



Speech of Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
participates as Chief Guest
on the occasion of 'Aatmeeya kalayika'
on January 04, 2020 at Vijayawada

Guests on the dais. Friends from media, SODARA SODAREE MANULU ANDARIKI NAMASKARAM.

It gives me immense pleasure to be here amongst you all, on the occasion of 'Aatmeeya kala yika' is a social get-together being organized by Shri V.V. Krishna Rao, Former National President of Samata Party and Shri Ravi Teja Padiri, Advocate and Founder of Visalandhra Mahasabha.

I am happy to learn that this 'Aatmeeya kala yika' is being organized from 2015 onwards regularly, in which representatives of civic society, All India Services officers, elected representatives, doctors, advocates etc. from within the state and outside, have been participating.

I compliment the organizers for their decision to dedicate this year's programme in the honour of Mahatma Gandhi commemorating his 150th Birth Anniversary. This gives us an opportunity to pay our tributes to the Father of the Nation.

In Andhra, people made splendid response to the call of Mahatma Gandhi, for the liberation of the country by adopting non-violence, non-cooperation and Civil Disobedience. The freedom movement in Andhra was admired by people and leaders from across the country. The role of the Andhras in the Freedom Struggle is next to that of none and they had always been in the forefront along with the rest of the countrymen.

Mahatma Gandhi's first visit to Andhra was when he visited Nellore to attend the Madras Provincial Conference held from 4th to 5th May, 1915. Several Telugu leaders like Deshabhakta Konda Venkatappayya, Nyapathi Subbarao, Mocharla RamachandraRao and Pattabhi Ramireddy were introduced to Mahatma.

Gandhiji's call for Satyagraha acted as a clarion call among the Andhra people. In the course of his first visit to Vijayawada on 31st March, 1919. Gandhiji addressed a mammoth meeting at the Rammohan library. His talk was translated into Telugu by Ayyadevara Kaleswara Rao, who later became a great follower of Mahatma Gandhi.

The people of Andhra were greatly inspired by the enthusiastic speeches of Gandhiji which had profound impact on them. It was proved by the Andhra people who participated in large numbers in the hartal led by Gandhi on 6th April 1919 against the Rowlett Act.

From 1920 onwards, Andhra became an important centre of Gandhian experiments and Vijayawada held a special place for Gandhiji.

During Congress working committee meeting in Vijayawada in 1921, Pingali Venkaiah, a freedom fighter from Machilipatnam, designed and handed over the tri-colour Flag to Mahatma Gandhi, which later became the National Flag. The place where the Congress committee meeting took place in 1921, was later named as Gandhinagar in the heart of Vijayawada.

In 1930 when Gandhiji started his salt-campaign, the broad east coast of Andhra became the venue of memorable deeds of many a young man and woman, who in spite of the severe blows of lathis, prepared salt and got imprisoned.

Gandhiji's numerous visits to the state during freedom movement left an indelible mark and inspired the young generation of those days to plunge into the country's freedom struggle and fight against the British.

Apart from Vijayawada, Mahatma Gandhi also visited villages in the remote areas of Diviseema region, which did not have proper road

access. He traveled by boat, waded through shrubby paths and spread the significance of khadi in the region.

In commemoration of Gandhiji's numerous visits to Vijayawada, the hill in the One Town area has been named as Gandhi Hill and a Stupa was erected in his honour.

Gandhiji's last visit to Vijayawada was on 5th February, 1946, while he was proceeding to Wardah from Madras, by a special train, the train stopped at Vijayawada railway station where he addressed a gathering of more than 50,000 people waiting for his glimpse, before leaving for Wardah.

I sincerely hope and wish that the 'Aatmeeya Kalayika', shall continue to provide platform for the social get together of like-minded people to work for the development of Telugu region and support cultural integration of the country. I compliment the team behind the successful conduct of this programme.

JAI HIND