



Speech of
Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
At
AP Formation Day celebrations on 1st November
2019 at 6 PM at PWD Grounds, Vijayawada,
organized by the AP State Creativity & Culture
Commission, Department of Language & Culture,
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

Dignitaries on the dais, SODARA, SADAREE MANULU ANDARIKI NAMASKARAM.

SRI VENKATESWARA SWAMY, SRI KANAKA DURGA AMMA VARI ASEESSULU MEEKU YELLAPPUDU UNDALANI KORU KUNTUNNANU.

I feel proud to be the Governor of this historic State of Andhra Pradesh, a State with great historical culture and legacy and which has given birth to a great many leaders with visionary approach and commitment for the country and the people.

'Andhras' have a glorious past and historically the earliest mention of the 'Andhras' appeared in the Aitareya Brahmana in B.C. 800. Beginning with Satavahanas, who ruled for over 400 years from second century BC to second century AD, various Andhra dynasties, including Ikshvaku, Pallavas and Chalukyas played a prominent role in the history of Andhra.

The seven centuries between AD 624 and AD 1323 were significant in the history of Andhra Desa as during this period the indigenous Telugu language emerged as a literary medium overthrowing the dominance of Prakrit and Sanskrit. As a result, Andhra desa achieved an identity and a distinction of its own as an important constituent of Indian Cultural set-up.

The medieval history of Andhra was marked by the rule of Kakatiyas, Bahamani, Vijayanagar, Qutb Shahi and Mughal kings. Followed by Asaf Jahis, the East India Company and the British rule and then came the Freedom struggle.

In Andhra, people responded spontaneously to the call given by Mahatma Gandhi, for liberation of the country from the clutches of British rule through a non-violent, non-cooperation movement and civil disobedience.

The Chirala-Perala incident that took place in January 1921, stands out as a remarkable incident in the history of freedom struggle in Andhra, wherein a old woman along with others was jailed by the British govt for refusing to pay municipal taxes. This old woman was considered to be the first woman in the country to be imprisoned on political grounds.

This prompted Mahatma Gandhiji, to visit Chirala after the All-India Congress session at Vijayawada. Another remarkable incident in the history of freedom movement in Andhra was that of the armed rebellion that broke out in the agency areas of the Northern Circars under the leadership of Alluri Sitaramaraju in 1922.

Gandhiji visited Vijayawada six times, each time with a vision, mission and message. The Vijayawada meeting in 1920, attended by Mahatma Gandhiji along with Kasturba and several important leaders of those days like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Jawaharlal Nehru and Moulana Abdul Kalam Azad made a great impact on the leaders of Andhra region and motivated them in their relentless fight for freedom.

Andhra region, which was included in the Madras State after Independence, was bifurcated from Madras State after the supreme sacrifice made by Potti Sriramulu, a self-effacing Gandhian, who undertook a fast-unto-death on 19th October, 1952 and attained martyrdom on 15th December 1952.

Andhra region was governed by different dynasties and empires. This diverse exposure to the cultures and traditions of the empires has had an indelible influence in shaping the culture of Andhra Pradesh. However, the State had witnessed many changes before it emerged as the first linguistic State to be formed on November 1, 1956.

It is apt to recall here the words of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishna, who said "We, the Andhras, are fortunately situated in some respects. I firmly believe that if any part of India is capable of developing an effective sense of unity it is in Andhra. The hold of conservatism is not strong. Our generosity of spirit and openness of mind are well -known. Our social instinct and suggestibility are still active. Our moral sense and sympathetic imagination are not much warped by dogma. Our women are relatively more free. Love of the mother-tongue binds us all."

Awareness is deep in the blood of the people of Andhra Pradesh and I have no doubt that building a new State with total transparency, technology-driven, decentralised administration with welfare as the key commitment, the Government will move forward on the path of development, while fulfilling the aspirations of the people of the state.

Jai Hind