



सत्यमेव जयते

**Speech of
Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan**

at

**THE INAUGURATION OF THE 70th TB SEAL SALE
CAMPAIGN ON 11th OCTOBER, 2019 AT 12.00 NOON
AT RAJ BHAVAN, VIJAYAWADA.**

Dr. Arun Kumar Kanti Mohanty, Dr. T.P.Gandhi, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am happy to be amongst you this afternoon to inaugurate the 70th TB Seal Sale Campaign. It is almost 137 years, since causative organism of Tuberculosis was discovered by Sir Robert Koch in the year 1882. Nevertheless, TB continues to be a killer disease. The spread of Tuberculosis has become a cause for concern even in the developed world. The World Health Organization declared the Tuberculosis as a Global emergency, though India is the second most populous country in the world has a burden of almost one fourth of global TB cases. A total of 21.5 lakh TB cases were reported in 2018, an increase of 17 per cent over 18 lakh cases reported in 2017.

Till 1985, the duration of treatment for TB was 12 to 18 months, subsequently the duration of the treatment was reduced to 6 to 8 months with the introduction of Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) since 1996 onwards, by using most potent Anti-TB Drugs.

The Revised National TB Control Programme with Directly Observed Treatment, has been implemented in the State since 1997 and all the Districts in the State were covered under the programme by 2004.

I am happy to note that the Success rate in our State is 91.7%.

It is a known fact that Government alone cannot do 100% justice to any Health Programme, more particularly to TB control. Voluntary Organisations like TB Association, Indian Medical Association, Red Cross, Lepira India, TB Alert, World Vision, AMG India International and Arogyavaram Medical Centre etc., have to play an important role in the Control of Tuberculosis in the country.

Even after the completion of 57 years of the National TB Control Programme, the cure rate is currently about 78% which has to be improved to 85% to achieve the goal of ending TB by 2025, announced by Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi Ji.

More efforts should be made to detect all the Sputum cases in the community.

The above two parameters can be achieved only by scaling up of programme activities from the grass root level. This can only be achieved by active participation of community by increasing the awareness levels of TB and its complications. It is emphasised that all the Programme Managers to bestow their attention towards intensified IEC/ACSM (Information, Education and Communication /Advocacy Communication Social Mobilisation) through which the awareness levels in the community can be increased.

I am happy to note that the Tuberculosis Associations of Andhra Pradesh and their District branches are doing their best for the Control of TB ever since its inception, by supplementing and complementing the efforts of the State Government particularly, in the field of Health Education and participating in the Revised National TB Control Programme.

In addition, the TB Association is also conducting the Annual Conferences, Refresher Courses, Seminars for the benefit of doctors in service, Medical Officers and Private Medical Practitioners etc.

Further, the Association is also conducting case-finding Camps for the detection of new TB cases and organizing the Anti-TB Week celebrations during which, incentives were distributed to the patients who have completed full course of treatment and got cured of the disease, so as to encourage other TB patients for taking regular treatment.

I wish the efforts of the Medical & Health Departments of Andhra Pradesh and the TB Associations of Andhra Pradesh and their district branches, all success in their efforts to reduce and finally eradicate the spread of the TB disease by 2025. I appeal everyone to contribute generously to the TB Seal Sale Campaign.

Let us all join together to fight against the dreaded disease of Tuberculosis.

JAI HIND