AnaivarukkumKaalai Vanakkam

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,
Chief Minister of TamilNadu.

Thiru. ShantilalKawar,
President JITO Apex

Thiru MotilalOswal
Chairman JITO Apex

Thiru. Ajay Sancheti,
Member of RajyaShabha

Thiru ChetanKashyap
MLA

Thiru Raj Purohit
MLA

Dignitaries on Dais

Distinguished Invitees

Friends from the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am happy to be here at the JITO Global Summit, whose goal it is to promote business and build entrepreneurship. The summit is being organised by the Jain International Trade Organisation, which is the single largest organisation of Jain businessmen, industrialists and professionals located all along the globe.

The three-day JITO Connect 2018 will act as a medium for the community of Jain industrialists, entrepreneurs and businessmen to engage and interact with clients, customers and professionals. It is expected that the Trade Fair and the Pavilions which are located in JITO Connect will attract at least a lakh people over 3 days.

JITO has conducted more than 600 business meets across the country. In addition, JITO also conducts various events such as JITO Good to Great, Centre for Learning, JITO's Professional Forum, where professionals come together to brainstorm and innovate, JITO Foundation Day, which is meant to felicitate eminent personalities, JITO Good Governance, which is conducted with the intention of promoting candidates from the Jain community for higher levels of representation in politics, JITO Games to promote sports and games among the members of the community, JITO Talent Hunt, which is meant to identify people who are talented in various fields of activity and JITO Awards, a function which is dedicated to recognise achievements in business, education, social service, sports, etc. and JITO Incubation and Innovation Foundation, which is to promote start-ups.

The motto of JITO has been Seva, Shiksha and Success. I presume the motto is derived from the Sanskrit word Jina, which connotes victory and forms the basis of the Jain Dharma or Jainism, one of the oldest religions of India.

Jainism co-existed with Buddhism and Hinduism in ancient and medieval India. Similarly, Jains have the capacity to co-exist with people of all religions and origins which makes them successful in business and entrepreneurship.

I come from the state of Maharashtra and I have always noticed that Jains are forgiving by nature. This is one of the important reasons for their success. I quote from Jain festival prayer which reads as follows:

'I forgive of living beings may all living beings forgive me. All living beings in this world are my friends. I have no enemies.'

Jains are the wealthiest community in India. They have the highest literacy rate of 94 percent. The reason for their success lies in the discipline and dedication which is inculcated in them by their religious texts.

The main religious principles of Jainism are ahimsa (non-violence), anekanta vada (many sidedness), aparigraha (detachment) and asceticism (sainthood). Followers of Jainism take the vows of non-violence, truth, chastity, detachment and purity.

I am happy that JITO Connect is being held in Chennai for this will give an opportunity for Members of the Jain Community in Tamil Nadu to network better with successful businessmen and professionals of other States and Countries. Jains are mostly located in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Substantial Jain populations are also found in Canada, United Kingdom, Kenya, Hong Kong, United States of America and Europe.

JITO CONNECT will enable the successful Jain professionals and businessmen from all these locations to come together under one roof to work out and plan initiatives for the future. This will help to expand their business and propel the Indian economy forward with greater speed. I wish the organisers all success in their endeavours.

Nandri   Vanakkam
Jai Hind   Jai Tamil Nadu