

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU ON THE OCCASION OF SOUTHERN REGION EXPORT
EXCELLENCE AWARDS ON 18TH JANUARY 2018 AT HOTEL LE ROYAL
MERIDIEN, GUINDY, CHENNAI AT 10.30 AM**

Annaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Hon'ble Vice President of India
Shri Venkaiah Naidu ji

Hon'ble Minister
Shri Ganesh Kumar Gupta
President, FIEO (Federation of Indian Export Organisations)
Dr. A. Sakthivel
Regional Chairman, FIEO (Southern Region)

Dr. Ajay Sahai
Director General, FIEO

Dr. M. Rafeeqe Ahmed
Past President, FIEO

Distinguished Invites

Friend from Media

Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be present here today on the occasion of the function being held for the distribution of Export Excellence Awards. The Hon'ble Vice-President of India being the Chief Guest here in our midst is a honour about which I feel privileged and proud.

The Indian economy is increasingly getting integrated with the global economy and hence there is a need to focus on exports since that alone paves the way for maintaining the stability of the foreign exchange rate and for ensuring that the essential commodities required to be imported are available to the people of the nation. Thanks to the efforts taken by the Government of India in the last few years, the foreign exchange reserve position is comfortable and the foreign exchange rate has been stable. The current account deficit is well under control and it is easily met by inflows in the form of remittances by Non Resident Indians and through foreign direct investment channels.

India is fast emerging as an important leader of the international community of nations. It is the largest democracy in the world. It has the largest diaspora spread over many countries of the world. The growth rates demonstrated in the Indian economy in the last few years has furthered the confidence of international investors to support the 'Make in India' Programme of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. The recent introduction of the Goods and

Services Tax has been a morale booster in enabling seamless movement of goods across the country. With all these in the background there is a rosy picture emerging for the growth of exports from India to the rest of the world.

Different States contribute in their own way towards boosting the level of exports. Statistically speaking, the States in the Southern Region contribute nearly a quarter of the total exports and it is estimated that this will reach a figure of 30% within the next five years. I am happy to see that among these Southern States, Tamil Nadu is the largest contributor, with almost half of the total exports of the Southern Region. Chennai, particularly because of its vantage location and its established infrastructure, has seen a considerable growth in exports in recent years. It is therefore most appropriate that the Federation of Indian Export Organisations has decided to host this function at Chennai.

Every nation attempts to further its economy by encouraging the growth of industry which in turn give employment to its people. For the rapid growth of industry and services, it is necessary that the State and Central Governments work closely to enable the smoothening out of difficult and complex problems that entrepreneurs and industrialists may face. There are a variety of issues wherein such cooperation is necessary. I can mention in this context points such as the need for a land bank, the need for forming institutions to foster and improve skills, the need for a transparent and corruption-free administration and matters such as environmental management, etc. These are only some illustrative points which form part of a larger list of items that require support from the State and the Central Governments for early resolution. The Federation of Indian Export Organisations, which aims to promoting trade, has continually been looking at such issues and has been enabling the resolution of complex problems by interacting with the Governments at the Centre and the States, in a sustained manner. I appreciate the good work done by them in this regard.

It is because of such sustained efforts taken by the FIEO in Tamil Nadu that the State has emerged as a leader in the export of textiles, readymade garments and knitwear, automobile and automobile ancillaries and items related to food processing. Considering the vast potential that is available in the Southern Region and the special attention being made by the Government of India for the development of sea ports in this region, the contribution of the Southern Region in India's trade is bound to expand and help in achieving the target of India accounting for 3% of global trade as against the current level of 1.7%.

I am happy to be here to felicitate the entrepreneurs who have shown remarkable performance in contributing to India's exports. I congratulate them for their success and I am sure that there will be many more of such resourceful people whose initiatives in the Southern Region will create history in the times to come.

I wish the Federation of Indian Export Organisations success in all their endeavours and assure them that the maximum support and guidance will be available to them in Tamil Nadu, in the coming years.

Let us all work together to make our nation great.

NandriVanakkam

Jai Hind Jai Tamil Nadu