Tamil Nadu Sets Sights on Global Investment, Manufacturing and High-Tech Growth during 13th PAFI Annual Forum

Partner State session focuses on infrastructure, skilling, high-tech investment, manufacturing and the proposed industrial policy for 2027

New Delhi, September 25, 2026 — Unveiling a roadmap to build a $1.5 trillion economy by 2036 through 21-day deemed approvals, sector-specific industrial policies, and high-tech manufacturing, S Keerthana, Minister of Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce, Government of Tamil Nadu, along with Deepak Jacob, Managing Director and CEO, Guidance Tamil Nadu, addressed a Partner State session titled "Tamil Nadu: Vetri Tamizhagam – Building a Global Growth and Investment Powerhouse," organized by the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), India's premier organisation focused on public policy and public affairs as part of its 13th Annual Forum in New Delhi.

The Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), India's premier organisation focused on public affairs, policy advocacy and corporate affairs, hosted a Partner State session on **Tamil Nadu**, titled **'Tamil Nadu: Vetri Tamizhagam – Building a Global Growth and Investment Powerhouse,'** as part of its 13th Annual Forum in New Delhi. The session explored state's vision and its ambition to strengthen the state's position as a leading destination for investment, manufacturing and innovation, while creating new opportunities for employment and economic growth.

Sharing views through a video message, **S Keerthana, Minister of Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce, Government of Tamil Nadu**, said, "*We are working towards a 1.5 trillion-dollar economy by 2036. A target is only a promise with a decimal point unless it means something to the people. In our first hundred days, companies committed over one lakh crore rupees, expected to create more than 1.2 lakh jobs. Every approval will be decided within 21 days. If we miss, that is deemed approved. The cost of delay moves from the investors to the government. A new industrial policy being written in consultation with industry. It will deepen the sector that made us strong and open new frontiers - semiconductor, shipbuilding, AI, space technology, and global capability centres*."

"Skilling will be designed with employers, so training follows jobs. Infrastructure will be ready before investors are."

The discussion highlighted the importance of **world-class infrastructure, skilled talent and an enabling investment ecosystem** in supporting Tamil Nadu's next phase of economic growth. The session also explored the state's focus on youth skilling, healthcare and environmental priorities as key components of inclusive and sustainable development.

A key focus of the discussion was the state's ongoing consultation with industry stakeholders on the **proposed industrial policy for 2027**, aimed at creating an environment conducive to investment, innovation and industrial expansion.

Speaking at the panel, **Deepak Jacob, Managing Director and CEO, Guidance Tamil Nadu**, said, "*For ease of doing business and to ease regulatory compliances, we have recently modified the Business Facilitation Act of Tamil Nadu to ensure that all approvals are cleared within 21 days. There is also an Investment Promotion Commission headed by the Chief Secretary, which has a broader mandate to* *remove regulatory hurdles. We are determined to take this forward because, based on these rankings, we have been recognised as one of the top-ranked states on ease of doing business. NITI Aayog has also reported on this*."

The session also examined opportunities for Tamil Nadu to attract **high-technology investments in emerging sectors such as green energy and electronics**, while strengthening its established manufacturing base. Speakers discussed the importance of creating formal employment opportunities in traditional manufacturing and developing industrial infrastructure that enables businesses to integrate more effectively with **national and global supply chains**.

In the closing remarks, **Lovneesh Chanana, Sr. Vice President Asia Pacific Head for Government Affairs**, SAP, "*Dual strategy of cutting-edge investments while balancing widespread job creation. If I compare your model with a digital operating system, you have a core hardware of the traditional manufacturing set that works, creating formal jobs. The software is the linkage now to green energy, taking the state to get connected to the global supply chain. Tamil Nadu has a unique position because of the diversity of your current presence of leather, auto, footwear in creating a bilingual skilled workforce—people skilled in domain as well as technology, like AI.*"

The dialogue further emphasised the role of collaboration between government and industry in identifying emerging investment opportunities, addressing infrastructure and skilling requirements, and creating a business environment that can support long-term industrial growth.

The session was welcomed by **Rishi Chawla, Vice President – Corporate Affairs, Carlsberg India**, and moderated by **Harish Krishnan, Co-Founder & Past President, PAFI; Managing Director and Chief Policy Officer, Cisco South and Southeast Asia**.

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