

**Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly,
Vanakkam.**

It gives me immense pleasure to address the First Session of this newly constituted 14th Legislative Assembly of the State today. I congratulate all the newly elected Members and wish success to all in their endeavour to serve the State. I also extend my deep appreciation to the people of Tamil Nadu for coming out in large numbers and exercising franchise to uphold democratic principles in electing the new Government in a free and fair manner.

2. I congratulate the Honourable Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa on assuming charge for the third time with a spectacular victory and decisive mandate. The historic victory achieved in this election by All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam shows the firm faith the people of Tamil Nadu have in her laudable leadership. With her profound wisdom and

knowledge, I am sure she will lead the State to prosperity once again and make it *Numero Uno* in the country.

3. This Government follows the strong ideology of Perarignar Anna and Puratchi Thalaivar MGR who always promoted the welfare of the destitute and downtrodden. This new Government will also uphold the same principle of serving the poor under the leadership of the Honourable Chief Minister. While giving priority to welfare measures directly benefiting the poor and disadvantaged, this Government will lay equal emphasis on developmental schemes building infrastructure that will put the State on a new trajectory of growth and prosperity.

4. Having assumed charge at a very difficult moment when the State is facing several challenges, the immediate priorities of this Government are to restore law and order and provide efficient governance. Though Tamil Nadu

is known for effective maintenance of law and order, in the past few years, issues relating to law and order have severely affected the economic development of the State. Whenever the Honourable Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa headed the Government, deterrent actions were pursued against anti social elements and terrorists to make the State a haven of peace. The present Government will take the required stringent measures and restore law and order in the State so that people can live in peace and pursue their livelihood without any fear. During the previous regime, many persons were wrongfully dispossessed of their immovable properties through force and intimidation. This Government has decided to take appropriate action and restore such properties to the rightful persons by enacting a new Act. This Government will strengthen and modernise the Police Force by providing it with sophisticated equipment and training. Apart from taking efforts to bring down the crime rate, e-governance initiatives like **Crime and Criminal**

Tracking Network System (CCTNS) will be put in place at the earliest to make the system efficient and public friendly.

5. In order to spread awareness about the ancient glory of Tamil and its richness among non-Tamils all over the world, Thirukkural, literary works of Bharathiar, Bharathidasan and other famous Tamil works will be translated into English, Mandarin, Arabic and other major languages of the world. This will be published through the internet. To facilitate the use of Tamil in computers and also to promote linguistic research, adequate funds will be allocated, besides restoring the uniqueness of the Tamil University and other related institutions. This Government also urges the Government of India to make Tamil one of its official languages and also to ensure the usage of Tamil in the Courts.

6. As the Legislative Council in the State was found to be redundant, it was abolished on November 1st, 1986 by Puratchi Thalaivar MGR.

Therefore, this Government is not in favour of constituting the Legislative Council once again. Accordingly, the matter will be placed in the Legislative Assembly and an appropriate decision will be taken.

7. The new Legislative Assembly - Secretariat Complex at Omanthoorar Government Estate had been inaugurated in March 2010 without completing the works fully. It lacks adequate facilities. Even basic facilities have not been provided. Without completing the construction, a few departments were hastily shifted to the new Secretariat Building along with the offices of the Chief Minister and all Ministers. Only six departments were shifted to the new Secretariat Building and the remaining 29 departments continued to function from the Secretariat at Fort St. George. While the offices of Ministers were shifted to the new Secretariat Building, the connected departments continued to function from the old Secretariat Building at Fort St. George.

This Government feels that keeping the departments at one place and shifting the offices of the Ministers and a few departments alone to the new Secretariat Building is causing unnecessary administrative hardship and inconvenience to the public. Therefore, this Government has decided to continue to function from the Secretariat at Fort St. George. There have been allegations of excess and wasteful expenditure and deficiency in the standards of construction of new Secretariat Building. Therefore, **a Commission of Inquiry headed by a retired Judge of the High Court will be constituted to enquire into the alleged irregularities like excess expenditure, inordinate delay and deficiency in standards of construction. Further works in the new Secretariat complex will be stopped to facilitate this enquiry.**

8. This Government's vision is to make Tamil Nadu a well governed State, thus making it the most preferred destination for investors.

This will be achieved by adopting the principle of zero tolerance towards corruption. Delivery of services by the Government will be improved through e-governance initiatives and process re-engineering. All the existing welfare schemes will be integrated with biometry based unique identification system to improve the delivery of Government services which will help in plugging leakages and eliminating corruption. **As a first initiative to improve service delivery, this Government has decided to disburse the monthly pension under Social Security Schemes like Old Age Pension through the bank account of the beneficiary and the Banks in turn will extend doorstep service through banking correspondents. This new system will be put in place with effect from September 1st, 2011.**

9. Immediately after assuming charge, this Government have issued orders for the supply of rice under Public Distribution

System free of cost fulfilling one of the most important poll promises. This shows the firm resolve and commitment of this Government towards alleviating the sufferings of the poor. Public Distribution System in the State will be improved by introducing technological innovations in family card management, tracking movement of stocks, monitoring allotment and distribution of essential commodities to control diversions. **This Government, besides taking stringent action against hoarding and black-marketing, will also strengthen the Public Distribution System as a price control measure. A 'Price Stabilisation Fund' with a corpus of ₹ 50 crores will be constituted immediately to extend interest-free financial support to the co-operatives for market intervention to procure select commodities showing abnormal price rise and sell them through co-operative outlets at cost price to the public. As a long term measure to control prices of essential commodities, this Government will take up intensive measures to**

increase production and productivity of commodities facing demand supply mismatch.

10. Welfare of fishermen is always close to the heart of the Honourable Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa. **As promised in the manifesto, the relief to the fishermen during the fishing ban period has been enhanced from the present level of ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 2,000 per month. Similarly, the assistance under Old Age Pension and other monthly social security pension schemes has been doubled from the present level of ₹ 500 to ₹ 1,000 per month fulfilling another important poll promise benefiting the poor.**

11. Tamil Nadu ranks third in terms of Gross Domestic Product contribution at national level following Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. The Gross State Domestic Product growth in the State has slowed down from 2008-2009 due to low growth in the agriculture and manufacturing

sectors. The lack of a clear cut sector specific strategy to accelerate growth is the main cause for such stagnation. The objective of this Government will be to promote economic prosperity and generation of employment through a structured sector specific strategy for creating an enabling environment to achieve the goal of accelerated development with inclusive growth. This will be possible only if we have a blue print for development to achieve the level of overall GSDP growth of above 10 percent on a sustainable basis. **Therefore, the State will prepare a ‘Vision 2025 Document for Tamil Nadu’ to identify and remove the bottlenecks in development, prioritise critical infrastructure projects and work assiduously to place the State of Tamil Nadu at the forefront of development once again.**

12. Higher growth will bring equitable benefits only if the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors grow concurrently. But, since the

commencement of the 11th Plan, the cumulative growth in the primary sector is negative 1.18 percent for the period 2007-2010. Thus, achieving 4 percent growth in the primary sector as per the 11th Plan objective has become impossible. This Government, therefore, will pay special attention to the development of the primary sector encompassing agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries. The focus will be on enhancing productivity and increasing the income level of 75 lakh small and marginal farmers through schemes designed specially for farm level intervention.

13. The Agriculture sector will be revitalised with a crop specific strategy for increasing the production of paddy, pulses, sugarcane, cotton, etc. Precision farming and micro irrigation will be promoted in a big way. Efforts will be made to shift the cropping pattern towards high value crops while ensuring adequate level of food production. Forward and backward

linkages will be strengthened with large scale promotion of agro processing industries with farmers' participation and also by augmenting supply of quality inputs, marketing facilities, godowns and cold storage facilities.

14. Strengthening the irrigation infrastructure is the most important prerequisite to the sustainable growth of the agriculture sector. This Government will take measures to interlink the rivers in the State for enhancing the irrigation capacity. This will also control floods and serve as inland water ways.

15. This year, water will be released from the Mettur Dam for irrigation on 6th June itself against the normal due date of 12th June. After Independence, water from Mettur Dam is being released before the due date for the first time. I trust that the farmers in the Cauvery Delta will be happy to commence cultivation in time.

16. It is our vision to eliminate poverty completely. This Government is well aware of the fact that economic growth alone can not eliminate poverty if it is not inclusive. Therefore, through convergence of various schemes, this Government will strategise for family based intervention and monitor the socio economic development till they cross the poverty line.

17. This Government will work towards smooth Centre-State relations. On the issue of implementation of Goods and Services Tax, this Government will support the introduction of tax reforms in indirect taxes without compromising on the fiscal autonomy of the State. As sales tax is the main source of revenue for the State, this Government urges the Central Government to adopt an acceptable GST model which does not erode the State's revenue.

18. This Government desires to settle the inter-State river water disputes through peaceful

negotiations wherever possible. Where this is not possible, this Government will not hesitate to take legal recourse for such problems. As the disputes over Mullai Periyar and other river water problems are in Court, this Government will strive hard to find a lasting solution through the legal process. This Government also believes that the Mullai Periyar dispute pending before the Supreme Court will come to a finality at the earliest.

19. Industrial development is affected badly in the State due to power shortage, gap in physical infrastructure and shortage of skilled manpower leading to the flight of capital to other competing States. It will be the endeavour of this Government to attract top industrial houses for investment in key sectors like automobile and auto parts, IT, ITES, textiles, leather, engineering goods, etc., and make the State a hub of the manufacturing sector. As industrial development is more concentrated in Chennai and its surrounding districts, efforts will be made to promote industries

in a decentralised way through appropriate incentives. This Government will lay special emphasis on attracting investments in the ship building industry to promote economic development along the east coast. Madurai – Aruppukottai – Thoothukudi corridor will be promoted as a self-sufficient growth corridor to trigger industrial growth in the Southern region. **This Government will lay special emphasis on the newly emerging sectors like bio-technology, nano-technology and pharmaceuticals.**

20. Tamil Nadu will be promoted as a hub of IT and ITES industry. IT parks in second tier cities will be promoted aggressively for doubling the growth of the IT industry. BPOs in the rural areas will be strengthened for promoting the decentralised growth of the IT industry. **This Government will also implement the scheme for free distribution of laptop computers to students and commence the distribution from September 15th, 2011 to cover all the Plus One and Plus Two students in**

Government and Government aided Schools and students in Government and Government aided Colleges in a phased manner. During 2011-2012, laptops will be distributed to 9.12 lakh students.

21. Arasu Cable TV Corporation formed by the previous Government has become defunct. There has been overwhelming demand from the public for the immediate revival of Arasu Cable TV Corporation for providing cable TV services at reasonable rates. **This Government will revive its activities in the public interest and nationalise the private cable TV operations in the State without affecting the interest of the last mile local cable operators.**

22. Continuous planning and execution of infrastructure projects in key sectors such as power, roads, urban infrastructure and housing are necessary to bridge the existing gap in the physical infrastructure which is critical for sustainable

economic development. This requires enormous resources and the State cannot meet such a huge requirement from its own limited resources. Besides resource mobilisation, a focused approach is required for holistic infrastructure development. Therefore, as a policy, this Government will promote Public Private Partnership for strengthening physical infrastructure.

23. Shortage of power has badly affected industrial growth during the previous regime. This Government will give top priority to making the State a power surplus one by reforming the energy sector. A long term power strategy will be drawn up for putting up the projects in the pipeline anticipating the growth in demand to ensure uninterrupted power supply to industry and other sectors. Efforts will be made for improving efficiency in generation, transmission and distribution, controlling the T&D losses by preventing power theft and segregating the industrial, domestic and agricultural feeders to

improve the quality of power supply. As short term measures, this Government will improve the efficiency of its own generating stations and maximise the wind power evacuation besides controlling technical and commercial loss. As a credible alternative, additional power generation through renewable sources of energy like wind, solar and biomass will be given special priority. **This Government will also bring out a separate Policy for promotion of renewable energy.**

24. Quality roads and better connectivity are vital for maintaining the growth momentum. This Government will focus on laying of quality roads which will enhance traffic efficiency and reduce travelling time. All the State Highways will be converted into at least two lane roads and Major District Roads will be converted into intermediate lane roads before 2014. Every village with a population of more than 500 will have a black topped road and other habitations will have an all weather road. This Government will seek World

Bank assistance to implement the second phase of the Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project.

25. Tamil Nadu is one of the highly urbanised States in the country. Large scale migration in search of employment has resulted in faster expansion of cities like Chennai. But, there is no corresponding increase in the level of basic amenities. **This Government will come out with a special scheme to improve water supply, sewerage and waste water management, solid waste management, roads and streets in Chennai and its suburban areas. A special Urban Development Mission will be launched for the development of basic amenities in all other Corporations, Municipalities and Town Panchayats in the State.**

26. Traffic congestion continues to pose a major challenge to administration in Chennai and other cities. The modal share of public transport in the urban transport system of Chennai is currently

27%, which should be eventually increased to 46% by 2026. Therefore, this Government will put in place an integrated multi-modal transport system in Chennai. The Metro Rail Project which is under implementation covers only 45 kilometres. Being a cost intensive project it will take considerable time for completion. Hence, **this Government will implement the Mono Rail Project in Chennai to integrate with the existing transport system. In the first phase, 111 kilometres will be covered under this project and eventually it will cover 300 kilometres in a phased manner. Investigations will also be undertaken for introducing mono rail system in other corporations like Coimbatore, Madurai and Trichy to decongest the traffic.**

27. Rural housing scheme implemented by the previous Government is fraught with many shortcomings. The unit cost of ₹ 75,000 provided per house is grossly inadequate, as the cost of construction has gone up by two to three times

recently. This has forced many of these poor families into debt trap. Construction of large number of houses is yet to be commenced for the same reason. Therefore, this Government have decided to discontinue this scheme. Alternatively, this Government will launch a '**Solar Powered Green House Scheme**' for the benefit of the poor in the rural areas and construct houses measuring about 300 square feet with a unit cost of ₹ 1.80 lakh by meeting the entire cost by Government. It will also launch a new housing scheme for the urban poor by dovetailing the funds from centrally sponsored schemes. In Chennai city, families living on river embankments will be provided with safe and modern houses.

28. Tamil Nadu with its long coastline has tremendous potential to develop maritime trade. This Government appreciates the fact that such port development will promote commercial activities in the hinterland. The minor ports along the east-coast, including Cuddalore, Nagapattinam

and Colachel will be developed through public-private partnership. This will improve the cargo handling capacity of the State.

29. Economic and political empowerment of women is one of the foremost objectives of this Government. This Government urges the Centre to bring the Women's Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha at the earliest. It will continue to support Women Self Help Groups for the overall socio-economic development of women by providing adequate amount of revolving fund and further bank linkages for loans.

30. **This Government will procure and distribute electric fans, mixies and grinders to the women as promised and commence its distribution with effect from September 15th, 2011, on the occasion of the celebration of Perarignar Anna's birthday. During 2011-2012, about 25 lakh families will be covered. About 1.83 crore women beneficiaries belonging to**

families holding family cards which are eligible for drawing rice will get this benefit and all of them will be covered in a phased manner. As already promised by the Honourable Chief Minister, this Government will fulfil all the remaining poll promises within the next one and a half year.

31. This Government will endeavour to improve the Physical Quality of Life Index (PQLI) in rural areas by providing safe drinking water, sanitation, round the clock health facilities, quality education, all weather roads, etc. Infrastructure of urban standards will be created in the villages. This Government will initiate steps to energise street lights with solar energy on an experimental basis. At present, the initial investment required for solar energy is very high. But with the technological breakthrough and economy of scale, the unit cost is likely to come down in future, making it a viable alternative for street lights and other community needs.

32. This State has a tremendous unexploited potential for the promotion of tourism. It is endowed with a rich cultural heritage and monuments of architectural splendour. **This Government will make all efforts to promote Tamil Nadu as an attractive tourist destination at the international level and reach the level of 60 lakh domestic tourists and 40 lakh foreign tourists in the next five years.**

33. This Government will lay special emphasis on protecting the environment. A massive drive will be launched to clean-up the villages and towns. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns will be launched for sensitising the public to eschew non-degradable plastics. **This Government will impose a ban on the use of plastic carry bags made of virgin plastics or recycled plastics of less than 60 microns thickness and 8x12 inches size. Recycling of plastics will be strictly regulated in**

accordance with the specification of Bureau of Indian Standards.

34. Providing affordable and quality health service to the people is the objective of this Government. **A new Public Health Insurance Scheme will be launched by this Government shortly to achieve the objective of universal health care by terminating the existing health insurance scheme, as it is not comprehensive and effective in fulfilling public aspirations.**

This Government will pay special attention to the improvement of infrastructure in the Primary Health Centres and Government Hospitals. All urban Public Health Centres will be upgraded to round the clock units to benefit the urban poor. Medical tourism will be promoted in a big way by setting up medi-cities supported with research facilities under Public Private Partnership and this Government will come out with clear policy guidelines to attract such private investments in the health sector.

35. Providing free and quality school education to all children is one of the main objectives of this Government. This Government will continue to strengthen the infrastructure and improve the key education related indicators like reducing the drop-out rate, increasing enrolment ratio etc. **It is not acceptable to bring down the standards of school education and harm the future of the children in the name of uniform system of school education. The education system in the schools should provide equal opportunity to all for nurturing creative talents and imparting practical knowledge. This should also provide a competitive edge to the students of Tamil Nadu. The common syllabus already prepared is not adequate to fulfil this objective. Therefore, this Government will revise the common syllabus prepared for uniform system of school education.** A committee of experts will be constituted to examine the issue and make necessary recommendations.

36. The creation of a large number of universities for higher education alone does not improve the standard of education. **Rather, creation of new Anna Universities in different places has weakened the Anna University, Chennai. It has only resulted in the creation of unviable institutions and has not improved the quality of education. Therefore, this Government has decided to restore the original status of Anna University. Further, this Government will come out with specific programmes to transform the universities in the State into world class institutions.**

37. Tamil Nadu has a disciplined work force with a vast pool of manpower. But, a large number of educated youth lack employable skills. This Government will enter into partnership with industry and arrange large scale skill training programmes to augment skilled manpower and bridge the present demand supply gap.

38. This Government is of the view that good governance and better implementation of schemes and programmes will be possible only if the Government officials are well motivated and allowed to function independently. I hope the Government servants will rise to the occasion and take forward all the good initiatives of the newly formed Government. **This Government has ordered the increase of maternity leave from three months to six months thereby fulfilling its poll promise.**

39. This Government accords top priority to the socio-economic development of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Programmes for skill training, entrepreneurship development, etc., will be implemented enabling them to avail the benefits in upcoming sectors like IT and ITES. It is necessary to create a congenial environment for the students in the hostels in order to improve their performance. This Government will

provide special financial support to improve the facilities in all the hostels within a year.

40. Necessary steps will be taken to renovate the Sri Lankan Tamil Refugee Camps in the State enabling them to live with dignity in Tamil Nadu. Quality housing, drinking water, sanitation and health facilities will be provided in these camps. Besides providing necessary assistance for the children of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees to get a proper education, special employment training will also be arranged for them. All the welfare schemes implemented in Tamil Nadu will be extended to the Sri Lankan Tamils living in the camps. Lakhs of Tamils have perished during the recent war in Sri Lanka and the remaining are leading a pathetic life of subjugation in their own homeland. This Government urges the Centre to impress upon the Sri Lankan Government the need for taking up immediate measures to rehabilitate the Tamils in their own area.

41. I have outlined the policies and priorities of this new Government. After giving this massive mandate, the expectations of the public from this Government are very high. I am sure that the Honourable Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa with her dynamic leadership will provide excellent governance benefiting the public at large.

42. I hope the deliberations in this House will be constructive and uphold democratic values facilitating the formation of the policies and schemes which are essential to espouse the cause of the public.

43. I conclude my address on this positive note and wish you all the best once again.

Nandri

VANAKKAM

JAI HIND