



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

KAUSHAL 2019, State level Competition for Govt School students and presentation of awards to winners, organized by Bharatiya Vijnana Mandali on 14th December 2019

Guests on the dais, friends from media, young students, SODARA SODAREE
MANULU ANDARIKI NAMASKARAM.

It gives me immense pleasure to be here amongst you all at this programme to present awards to young students under various categories at KAUSHAL 2019, a state-level competition organised by the Bharatiya Vijnana Mandali, Andhra Pradesh chapter of Vijnana Bharati.

I am glad to know that Vijnana Bharati, also known as VIBHA, a nation-wide science movement with a swadeshi spirit was started in the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru by eminent scientists under the guidance of Prof. K.I. Vasu.

I am happy to learn that over the period of time, Vijnana Bharati with its presence in 26 States and tie-ups with autonomous independent institutions, has become a vibrant movement for the development of Science with a Swadeshi spirit. The main objective of the organisation is to inter-link traditional and modern sciences on the one hand and natural and spiritual sciences on the other hand.

Bharatiya Vijnana Mandali, the Andhra Pradesh chapter of Vijnana Bharati with units in several districts, is also focusing on the ways to stimulate and strengthen young minds of Andhra Pradesh state, particularly those from Government High Schools, by conducting state level competitions every year, in the name of 'KAUSHAL'.

Eminent personalities from India have made immense contribution to the field of science and technology and taken the country to a pre-eminent position in the world. Dr. Kota Harinarayana, who indigenously developed Tejas, India's first combat aircraft, Sir C.V. Raman, First Asian and First non-white to receive Nobel prize for Physics in 1930, Sir Mokshagundam Visweswarayya, an eminent Engineer, scholar and statesman, Dr. APJ Abdul

Kalam, a great scientist, an inspirational leader, and extraordinary human being, just to name a few.

India has the second largest group of scientists and engineers in the world. In the context of technological advancements and scientific achievements, Indian scientists have developed several projects and augmented the life of world population. India belongs to the select group of countries who have developed indigenous nuclear technology. India is among the few countries which have developed ballistic missiles. In the field of space science, India has the capability to launch GSLV satellite. India's achievements in the field of IT and software are well recognized all over the world.

Scientific research conducted in India by Indian scientists has transformed the way the world views our country.

Indian civilization is one of the oldest civilizations in the world with a strong tradition of science and technology. Ancient India was a land of sages and seers as well as a land of scholars and scientists. Research has shown that from making the best steel in the world to teaching the world how to count, India was actively contributing to the field of science and technology centuries long before the modern science has come into being. Many theories and techniques discovered by the ancient Indians have created and strengthened the fundamentals of modern science and technology. While some of these groundbreaking contributions have been acknowledged, some are still unknown to many.

The impression that science started only in Europe was deeply embedded in the minds of educated people all over the world.

Ancient India was way ahead of its western counterparts in its contribution to the field of Science and Technology.

The contribution of ancient India can be divided into a few categories such as, Mathematics, construction field, usage of materials, usage of nature resources, medical field, shipping, trading, geography and astronomy.

Aryabhatta, the Indian mathematician was responsible for giving the world the "Gift of Zero" without which Mathematics is unimaginable. The binary system of numbering, which is the basic language used by computers was first described by the Indian Vedic scholar Pingala, in his book Chandah Sāstra.

Ayurveda is probably the earliest medical system having a positive concept of health to be achieved through a blend of physical, mental, social, moral and spiritual welfare. 'Ayur' meaning life, and 'veda' means knowledge. Thus, the literal meaning of Ayurveda is the science of life or longevity. Ayurveda is one of the oldest systems of medicine dealing with both the preventive and curative aspects of life in a most comprehensive way.

Ancient India's contributions in the field of astronomy are well known and well documented. The earliest references to astronomy are found in the Rig Veda, which are dated 2000 BC. In some instances, astronomical principles were borrowed to explain matters, pertaining to astrology, like casting of a horoscope and culminated into original findings such as the calculation of occurrences of eclipses, determination of Earth's circumference, Theory of gravitation, Determining that sun was a star and determination of number of planets under our solar system etc.

Indian farmers were the pioneers in traditional organic farming since thousands of years. Our farmers have now developed non-chemical, eco-friendly pesticides and fertilizers for modern applications.

Farmers in our state have revived the traditional organic farming and zero budget natural farming and reaping excellent results.

Science is an important part of our everyday life and many things we use on a daily basis are all a gift of science and technology.

Before concluding, I would like to quote here what the well known American author Mark Twain said about India:

“India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most constructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only”

Jai Hind