

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

DEMAND NO. 31

POLICY NOTE 2007-2008

Tamil Nadu has shown remarkable progress in the Information Technology sector. The Software export from the State, which was Rs.14,115 Crores in 2005-2006 is expected to cross Rs.20,700 Crores in 2006-2007. The growth rate is expected to be around 46% in 2006-2007 compared to 32% in 2005-2006.

The number of Software Units in the State is growing rapidly. Upto 2005-06 the number of units registered with the STPI was 1437 units. In the last year alone (2006-07) 162 new companies have been registered. This rapid rise in the State is a firm indication that Tamil Nadu has emerged as a preferred destination for domestic as well as foreign direct investment. All the top 10 IT companies of India have operations in Tamil Nadu. It is to be noted that large IT campuses are being built in the State. To name a few: Infosys (130 acre campus in Mahindra World City), Tata Consultancy Services (70 acre campus at Siruseri), Wipro (80 acre campus at Sholinganallur and 90 acre campus in Mahindra World City), HCL (50 acre campus at Sholinganallur), Satyam (50 acre campus at Sholinganallur), Cognizant Technology Solutions (25 acre campus at Siruseri). Many more IT Parks are being put up not only at Chennai but at Coimbatore, Madurai and other cities. The growth prospects for the IT sector in Tamil Nadu are therefore very bright.

Large international Hardware manufacturers like NOKIA, Foxcon, Flextronics and Motorola have already located their facilities in Tamil Nadu. Dell Computers, Samsung, ASPOCOMP, Spelmech Semi-conductors, Salcomp, Perlos, Jabil, Wintek and many more electronic hardware manufacturers have also decided to locate their manufacturing plants in Tamil Nadu. This combination of Hardware and Software is unique anywhere in the world.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is committed not only to sustain this momentum but to accelerate it so that Tamil Nadu can reap the twin benefits of economic prosperity as well as increased employment.

IT Park in Chennai

It was announced in the Assembly that a second IT Park will be established at Taramani in Chennai. Substantial progress has been made on this project. TIDCO, an undertaking of the Government of Tamil Nadu, has called for bids to establish a world class facility as a joint venture at Taramani. The estimated cost of the project is Rs.850 Crores. It is expected that work on this project will commence in the next few months and the project will be completed in early 2009. The project is likely to generate employment for around 25,000 persons.

The IT-ITES SEZ developed by ELCOT at Sholinganallur is fast taking shape with Wipro, HCL and Satyam commencing construction. The total employment likely to be generated in this campus would be in excess of 1 lakh.

The IT Park at Siruseri developed by SIPCOT is also developing at a fast pace. Apart from TCS, CTS, Patni Computers and Xansa, 58 other IT-ITES companies are putting up their facilities at this IT Park.

IT Park in Coimbatore

It was announced in the Assembly that an IT Park will be established at Coimbatore. Consequent to this announcement, application has been made to establish an IT Special Economic Zone measuring 29.08 acres at Vilankurichi Village in Coimbatore South Taluk. An extent of 10 acres in this SEZ has been allotted to Ms. WIPRO Ltd for establishment of an IT facility. Similarly, an extent of 5 acres has been allotted to Ms. TCS Ltd. In the remaining extent, ELCOT and TIDCO (two Public Sector Undertakings of the Government of Tamil Nadu) are jointly putting up an IT Building. The foundation stone for this project was laid by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 24th February 2007.

IT Park in Madurai

It was announced in the Assembly that an IT Park will be established at Madurai. Consequent to this announcement, two parcels of land have been identified for this purpose at Madurai. The first parcel of land measuring around 29 acres is located at Elandaikulam Village, Madurai Taluk. The Government has given administrative sanction for construction of an IT Tower measuring over 1 million sq.ft. (10 Lakhs sq.ft.) at this site.

The second parcel measuring 200 acres of land is located in Vadapalanji Village abutting the Madurai Kamaraj University. There is another parcel of land with an extent of 39.58 acres in Kinnimangalam Village which is abutting this land. The land has been alienated to ELCOT. This will be developed into an IT Park with all facilities.

IT Park in Trichy

It was announced in the Assembly that an IT Park will be established at Trichy. Consequent to this announcement, land measuring 135.04 acres in Navalpattu Village has been alienated to ELCOT for establishment of an IT Park. The Government has given administrative sanction for construction of an IT Tower measuring over 1 million sq.ft. (10 Lakhs sq.ft.) at this site. The work on this project will commence soon.

IT Park in Salem

It was announced in the Assembly that an IT Park will be established at Salem. Consequent to this announcement, land measuring 164.26 acres in Jagir Ammapalayam Village has been alienated to ELCOT for establishment of an IT Park. The work on this project will commence soon.

IT Park in Tirunelveli

It was announced in the Assembly that an IT Park will be established at Tirunelveli. Consequent to this announcement, land measuring 100 acres in the SIPCOT Industrial Estate in Gangaikondan has been allotted to ELCOT for establishment of an IT Park. The work on this project will commence soon.

Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing (IIITD&M)

The Human Resources Development Ministry of the Central Government has decided to establish a National Centre of Excellence called "Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing" meeting international standards at Chennai. The required land has been identified in Kancheepuram District for the establishment of this Institute. Pending the construction of buildings and other such works, steps have been taken for enrolment of 30 students in Engineering Design Branch from the ensuing academic year 2007-2008. As a temporary measure, classes are planned to be held at IIT Chennai campus until IIIT D&M, Kancheepuram is fully established. The establishment of this prestigious institution in Tamil Nadu will give a boost to the IT Hardware Industry in the State.

Society for Electronic Transactions and Security (SETS)

Society for Electronic Transactions and Security (SETS) is an organization conceived by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the Hon'ble President of India. The Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India is the present Chairman of this organisation. SETS was set up for the purpose of developing technologies that can protect the information wealth of the country and that can be used in the Certification of Information Security products and services. The Government of Tamil Nadu has allotted 2.8 acres of land at Taramani, Chennai for setting up a world class Advanced Facility for Information Security and Cryptology (AFISC). Work on this project has already commenced. The setting up of this prestigious facility at Chennai will add to the attractiveness of Chennai and Tamil Nadu as an investment destination.

Information Technology Task Force

A State Information Technology Task Force has been constituted with the following members:

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu	Chairman
Thiru Dayanidhi Maran, Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications & Information Technology	Vice Chairman
Chief Secretary	Member
Secretary, Finance Department	Member
Secretary, Industries Department	Member
Secretary, IT Department	Member/Convener
Thiru N. Mahalingam (TCS)	Member
Thiru Lakshmi Narayanan (CTS)	Member
Thiru Shiv Nadar (HCL)	Member
Thiru Laxman Badiga (WIPRO)	Member
Tvl. Ramalinga Raju / Rama Raju (Sathyam)	Member
Thiru Mohandas Pai (INFOSYS)	Member
Thiru Arun Jain (Polaris)	Member
Thiru L. Jukka Lehtela (NOKIA)	Member
Thiru Gururaj (Flextronics)	Member
Thiru Gopal Srinivasan (TVS Electronics)	Member
Thiru Ar.Rm. Arun (SPEL Semiconductors)	Member
Representative from DELL Computers	Member
Dr.M.Ananthakrishnan, Formerly Vice Chancellor, Anna University	Member
Dr. Ananth (Director, IIT)	Member
Dr. D.Viswanathan, Vice Chancellor, Anna University	Member
Thiru Kiran Karnik (NASSCOM)	Member
State President, CII	Member
State President , MAIT	Member
Thiru M. Manickam (Coimbatore)	Member
Thiru Sanjay Jayavarthanavelu (Coimbatore)	Member
Thiru Ashok Bhakthavatsalam (Coimbatore)	Member
Thiru Karumuttu T. Kannan (Madurai)	Member
Chairman, CII, Trichy	Member

Scheme to provide free Colour Television Sets

A unique scheme of free distribution of Colour Television sets to the households not having Colour Television Sets was commenced on 15th September 2006. A Committee of Legislators comprising representatives of political parties represented in the Legislative

Assembly has been formed to ensure transparency in procurement and proper distribution of Colour Television sets. This Committee is headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Thiru. M.K. Stalin, Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration (DMK), Thiru. D.Sudarssanam (INC), Thiru. G.K.Mani (Pattali Makkal Katchi), Thiru. C.Govindasamy (Communist Party of India (Marxist)), Thiru. V. Sivapunniam (Communist Party of India), Thiru. K. Selvam (Dalit Panthers of India), Thiru. H.Abdul Basith (Indian Union Muslim League) and Thiru. Poovai M. Jaganmoorthy (Puratchi Bharatham) are members of this Committee. The procurement of 30,000 Colour Television Sets through National Competitive Bidding in the first phase and 25 lakhs Colour Television Sets through International Competitive Bidding in the second phase was done under the direct supervision and guidance of this Committee. This unique method of procurement in a free fair and absolutely transparent manner has received praise from all quarters.

In the first phase, 30,000 Colour TV sets were procured and distributed to the families living in Periyar Ninaivu Samathuvapurams, families of Scheduled Tribes in The Nilgiris District, families residing in two Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board tenements (one in North Chennai and another in South Chennai) and residents staying in rehabilitation homes throughout the State. A sum of Rs.9 Crores was expended for this purpose.

The second Phase of free distribution of 25,00,000 Colour Television Sets was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at Pammadhukulam Village in Thiruvallur District on 15.2.2007. Hon'ble Ministers of the Government also distributed Colour TV sets to the public in the districts. Around 4,34,500 sets have been supplied to the Districts for this purpose as on 31-3-2007. It is planned that in each Assembly Constituency around 10,000 Colour TV sets would be distributed before the end of 2007. A sum of Rs.750 crores has been provided for the year 2007-2008 to continue the scheme.

Infrastructure Development

One of the prime requirements for the growth of the IT sector is the availability of building infrastructure. Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (ELCOT) has been nominated by Government as the certifying authority for issuing No Objection Certificate for IT Buildings. ELCOT has streamlined its procedures for issue of No Objection Certificate whereby the certificates are being issued within 72 hours of receipt of completed applications. ELCOT has so far issued NOC to 173 IT Buildings with built up area in excess of 55 Million Sq.ft. 18 IT specific Special Economic Zones have been approved in Tamil Nadu so far. The availability of this huge pool of building infrastructure is a great attraction for investors in the IT sector.

The long delayed IT Expressway project has been put on the fast track and will be completed by August 2007. High level Committees have been formed to monitor the progress of this project and the project structure has been revamped to ensure that there are no bottlenecks in speedy completion.

A comprehensive multi-sectoral development plan for Chennai city, Coimbatore and other Towns is being prepared to meet the challenges thrown up by the rapid increase of population on account of the phenomenal growth of the IT sector. Master plans are being formulated to provide basic amenities of power, roads, drinking water, sewerage and storm water drainage to meet the demands of the increasing population of these Towns.

A Metro Rail Project and several other mass transportation projects have also been planned for improving the transportation needs of the Towns.

These investments in Infrastructure will add to the attractiveness of Tamil Nadu as a preferred destination for national and international investors.

IT Promotion

The Government of Tamil Nadu through ELCOT participates in a number of National and International IT related events in order to promote the State as an investment destination. The premier IT event in this regard is 'CONNECT'. This is a one stop forum that unites the diverse stakeholders in the ICT sector -- the Government, Industry, Service Providers, Academia and most importantly the End Users. The past six editions of **CONNECT** have attracted the attention of the cream of the IT Industry in India as well as from a large number of foreign countries and has emerged as one of the most popular forums in the National and International Calendar of ICT events.

CONNECT 2007, the seventh in the series is planned to be held in the month of September 2007 at Chennai. It is anticipated that a large number of national and international delegates will participate in this event.

For the purpose of participation by ELCOT in National and International IT Fairs to promote Tamil Nadu as an investment destination, Rs.1.25 Crore has been provided to meet such expenditure during 2007-2008. Rs.1 crore has been provided to grant subsidy to Small and Medium entrepreneurs who participate in the International and National events along with ELCOT

Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT)

Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT) is a wholly owned undertaking of the Government of Tamil Nadu. ELCOT was formed during 1977 and it functions as an extended arm of the Government as a channel of connectivity between the investors of IT and ITES sector, and the Government. ELCOT has completed 30 years of its existence on 21.3.2007. ELCOT has expanded its activities in the areas of Project Implementation and Information Technology Promotion.

Prominent Projects implemented by ELCOT

1. The Government have entrusted ELCOT with the prestigious project of procuring 14" Colour Television Sets for free distribution to the public.
2. Promotion of I. T Parks in Tier II Cities.
3. ELCOT has been nominated as the nodal agency for the Tamil Nadu State Wide Area Network Project.
4. ELCOT serves as the preferred procurement agency for purchase of Computers, Accessories etc for the Government departments.
5. The preparation and issue of laminated Computerised Driving Licence in all the 86 centres has been entrusted to the ELCOT.
6. Preparation and printing of new Ration Cards has been entrusted to ELCOT by the Civil Supplies Department.

E-Governance

Tamil Nadu e Governance Agency

Orders have been issued for the formation of an autonomous Society called 'Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency'. This will be the nodal agency for e-Governance projects for the various departments. A sum of Rs.23 lakhs has been provided to meet the current expenditure of the Society. The Director of e Governance will be the Chief Executive Officer of this Society.

Tamil Nadu State Wide Area Network (TNSWAN)

Tamil Nadu State Wide Area Network (TNSWAN) is a project jointly implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of India aimed at providing backbone connectivity utilizing the 2 Mbps free bandwidth provided by the Public/Private Communication Providers (PCPs) linking State Headquarters at Chennai with all the 30 District Headquarters as well as linking Districts Headquarters to the Divisional Headquarters, Taluk Headquarters and Block Headquarters. The Project is in an advanced state of completion and is expected to be commissioned by June 2007. Tamil Nadu is among the very few States in India that will have this advanced facility. Rs.12 Crores has been provided to meet the State's share of operational cost of this project during 2007-2008.

Capacity Building

A scheme called the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) has been announced by the Government of India to introduce e-Governance in selected Government Departments.

As a part of this Plan, assistance is provided to the State Governments to enhance the capacity for the implementation of the e-governance projects implemented in the States. A Detailed Project Report has been submitted to the Government of India in this regard. It is anticipated that the assistance sought under this project will be sanctioned soon.

National e-Governance Programme (NeGP)

Tamil Nadu Government is committed to implement e-Governance in all sectors of the Government.

15 Mission Mode Projects have been selected under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) in Tamil Nadu. They are as follows:

1. Land Records
2. Commercial Taxes
3. Registration
4. Agriculture
5. Food and Civil Supplies
6. Health
7. Panchayats
8. Education
9. Treasuries
10. Municipalities
11. Transport
12. Employment
13. Industries
14. Social Welfare
15. Secretariat Computerisation

Detailed Project Reports (DPR) have been formulated for all the above Projects.

State Data Centre and e Governance Projects

The Government of India have accorded sanction for setting up of a State Data Centre and for six e-Governance Projects to be taken up at a cost of Rs.75 Crores. This has been made possible due to the personal interest and efforts taken by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Thiru Dayanidhi Maran.

A. State Data Centre

A model State Data Centre is being set up in Chennai with assistance from the Government of India. The establishment of this key infrastructure will give a big boost to the implementation of e-Governance projects in the State. Tamil Nadu is among the very few States in India that will have such a facility.

B. e Governance projects

- a) Enhancing eServices of Taluk Offices in Tamil Nadu
- b) Enhancing eServices of Collectorates in Tamil Nadu
- c) Enhancing eServices of Municipalities & Town Panchayats in Tamil Nadu
- d) Enhancing eServices of Civil Supplies Department in Tamil Nadu
- e) Enhancing eServices of Transport Department in Tamil Nadu; Computerised Reservation System in State Transport Corporations
- f) Enhancing eServices of Registration Department in Tamil Nadu

Common Service Centres (CSCs)

In order to empower the people in the rural areas and to bridge the digital divide, a programme for rural service delivery through Common Services Centres is being undertaken with assistance from the Government of India. 5440 CSCs will be set up on a Public Private Partnership mode during the coming year. These CSCs will enable the common man to access a large number of Government as well as private services at his doorstep.

Tamil Virtual University

Inception

Tamil Virtual University (TVU), a unique Institution and first of its kind for a language, was established by the Government of Tamil Nadu for providing internet based Educational resources and opportunities for the Tamil Communities living in different parts of the globe as well as others interested in learning Tamil and acquiring knowledge of the history, art, literature and culture of the Tamils. For the year 2007-2008, a sum of Rs.94.52 lakhs has been provided to meet the current expenditure.

Academic Programmes

The Tamil Virtual University offers web based academic programme leading to award of Certificates and Degrees in Tamil, through the various study centers of TVU located in different countries. TVU offers Certificate Courses in three levels - Basic, Intermediate and Advanced and B.A. Programme in Tamil. The post graduate Programme M.A. (Tamil) has been approved by the Tamil University and the lesson writing is in progress. Tamil Virtual University has signed a Memorandum of Collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for sharing their education resources for the students of TVU. Their resources will be used for the optional Language (English, Part-II) of B.A. Degree Programme.

Registration and Examination

5527 candidates from 56 countries have registered for different courses. 2598 students have registered for the Certificate Programme and 2929 students for the B.A.Tamil Degree. 211 have passed Certificate Examinations, 131 have passed their Diploma Examinations and 28 have passed their Higher Diploma Examinations during 2006. For the first time in India, 62 on-line examinations were conducted through Internet for B.A. Degree Programme, for a total of 247 candidates during 2006-2007. Examinations for 40 Diploma students and 48 Higher Diploma students are being conducted this year. The TVU's website has been accessed by nearly 15 lakhs of people so far.

Virtual Classroom

The Teaching/Learning methodology adopted for the Academic Programme is E-learning through Internet based lessons with multimedia support. To further strengthen and augment TVU's web based virtual Education Programme, a Virtual Class Room, a state of the art e-learning methodology with video conferencing equipments along with a streaming server and high speed internet connectivity are established in TVU.

Digital Library

Digital Library of TVU, established on its website, comprises of a rich collection of Tamil Literature and also provides a view window into the culture, history and heritage of the Tamils. The literature content includes a large number of Tamil books, totally 300 viz. Ilakkanam, Sanga Ilakkiyam, Pathinen Keezhkkanakku, Kaappiyangal, Samaya Ilakkiyangal, Sitrilakkiyangal, Thirattu Noolgal, Neri Noolgal, Irupatham Nootrandu Kavithaigal, Urainadai Noolgal, Naattuppura Ilakkiyangal, Kalaichorkal Thoguppu Matrum Agarathigal, have been added in the website. More books on modern Literature are being added now. On Cultural front, Video clippings of Folk Arts like, Karakattam, Mayilattam, Oyilattam, etc. and Bharatha Nattiyam are included. The heritage of architecture is given as Video clippings of 137 Saiva Vainava temples in addition to Photo Gallery. The Roman script versions of Tholkappiyam, Pathuppattu and Ettuthogai are also available. The distinct advantage of this digital library is its elaborate subject indexing and search facilities. It is a unique one and a pioneering effort in a language. Thirty Glossaries in different disciplines are available on the web with more than 2,00,000 technical terms.

Popularizing the TVU

Stalls were put up in Book Exhibitions in Chennai, Chidambaram, Pondicherry and Trivandrum. Advertisements in daily newspapers and web portals were published. The Director, TVU visited Kolkatta, Coimbatore and Palghat to conduct workshop on TVU facilities. In addition to conducting various workshops in colleges to make known the programmes and Digital Library of TVU, two Touch Screen Kiosks one at Birla Planetarium and other at TVU were installed.

Thirukkural with search facility

Thirukkural CDs as available in TVU e-library with search facility with 5 commentaries and two translations are being produced.

Web-enabled Palm Leaves in TVU website

Tamil Virtual University has obtained the Palm leaves collected by Dr.U.Vey. Saminathayyar from the Library of Dr.U.Vey. Saa. and made it available. These have been web enabled with search and zooming facilities to enhance readability. Corresponding Tamil Text is also given along with the Palm Leaves for easy reference.

CDs on Temples/Churches/Mosques

Video clippings on Temples, Churches and Mosques are web enabled. CDs are also being produced.

Video Gallery on performing arts and culture

The Video gallery in Tamil Virtual University site is being expanded with more Video clippings. CDs are also being produced for distribution to general public.

Tamil 16 bit All Character Encoding Conference

A one-day Conference was conducted by TVU on 2.9.2006 on development of Tamil 16 bit All Character Encoding. Based on the recommendations made during the Conference, Government constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. Anandakrishnan and consisting of eminent experts to study the matter in depth and submit its Report.

Building for TVU

It was announced on 23.8.2006 that land will be allotted to Tamil Virtual University for construction of its own Building and Rupees One Crore for the construction of the Building. In this regard, efforts have been taken for alienation of land to Tamil Virtual University. On allotment of suitable lands to TVU, action will be taken for the construction of own building to TVU.

New Schemes

The following new schemes at a total cost of Rs.1 Crore have been included for the year 2007-2008:

Mini Data Centre

The ELCOT has proposed to set up a Mini Data Centre at its Perungudi Complex. Servers, Network equipments and network bandwidth are required to be installed in the Mini Data Centre in order to serve various Government departments. For procuring and installing necessary two high end servers in the Mini Data Centre, Rs.50 lakhs has been included in the Budget Estimate.

Popularising Tamil Virtual University

In order to promote and popularise the activities of Tamil Virtual University in other States and abroad, it is proposed to release on-line advertisements and advertisements in news papers and magazines in India. It has also been proposed to conduct series of workshops in important cities like Mumbai, Kolkatta and Delhi and to visit various study centres in foreign countries. For this purpose a sum of Rs.10 lakhs has been included in the Budget Estimate

Publishing of lessons, e-books and Technical Glossaries

The Tamil Virtual University has hosted a large number of books in its e-library. It is proposed to publish lessons and e-books as available in the website for the use of the students and others. Moreover, the Technical terms put in the e-Library needs to be reviewed and standardized for use by the authors who are writing technical books. In order to publish lessons, e-books and technical glossaries both as hard copies and soft copies. For this purpose a sum of Rs.15 lakhs has been included in the Budget Estimate.

Studio equipments for Virtual Class room

It is proposed to set up a virtual studio for conducting classes for students of other countries. For this purpose, Tamil Virtual University requires studio equipments like cameras, Audio and Video recording equipments and lights. For this purpose, a sum of Rs.25 lakhs has been included in the Budget Estimate

**M.KARUNANIDHI
CHIEF MINISTER**