
- providing world-class infrastructure and
- carrying out various socio-economic development activities.

I am happy that the Export Promotion Council for EoUs & SEZs (EPCES) is recognising the export performance of EOUs and SEZs in 2016-17 and 2017-18 by presenting the Export Awards. Altogether 80 awards are being distributed today. On this momentous occasion, I congratulate all the award-winners and extend my good wishes to them.

The EoU & SEZ Schemes of Government of India are the engines of export growth contributing about one-third to national exports. Export Promotion Council for EoUs and SEZs plays a pivotal role between exporters and the Government in accelerating this export growth.

At present, more than 7000 EoUs and SEZ units are operational in the country. Exports from EOU and SEZ Sector during 2018-19 was to the extent of Rupees Seven Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand Crore (Rs.7,88,000

cr) or Hundred and Twelve Billion US Dollar (US \$ 112 billion), providing direct employment to more than 2.5 million people with an investment of more than Rs. 5.50 Lakh Crore. Continuous rise in exports along with increase in employment generation is a healthy trend for the overall economy in the country.

I would like to inform you all that there are 238 operational SEZs as of today, out of which 41 are in Tamil Nadu alone. Similarly out of 1,751 EoUs in the country, 351 EoUs are functional in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, constituting 20 percent of the total EoUs in the country. Renowned multinational companies like HCL, Cognizant Technology Solutions, WIPRO, TCS, Ford Motors, Fengtay Group, L&T, Mahindra, DLF, etc. have set up SEZs in Tamil Nadu. I am also happy to see the participation and support from Government of Tamil Nadu in the establishment and development of SEZs. SIPCOT (State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu) and ELCOT (Electronic Corporation of Tamil Nadu) together have 11 operational SEZs in Tamil Nadu.

Exports from SEZs in Tamil Nadu were more than One Lakh Crore Rupees during last year which is a record performance. I proudly inform you that Tamil Nadu stands first in the Good Governance Index of States as well as the Best Performing State in India. The State of Tamil Nadu has conducive and comfortable business and industrial climate. That is why many multinational companies like to set up their business establishments in the state. It is a key industrial destination in India.

I am glad that EPCES has chosen 12 sectors for distributing these awards. Food and agro sector is pivotal one among them. Tamil Nadu's contribution to food processing output in India is about 7 percent. Highest egg production comes from our state. It is also the leading producer of spices. We all know that the country's one third of Textile business is from

Tamil Nadu. So, we call it as Textile Valley of India. Our apparel products travel all over the world as exports.

The State is a National Leader in leather with 60 percent share in finished leather production. Tamil Nadu has a well-organised leather sector. 50 percent of India's exports are from Tamil Nadu. The percentage of linkage to global leather brand products is higher in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu is one of the top 10 automobile hubs in the world. It accounts for 45 percent of motor vehicles exported from India. It is also the largest tyre manufacturer in the country. In Chennai, three cars are produced every minute, 10 motorcycles in a minute and one truck in every 2 minutes. In the heavy engineering sector, Tamil Nadu ranks second in the country.

The state is not only India's but also world's software hub. The contribution of IT sector in generating employment is immense. More than 4 lakh people are directly employed in IT companies while more than 7 lakh people indirectly employed in the sector. The exports from this sector is increasing year on year to reach about 18 billion US dollars last year which is an incredible achievement. Tamil Nadu has one of the best IT infrastructures in the country.

If we talk about software, the growth in hardware sector cannot be left aside. Tamil Nadu ranks second in India in computer, electronics and optical products manufacturing by accounting 16 percent of national production. It is also a leading exporter of hardware from the country.

The state accounts for 10 percent of National pharmaceutical production. Tamil Nadu has the distinction of having India's second Defence Industrial Corridor connecting 5 cities.

The overall exports from the State of Tamil Nadu during 2018-19 was Rupees Two Lakh Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred and Twelve Crore (2,18,312 Cr). Tamil Nadu ranks third in exports among all states in

the country.

Let me tell all of you that, before coming to this function, I went to the Alleri Lake located inside Madras Export Processing Zone (MEPZ) and rededicated it to its ecosystem. I was told that the 5 acre lake was dredged, de-silted, cleaned and restored by with CSR funds by DXC Limited through an NGO called Environmentalist Foundation of India (EFI). It is a noble effort of using CSR funds towards environmental preservation. My appreciations to all concerned.

Here, I reiterate the importance of preserving our ecosystems in the best possible manner. Swachh Bharat Mission is especially devised for keeping our environment clean and green. We should play very positive role in it. Keep our households, neighbourhoods, factory areas neat, clean and green. Make it habit and make India proud.

We must always remember that “**Nature is not an inheritance from our ancestors but a borrowing made from succeeding generations**”. It is our duty to preserve Nature and bequeath its resources to succeeding generations in the manner that is sustainable, by following an eco-friendly path. In this context, residents of city have a responsibility to restore the rivers to the environmental standards that prevailed in the 1950s-60s.

I am sure, all the award-winners and other EoUs, SEZs and SEZ Developers will continue their efforts in bringing investment, creating jobs and enhancing exports in the State of Tamil Nadu and India as well. Once again, I convey my warm felicitations to all the Awardees and wish them success in all their endeavours in nation building.

I find it my moral duty and responsibility to recall what **Mahatma Gandhi** said in the list of **seven sins** that we must avoid. One of those sins he talked of was, “**Commerce without ethics**”. There is no need for a big elaboration on this.

With these words, I extend my best wishes and greetings to the office bearers of the EPCES who have taken painstaking efforts to organise this function. May the efforts of EPCES swell in size, multiply in magnitude and fill the Earth with goodness and humanity.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....

Jai Tamil Nadu....