

## SICCI 113<sup>th</sup> AGM WA – Jul 7, 2023

### A. Addressing :

1. Mr. Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Electronics & IT and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, GoI
2. Her.Excellency Ms. Lise Talbot Barre, CG, France
3. Mr.V.N.Shiva Shankar, Vice President, SICCI
4. SICCI's esteemed Past-Presidents, Members of SICCI's EC, SICCI Members, Ladies & Gentlemen

Vanakkam. On behalf of SICCI we would like to warmly welcome each of you to SICCI's 113<sup>th</sup> AGM.

### B. Welcoming Dignitaries :

1. Welcome Hon'ble Minister Mr. Rajeev Chandrasekhar :

It is our pleasure to have with us today one of the busiest Ministers in India today. Glad to share that the Hon'ble Minister and I have 4 things in common – 1<sup>st</sup>, we both worked at Intel Corporation after our Master's Degrees in the US. 2<sup>nd</sup>, we both decided to return to contribute to India's economy rather than stay back as most others. 3<sup>rd</sup>, we both started our Entrepreneurship careers with our Father-in-law's companies. 4<sup>th</sup>, we both share good passion for Semiconductors, especially manufacturing.

From expanding the semiconductor ecosystem to harnessing technology to improve the lives of people and governance – the Hon'ble Minister has been actively engaged in being a problem solver. Through all these, the Hon'ble Minister is also passionate about taking technology to the masses and thereby engendering social inclusion.

The Hon'ble Minister's efforts has had a tangible impact in various sectors of national importance.

- Most of us know that he has been a key proponent of the Start-up India initiative, which aims to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in India. Under the initiative, over 26K start-ups been recognized by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as of 2021. These start-ups have generated employment for approximately 450K individuals across various sectors, contributing to job creation and economic growth.

Mr. Chandrasekhar has actively supported Digital India campaign, which seeks to digitally empower citizens and transform the nation into a knowledge economy. The campaign successfully connected over

150K villages with high-speed internet as of 2021, bridging digital divide and promoting inclusivity. It has also facilitated issuance of over 1.33B Aadhaar cards, enabling easier access to government services & financial inclusion for millions of Indians.

- We would also like to commend him on the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill to be presented in Parliament soon. This bill will be addressing 11 vulnerable areas that are to be removed from social media, thereby keeping our citizens safe.

- He has also strongly campaigned for re-structuring public sector banks, increasing PG medical seats, improving conditions & wages for workers in the Arabian Gulf, citizen centric smart cities & planning among a plethora of other noteworthy causes.

2. I also take great pleasure in welcoming back our good friend Ms. Lise Talbot Barre a dynamic diplomat who has been instrumental in strongly building the ties between Tamil Nadu & France.

We particularly would like to appreciate her efforts in the extremely successful SICCI Delegation that visited Paris last month for the major Viva Tech conference. We had 25 people across sectors, participating and had an extremely productive trip, meeting with Government, Industry, Chambers & Diaspora. SICCI is looking forward to continuing this partnership to increase bilateral forays.

### **C. Economic Review – Context**

1. While countries like Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, Russia, Taiwan and others have been experiencing negative growth over the past quarters, India has been the lone bright spot with a 6.1% GDP growth.
2. All other parameters too underline the stability that India brings - Consumer price percentage change of 4.3 compared to 39.6 for Turkey, unemployment rate of 4.3% compared to 32.9% of South Africa, to name a few.
3. PM Narendra Modi in a recent address stated that when India's States grew, India grew. He further asked our States to develop a long term vision to make India a developed nation in our 100th year of independence.
4. In this context, Tamil Nadu has made significant steps to contribute to the India growth story. Our State is the 2nd largest contributor to India's GDP and home to 80+ Fortune 500 companies.

5. Tamil Nadu takes the crown as India's electronic goods export powerhouse, achieving an incredible milestone by exporting electronic goods worth \$5.37B.
6. At present, size of TN's economy roughly \$290 billion, as stated in the 2022-23 budget. As of the fiscal year 2022-23, the State's per capita income has reached \$3408.7. Tamil Nadu has received a noteworthy influx of FDI, totalling \$7B between 2019 & 2022.
7. In the fiscal year 2022-23, Tamil Nadu's economy grew by 14%, which was higher than the national average of 8.7%. The State's economy is expected to continue to grow in the coming years, and it is possible that it could reach the \$1T mark by 2030.

#### **D. \$1T Economy – SICCI's Recommendations to develop Tech in TN :**

##### **(i) Enhance Skill Development:**

- Collaboration with industry stakeholders to design skill development programs that align with the evolving demands of the technology sector.
  - Establishing partnerships with educational institutions to introduce industry-relevant courses and promote internships and apprenticeships.
- In this connection, SICCI has already signed a MoU with L&T Edutech for EV training and is in the process of finalizing the curriculum for EV & PCB Design under the Naan Mudhalvan Scheme.

##### **(ii) Fostering Startup Ecosystem:**

- Creating conducive ecosystem for startups by establishing more incubation centers, accelerators, co-working spaces and encouraging collaborations between startups, research institutions, and established technology companies to foster innovation.
  - Providing mentorship & support services to startups, including access to funding, legal & business guidance, and networking opportunities.
- SICCI working closely with TANSIM to help mature the startup ecosystem in the State and \bring greater collaboration with industry. **SICCI takes this opportunity to highlight that we have jointly work together to increase our Products companies, rather than continuing just on Services.**

##### **(iii) Strengthen Infrastructure and Connectivity:**

- Improving physical and digital infrastructure, ensuring reliable power supply, high-speed internet connectivity, and digital access in all regions of Tamil Nadu.

- Developing technology parks and innovation clusters equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure to attract technology companies and encouraging public-private partnerships to bridge infrastructure gaps.

SICCI has submitted proposal for the creation of a common facilitation centre for industry 4.0 and also is in the process of creating a future tech centre at Gangaikondan in Tirunelveli.

(iv) Promoting Research and Development (R&D) Collaboration:

- Facilitating collaborations between research institutions, industry, and government agencies to drive technology-driven R&D.
- Encouraging technology companies to invest in R&D and innovation by providing incentives, grants, and funding support.

SICCI is working with multiple academic institutions and other R&D centres to promote innovation and commercialization.

(v) Streamlining Regulatory Framework and Ease of Doing Business:

- Simplifying regulatory processes, licensing procedures, and compliance requirements for technology companies.
- Implementing investor-friendly policies, tax incentives, and subsidies for technology investments.

SICCI has been working with the IT department with regards to revising the Cyber Security Policy and other interventions.

(vi) Promoting Cybersecurity and Data Privacy:

- Establishing a robust legal framework to protect data privacy, conducting regular cybersecurity audits and assessments to identify vulnerabilities and mitigate risks.
- Encouraging technology companies to prioritize cybersecurity practices and invest in training and awareness programs.

We have been focussing on Information Security and had brainstormed with the Government for the setting up of a Cyber Security Task Force to provide end to end solutions dynamically.

(vii) Promoting TN as a Global Technology Hub:

- Organizing technology-focused events, conferences, and hackathons to showcase the state's technological advancements.
- Fostering international collaborations and attract foreign direct investments in the technology sector.

In this connection SICCI has been leading Business Delegations over the past year to promote TN as an innovation tech ecosystem. We had led

- 40 member delegation to Thailand
- 35 member delegation to CZ under leadership of MSME Minister
- 44 member delegation to Israel in February
- 25 member delegation to France in June

We are now planning for a student delegation to Thailand in August and a business delegation to Indonesia in October. Further, owing to our successes, we have been requested by Govt of Chhattisgarh to organize a delegation for them to Norway, Denmark & Sweden in July/August.

- Innovation through technology has always been in the DNA of our State. In 1978, Chinnikrishnan, an agriculturist also ran a small pharmaceutical business in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu. In an attempt to innovate packaging of products, he created the concept of sachets. First he packed talcum powder into small sachets and started selling them to nearby shops. After sometime, he also thought that liquid could also be packed in sachets. The small business was overtaken by his sons and started manufacturing shampoo sachets in a small shed and hired two chemistry graduates to work on formulations. The shampoo was named Chik, priced at 0.75 INR which was affordable for even the poor daily wage earners. This product innovation gained immense popularity and transformed the shampoo market in India, making quality hair care products accessible to a wider consumer base.

- Moving on to today's context, IIT Madras developed the Shakti Processor, which is India's first indigenous microprocessor architecture. The Shakti family of processors offers high performance, power efficiency, and security features. The development of the Shakti Processor has positioned India as a significant player in the microprocessor industry and has garnered attention both nationally and internationally.

- From flying electric taxis to lab grown diamonds Tamil Nadu's academic and research capabilities in technology advancement is unparalleled.

Overall, while Tamil Nadu's technology sector is competitive and has shown significant growth potential, addressing the challenges of gaps in skill development, infrastructure, access to capital, regulatory framework, research and development, and cybersecurity is crucial to achieve the \$1 trillion growth goal by 2030. By addressing these challenges and implementing supportive policies and initiatives, Tamil Nadu can further strengthen its position as a leading technology hub and drive sustainable growth in the sector.

SICCI's inputs to the Hon'ble Minister as well as every Government would be : while going after any investment into India or TN or any State, while MNCs & Greenfields are certainly good, we have to be able to drastically increase focus to developing our existing Domestic companies & Brownfields and transitioning them into MNCs. This would certainly be a much more longer-term sustainable strategy.

**E. Would like to share a few words about SICCI :**

- SICCI has over 25 effective committees which also includes on A&D, EV, Infrastructure, EIS, Technology, Retail, SCM, etc. (will include the names of the Chairs)
- SICCI has been effective bridge between Industry & Government through (i) Events – workshops, webinars, conferences & Expos (ii) Knowledge activities such as Reports, Surveys & CTBs (iii) B2B connects - worked with over 10 countries physically & virtually over past 12 mos (iv) Government interfacing – close rapport with all State & Central Gov Functionaries (v) SICCI Projects - Readers Lounge, Sister Cities Desk, I4PTC, Startups Exchange etc

**F. SICCI – like to briefly contract SICCI's progress over past 3 years :**

1. 3-years ago, we were averaging 3 events a month, today we are averaging over 9 events per month
2. 3-years ago, we were not involved in the knowledge creation process, but today we are releasing an average of 2 knowledge reports every month
3. 3-years ago we were hosting 1 exhibition every year but now we are hosting 1 exhibition every quarter.
4. We hosted 4 delegations in 20 years, but we have hosted 4 delegations in the past 12 months.
5. From international events such as the Global Yaadhum Oorae Conclave with over 3000 participants from 32 countries to the recently concluded Uimage-Chennai, SICCI has been actively involved in showcasing TN to global audiences. For those of you not aware, SICCI was major partner to GoTN for Uimage-Chennai, where we brought in immense value, hosting panel-sessions covering latest tech trends and importantly the encompassing Diplomat's Nite where we brought together the entire Diplomatic community in Chennai.
6. Through all this we have doubled the income of the Chamber that we plan to reinvest in new initiatives. I am proud of the progress we have made and would like to thank each of our Committee Chairs and the

SICCI Secretariat in enabling & establishing this noteworthy progress of our august Chamber.

#### **G. SICCI going forward:**

1. We have actively started process of visioning our progress for the next 100 years. Our Vision Document is based on 3 milestones – 2030 in line with GoTN, as well as 2050 & 2110. We are now focusing on next line of leadership that takes Chamber forward.
2. We are in the process of setting up the SICCI Centre for Policy Research at our premises which will be a catalyzing force in supporting the policy formulation process.
3. We are also in the process of setting up our office in Coimbatore and opening our first overseas office in Paris, France.
4. We plan to continue the quarterly outreach of taking Delegations to global destinations – not only will this open out new Investments into our region, but importantly also open new markets for our companies.
5. We also look forward to growth in newer sectors, newer directions and newer dimensions. We always look forward to your comments, feedback & suggestions.

#### **H. SICCI's 2 requests to the Hon'ble Minister:**

1. TN leads India in EV investments. However there is lack of supporting ecosystem for testing, analytics, design, training etc. We have since prepared a DPR for the setting up of a CoE for EVs in Chennai. Since software and technology would play a key role in the development of EVs in future, we seek support of STPI in setting up this project.
2. Following up on the success of UImagine-Chennai, SICCI would like to host India Innovation Week during Dec 2023 to showcase India as a beacon of technological innovation & entrepreneurship, bridging heritage & modernity, and creating a synergistic ecosystem that fosters global collaboration, sustainability, and shared prosperity. We would like to invite the Hon'ble Minister as Chief Guest for the event and seek the support of MeITY to join us in cohosting this event.

In closing : Thank you all for being with us today and we look forward to your continued support in days to come. Thank You-Nadri-Vanakkam.