

## **The New Indian Express**

### **New IT park at Pattabiram to create 10K jobs**

CHENNAI: Pattabiram, the sleepy peri urban area on the fringes of Chennai, may soon host an IT park which could generate 10,000 jobs, said State minister K Pandiarajan. The authorities are eyeing a 48-acre piece of the land, said the minister, adding that the plans are in the initial stages.

The School Education, Archaeology, Youth Welfare and Sports Development minister Pandiarajan, also the local MLA from the area, was delivering the inaugural address of Connect 2016: International Conference and Exposition on Information and Communication Technology, organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry here on Tuesday.

“[The plans are] in an initial stage,” the minister said. Tamil Nadu, he added, is planning a cluster which will bring together information technology and automobiles — two sectors where the State has made a mark. This cluster, to be set up through public-private partnership, will be known as IT-auto bridge cluster, which will be developed by the industry. The cluster will be a virtual one, and a team is being constituted to implement the idea, Pandiarajan added. The State currently has 54 such clusters.

Speaking at the event, Omkar Rai, director general of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), said the STPI is opening a software park in Tirunelveli after signing a memorandum of understanding with Manonmaniam Sundarnar University there. Rai said the Centre is planning zero imports in the field of electronics by 2020.