

## PRESS RELEASE

### 'FRANCE LOOKS FORWARD FOR FURTHER STRENGTHENING CULTURAL & ECONOMIC TIES' - MRS. CATHERINE SUARD FRENCH CONSUL GENERAL

Mrs Catherine SUARD, Consul General of France in Puducherry called on Thiru Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu at Raj Bhavan, Chennai today (02.11.2017).

The Consul General said that France and India share close and friendly relations for centuries together; trade, commerce, industry, education, science and technology have been the main areas in which both the countries share wide range of co-operation and several French Companies like Michelin, the French Tyre manufacturer, Renault-Nissan, Saint Gobain etc have set their units in Chennai. The French Consul General said that further to the establishment of the French Consulate Branch in Chennai there will be more business and economic activity and promotion of academic and cultural cooperation between France and Tamil Nadu. She added that Tamil Nadu is a preferred destination for starting new ventures and the number of Frenchmen visiting Chennai has increased in these five years.

Thiru Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu said that Tamil Nadu is known for its friendly industrial policies, rich culture, tradition and has a conducive environment for new investments and Tamil Nadu welcomes more and more French investors. Thiru Purohit said that India and France are for further boosting Defence and security ties and in combating terrorism. The Governor added that Tamil Nadu is a Higher Education Hub and looks forward to more Educational Exchange Programmes and MOUs for sharing knowledge and technology to develop skills in the students and enhancing education.

The Governor said that the mission of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Thiru Narendra Modi ji is to develop skilled manpower through 'Skill India', promote 'Make in India' and 'Startups'. The joint exercise to counter terrorism, promoting industrial and technological partnerships under 'Make in India' initiative will further strengthen the bilateral relations between both the countries.

The French Consul General Mrs. Catherine SUARD said that France looks forward to deepening bilateral relations and expansion of trade and commerce between France and Tamil Nadu and India.

The Governor stressed that the richness of art and culture of India, especially Tamil Nadu should be taken to France and that of France should be brought to India by conducting various cultural exchange programmes.

Thiru Ramesh Chand Meena IAS, Principal Secretary to Governor, Thiru K.V.Muralidharan, IAS, Deputy Secretary to Governor & Comptroller, Governor's Household and Thiru D.Mohan, IAS, Deputy Secretary to Governor (Universities) were present.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai  
02.11.2017

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for Prl. Secretary to Governor