

**ADDRESS OF HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER SHRI N. RANGASAMY AT THE
INAUGURATION OF EDITORS' CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL SECTOR
ISSUES (ECSSI – 10.02.2012)**

**Beloved Hon'ble Union Ministers!
Hon'ble Union Ministers of State!
His Excellency, the Lt. Governor!
Chief Secretary!
Principal Secretary of PIB! and
Editors from All over India!**

I have a great pleasure in expressing my greetings to all of you on this pleasant evening.

You are well aware that this Union Territory of Puducherry is a beautiful Territory encapsulating able Administration and Management even though being a small Territory under the direct control of Govt. of India. It gives me a great pleasure that a two day conference is being held under the aegis of PIB and I convey my hearty thanks to the PIB for having come forward to conduct the same in our Union Territory of Puducherry. As such, I deem it a great honour and privilege and it is my bounden duty to thank you for the same. In equal measure, I find it an immense pleasure to welcome all of you wholeheartedly for this august diaspora.

It is indeed a pleasant discernment to know that the people like you belonging to the media have come forward to place your views and discuss widely about the social and infrastructure issues which are of paramount importance during the course of this two day conference. In fact, it is a great event that the participation of Journalists in this Conference will be undoubtedly more fruitful and constructive than being discussed by the Educationists and Social Reformers in the contribution of National Development. No doubt, the deliberations of the Conference would throw more light on this issue and thereby enabling to take recondite conclusions.

It is an universally acknowledged fact that among varied developmental prospects for a state, human resource development is the foremost, so that the country could easily tide over any kind of obstacles and interferences and emerge victoriously. Hence, strengthening of social infrastructure is possible only by toning up human resource development for which quality education, better medical care and services, provision of good drinking water, supply of uninterrupted power, provision of good housing and viable road facilities including provision of essential services are mandatory so that the people could lead a better life and contribute their due share for the Union Territory. In the same way, a nation ensuring healthy society and accelerated human resource development will be able to face any kind of challenges and difficulties and there is no doubt that it would be a role model at the global level.

As far as our UT of Puducherry is concerned, the Union Territory is in itself a model state for others in having sound social infrastructural facilities taking the people particularly the poor on the road to sound Education and thereby ensuring moderate and quality human resource development through Education. Our Govt. have brought about the desired changes in the school methodology by ensuring quality education. Free textbooks, special bus services for school students, mid-day meals, morning and evening tiffin for school students, rain coats, bicycles are some of the facilities being provided for them with great zeal and importance. As a result, the school drop-out cases have been greatly decreased and enhanced the attendance in schools. Further, our Govt. has been implementing the schemes of Govt. of India viz., **'Rastriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhyan'** and **Sarva 'Siksha Abhyan'** vigorously for toning up the educational base.

Our Govt. has been giving more importance for higher education since it is a prime force in creating the human resource development in future. As a result, under the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Aid Scheme, assistance is being given for students pursuing professional courses in respect of Medicine and Engineering. No doubt, our UT of Puducherry ranks first in Higher Education in the country due to the continued as well as consistence scheme of the Government. Moreover, the UT of Puducherry has been an Educational Hub due to these activities.

Our Govt. of Puducherry is taking various measures for boosting up the Health Sector and as such the Govt. General Hospital is functioning on an equal footing with Private Hospitals. A Special Hospital for Women and Children has been functioning in Ellaipillaichavadi from June 2011 in a full-fledged manner. The Govt. provides necessary facilities for both pre-natal and post-natal facilities. A standard medical facility is available for all within a radius of 1.5 km. In the same way, **108 Free Ambulance Service** is being extended and thereby extending causality services with quick accessibility both to Govt. and Private Hospitals. Steps are being taken to provide **'National Programme for Control of Blindness' and 'Mobile Dental Out-reach Programme'** for school children and elderly people. As such, Health Indicators of the Union Territory of Puducherry continue to be progressive as compared to the National Indicators which I would like to record here with great happiness.

Our Govt. has been successfully implementing the scheme providing Rs.1 lakh each towards construction of concrete houses for the below poverty line people so that the Union Territory of Puducherry would become a hut-less Territory. This scheme is not only at the State level but also at the National level had a thumping success. Now, it is proposed to enhance this subsidy from ₹ 1 lakhs to ₹ 2 lakhs. In the same way, the Govt. have enhanced the subsidy for the Adi Dravidar people towards house construction from ₹ 2 lakhs to ₹ 4 lakhs in the house site received by them free of cost. A vigorous enumeration of houseless Adi Dravidar people is being taken so that free house site pattas could be distributed to them.

It is an apparent fact that provision of quality infrastructural facility is necessary to achieve accelerated growth not only in urban areas but also in the rural areas. In fact, it is the prime aim of the Govt. to ensure link roads with National Highways more particularly in rural areas, apart from ensuring drinking water and uninterrupted power supply.

Our Govt. is always focussing upon various schemes and programmes for the upliftment of economically backward people. Varied welfare programmes are being implemented for the welfare and development of physically challenged people, weavers, fishermen, women and children, Adi Dravidar people and socially backward classes. It is a pride to note that first in the whole of Nation, our Union Territory Govt. has implemented the 50 % concession on stamp duty for properties purchased in the name of women.

In this way, our Union Territory of Puducherry has been emerging victoriously in all sectors of development and progress and thereby setting an example for the rest of the states in the country.

I earnestly hope that the two day Conference will focus upon constructive schemes and decisions on socio infrastructure facilities for our country in a full-fledged manner.

I express my hearty greetings and wishes for the Press Information Bureau of Govt. of India for their two day Conference being arranged here and at the same time I also thank one and all for having ventured to conduct the Conference in Puducherry and I wish all the best.

Thanking you.