



**Speech of**  
**Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh**  
**Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan**  
**at**  
**The 'Dharma Chaitanya Sabha' organized by Chaitanya**  
**Group of Institutions at Rajamahendravaram on 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**November, 2019**

Pujya Swamiji Jagadguru Swami Nischalananda Saraswathi, the 145<sup>th</sup> Shankaracharya of Govardhan Peeth of Puri, Dr.D.L.N. Raju, CEO, Chaitanya Group of Institutions, guests on the dais, ladies and gentlemen. ANDARIKI NAMASKARAM.

It gives me immense pleasure to be here in the august presence of Swamiji, on the occasion of 'Dharma Chaitanya Sabha' organized by Dr. D.L.N. Raju.

After assuming charge as Governor of Andhra Pradesh, it is my first visit to Rajamahendravaram, also known as the cultural capital of Andhra Pradesh.

Rajamahendravaram was the hotbed of several movements during India's freedom struggle and acted as a base for many key leaders. When the Indian National Congress held its first meeting in Bombay, two leaders from Rajahmundry, Nyapathi Subba Rao and Kandukuri Veeresalingam, participated in it. Nyapathi Subba Rao, founder of Hindu Samaj in Rajamahendravaram, was also one of the six founders of India's noted English daily, The Hindu.

Rajamahendravaram is acclaimed as the birthplace of the Telugu language - its grammar and script evolved from the pen of poet Nannayya, who was born here. Also known as 'Ādi Kavi' (the first poet) of Telugu, Nannayya, along with Tikkana and Yerrana, translated the Sanskrit version of Mahabharata into Telugu. Kandukuri Veeresalingam – a social reformer and the author of Rajashekhara Charithra, the first Telugu novel – was also from this place.

Rajamahendravaram is also famous for flowers and floriculture. The city has produced many well known artists in the Telugu film industry.

The city of Rajamahendravaram is also famous for the holy river Godavari passing through it and the 10<sup>th</sup> century Kotilingeswara Swamy temple situated on the banks of river Godavari.

Coming to the 'Dharma Chaitanya Sabha', organized here at Rajamahendravaram, the programme aims to throw light on sanatana dharma, which is considered to be the original name of Hinduism. Adi Shankaracharya, who traveled far and wide across several regions, preached and professed extensively the vedic sanatana dharma.

Adi Shankaracharya said – In Satya Yuga, Brahma is the guru of the whole world, in Treta Yuga is the sage Vasishta, in Dwapara Yuga it is Veda Vyasa and in the Kali Yuga it is Bhagavan Shankara.

Adi Shankaracharya established four dharmic institutions. In the east, Govardhana Peetha at Puri whose presiding deity is Purushottam to deal with the knowledge of Rig Veda, the Sharada Peetha dedicated to Yajur Veda at Sringeri in Karnataka in the south, Dwaraka Peetha with presiding deity of Dwarakadheesh dedicated to Sama Veda at Dwaraka in Gujarat in the west and finally, in the north, at Badarinath as Jyotirmath dedicated to Atharva Veda.

Adi Shankaracharya initiated a practice that the head pontiffs of each of the four peethas would be considered his image. The lineage of the Shankaracharyas of the four peethas has continued without break.

The role of Shankaracharyas of the four peethas in protecting and propagating the Hindu sanatana dharma is very significant. By providing an existential platform for vedic culture, Adi Shankaracharya placed a strong foundation for ages to come.

The sanatana dharma is eternal and is auspicious for the whole world.

My best wishes to all the devotees who have gathered here to listen to the Pravachans of Pujya Swamiji Jagadguru Swami Nischalananda Saraswathi, the Shankaracharya of Govardhan Peeth and other learned swamijis.

Jai Hind