FOREWORD

The Tenth Plan is a landmark in the history of planned development in India as it is the first Five Year Plan of the new millennium. Five decades of planned development have helped the State of Tamil Nadu to achieve significant progress in several social and economic spheres. The State has made tremendous strides in health, literacy and education, shelter, water supply and road connectivity. The State is going through a demographic transition to reach replacement levels of fertility, and is set to reach stabilisation levels. According to India’s first National Human Development Report prepared by the Union Planning Commission (March 2002), the value of Human Development Index (HDI) has improved from 0.343 in 1981 to 0.531 in 2001 well above the all India HDI and Tamil Nadu’s ranking improved by four positions i.e., from 7 to 3 during 1981 to 2001. This provides the perfect launching pad for rapid economic prosperity.

2. The Tamil Nadu economy has undergone a remarkable transition from a predominantly agrarian economy to one led by the manufacturing and service sectors. Still the rural economy supports 62% of the population. The poor growth in the primary sector in the Ninth Plan is a cause for great concern. There has been stagnation in the manufacturing sector also in the Ninth Plan. The poverty level continues to be high in Tamil Nadu. The rate of unemployment in the State is the third highest among the major States in the country. The principal challenge before us is to bring momentum back to the primary sector and create conditions to foster faster growth in the manufacturing sector.

3. My dream is to make Tamil Nadu the numero uno State in the country in all spheres. This dream is to be transformed into thought and surefooted action taken to realise the dream. I have elaborated my vision by unveiling the 15-point programme, The State’s Tenth Plan has been formulated against this backdrop with a vision to improve the quality of life of the people of Tamil Nadu on all fronts.

4. I am happy to see that targets have been set, for the first time, as measurable output indicators in economic and social sectors, rather than mere fiscal inputs as is usual in any Plan document. The Plan envisages 8% growth in the economy with the goal of doubling the per capita income by 2010, ahead of the national goal to achieve the challenging task, the Government has to adopt public private partnership to leverage private sector resources and attract direct foreign investment on a very large scale. However, the path to prosperity is not a smoothly paved one. It calls for concerted action by all stakeholders.

5. We have to realise that the Tenth Plan had to be formulated and launched in the fiscal quagmire the State had been pushed into at the end of the Ninth Plan period. Without far reaching fiscal reforms, the Tenth Plan could not be implemented. It is a matter of deep
satisfaction that the people are with us in this endeavour to put the finances of the State back on
the rails. We have already undertaken a large set of fiscal reforms - namely, revamping the food
procurement and distribution policy, comprehensive changes in bus transport tariffs and
management policy, public sector reforms and disinvestment, revision of electricity tariffs and
restructuring and comprehensive expenditure reform. Due to this massive and courageous effort
that we have undertaken, together with our medium term fiscal reform policy, we have managed
to reach a position wherein we are able to undertake the Tenth Plan with confidence.

6. I hope the goals and objectives set for the Tenth Five Year Plan will be achieved with the
co-operation of all concerned. The Tenth Plan is a road map, a clear blueprint of where we are
headed and it is the bounden duty of all the stakeholders to make it happen. I commend the
launch of the Tenth Plan when aspirations and expectations are high, with the firm belief that we
shall overcome all obstacles and march ahead purposefully to create a resurgent Tamil Nadu to
take its appointment with destiny to be the *numero uno* State in the country.

J JAYALALITHAA
CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU