



सत्यमेव जयते

Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh

Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan

participates as Chief Guest at the "4<sup>th</sup> Sai Spring Fest"

organized by the Sai Education & Charitable Trust

on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 in Cuttack, Odisha

Guests on the dais, friends from media, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good evening to you all.

It gives me immense pleasure to be here amongst you all on the occasion of "4<sup>th</sup> Sai Spring Fest", an event organized by the Sai Education & Charitable Trust, which is involved in the promotion of academic as well as social activities in the city of Cuttack.

I am glad to learn that on this occasion several dignitaries and eminent personalities from different fields will be honoured by presentation of the Sai Gallantry Excellency Awards and the organization is also bringing out a Souvenir, named "ANWESHA THE HUNT", on this occasion.

I am happy to know that the management and the students of Educational Institutions run by the Sai Education & Charitable Trust, Cuttack, are involved in organising "Swacch Bharat" campaign creating awareness about environmental conservation among public on 'No Plastic Use' and 'Mass tree Plantation.'

As you all know, awareness campaigns such as the Swachh Bharat campaign will go a long way to ensure environmentally sustainable development and minimize the impact of climate change.

Every citizen should feel that it is his responsibility to safeguard the environment. Initiatives launched by the government alone cannot be the solution to tackle the problems posed by the environmental degradation.

The country can only look forward to the active involvement of the younger generations of the nation to remain sensitive to the environmental issues and act in the best interests of the future generations.

In the olden days, protection and cleaning up of Environment was the essence of Vedic culture. In Hindu Philosophy, forests, trees and wildlife protection held an important place and treated with special respect. Cutting green trees was prohibited and punishment was prescribed for such acts.

Our Vedas attach a great importance to Environmental protection and purity. Man is forbidden from exploiting nature. He is taught to live in harmony with nature and recognize that divinity prevails in all elements, including plants and animals.

It is apt to recall here, a verse from Rig-Veda, which says:  
*"Thousands and hundreds of years if you want to enjoy the fruits and happiness of Life, then take up systematic planting of trees."*

The Vedas emphasize that the plants and trees are the treasures of future generations.

I would like to conclude with a few words of wisdom from the Rig Veda.

"Do not harm the environment; do not harm the water and the Flora; earth is my Mother, I am Her son."

"Do not cut trees, because they remove pollution."

Jai Hind