



Speech of the Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan,
address this Session of both Houses of
Andhra Pradesh State Legislature
on the occasion of the Budget Session 2020-21

BUDGET SESSIONS - HON'BLE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

1. INTRODUCTION:

Hon'ble Chairman, Hon'ble Speaker and Hon'ble Members of the State legislature, it a great privilege and honour for me to address this Session of both Houses of Andhra Pradesh State Legislature on the occasion of the Budget Session 2020-21.

This session is normally held in March, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is being held now.

2. ECONOMY:

Our state's economy has shown tremendous resilience within the context of a global slowdown, even in pre-COVID-19 times. Andhra registered an economic growth rate of 8.16% in 2019-20. This is above the national average of 5% over the same period. Our services sector has registered the highest growth rate of 9.1%, followed by Agriculture and Allied Sectors at 8%, and industry at 5%. Our per capita income, measured at current prices, has increased by more than 12% from Rs. 1,51,173 in 2018-19 to Rs. 1,69,519 in 2019-20.

My government is committed to enhancing citizen and enterprise prosperity and productivity through equitable and inclusive economic development. We intend to strengthen our strategic resources such as water and minerals, our rural and urban infrastructure, strategic infrastructure in the power and transport sectors and industry sector.

3. WELFARE & NAVARATNALU

I am proud to state that my Government has turned a new leaf in ushering in unprecedented reforms, and rolling the welfare carpet to the door step of the deprived sections by empowering them economically, politically and socially. We have put in place an impeccable delivery mechanism of welfare schemes in the form of Village and Ward Secretariats

and at the same time I am very happy to say that we have fulfilled 90 % of our promises made in the manifesto in the first year itself and are taking the State on the welfare path.

Of the 129 promises made my government has fulfilled 77 and 39 are in the pipeline and the rest will be implemented in due course. However, we have implemented 40 new schemes which were not there in the manifesto. Yes, our efforts are blooming and bearing fruits

Education, Healthcare, Agriculture and Welfare have been given prominence in my governance and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has been very meticulous in the planning of every scheme to the last detail which has helped in the financial assistance going directly into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries without any pilferage or middlemen. Thus, I firmly believe, the very purpose of the welfare schemes is fully justified.

The welfare schemes are the outcome of the 3,648km padayatra covering 134 constituencies of the 13 districts in a span of over 14 months during which time people of various sections have vented their plight and their small needs to Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy which were translated into promises that found place in the manifesto.

My Government has spent 42,000 crores benefitting 3.98 crore people under various schemes during the year. The entire amount was transferred to the beneficiaries' accounts as unencumbered accounts which does not allow the banker to deduct the money for any old dues of the beneficiaries.

EDUCATION:

The welfare in education begins with Amma Vodi, where the mother is incentivised for sending her children to school and my government is the first and the only one to introduce such a measure. Rs 6,350 crores @Rs. 15,000/- each have been given to 42.33 lakh mothers benefitting 83 lakh

children under this scheme. The scheme covers students from Class 1 to Intermediate.

After infusing zeal in the mother to send her children to school, the next immediate need of the child was taken care of by Jagananna Vidya Kanuka wherein kits comprising three pairs of uniform, text and note books, bags, shoes and socks are being given as a kit. This has cost Rs 656 crores for 39,70,899 students.

The Mid-day meal scheme has been refined by adding taste and variety into the menu with the Chief Minister had taken personal interest in deciding it keeping in view the nutrition and other factors in mind. Jagananna Goru Mudda, as the scheme is called, costs Rs 1,105.36 crores and about 39, 70,899 students will be tasting the generous touch given by Chief Minister.

When the child enters the graduation, full fees reimbursement besides allowance for hostel and mess charges are also taken care of by my Government. Under Jagananna Vidya Deevena, Rs 3, 857 crores was given to over 18.51 lakh students as fees reimbursement. Under Jagananna Vasathi Deevena Rs 1,221 crores are given to 15.57 lakh students residing hostels. In two instalments about Rs. 2200 crores will be given. The amount will be deposited into the mother's bank account.

In the final year of graduation, the last semester will be dedicated to skill development and internship to prepare the student to boldly face the competitive market as the students will emerge with better employable skills.

This is how the education is taken care of from Class one to professional courses. The most innovative and useful decision taken by my Government is the introduction of English medium from Class 1 to Class 6. Nearly 97% of the parents have endorsed the English medium from primary level, though there were some hurdles. There could be some shortcomings,

yes, but our Government has taken enough precautions by starting bridge courses to the students and training the teachers to cope up with the new curriculum.

I firmly believe that the introduction of English as medium of instruction from primary level will be a game changer for the generations to come as it will be a level playing field for all students. I hope good sense prevails over the detractors and the hurdles will be cleared.

Under Nadu Nedu, Mana_Badi in the first phase 15, 715 schools have been taken up for revamping where basic amenities, like furniture, fan, toilets, running water, board and chalk, painting, compound wall and English lab will have built. About Rs 3,387 crores were sanctioned for it. All 45,000 schools will be revamped in phased manner in three years.

HEALTH

Coming to the health sector, my government has provided oxygen to the YSR Aarogyasri scheme which was ignored by the previous government. The State has spent so far Rs. 1,534 crores extending the benefit to 6.25 lakh people. The number of medical ailments covered under the scheme has been increased to 2,059 from 1,059 and it has been extended to 13 super speciality hospitals in Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru for 716 medical procedures. Pension is being paid to patients with chronic diseases up to Rs 10,000. Hospitalisation over Rs 1,000 comes under the purview of YSR Aarogyasri.

Under YSR Aarogya Asaraa, financial assistance of Rs.225/- per day and upto Rs 5,000/- per month will be paid during the post surgery recovery period for patients and the State has spent Rs 72.82 crores covering 1.06 lakh beneficiaries.

My Government has spent Rs 53.85 crores under YSR Kanti Velugu covering 67.69 lakh students. In the first and second phases screening was

conducted in 60,401 schools. The third phase is in progress. A total of Rs.560 crores will be spent on this scheme in six phases.

This apart my government is planning to start 12,000 YSR Clinics near all Village and Ward Secretariats and a fleet of 1,060 vehicles of 108 and 104 ambulance service are ready to take off. YSR Telemedicine is a big hit where the doctors have a virtual interaction with the patient, diagnose and prescribe medicines

Under Nadu Nedu Government hospitals would be upgraded to national standards Rs 15, 337 crores was allocated for this purpose. In addition to the existing 11 teaching hospitals,16 more will come up.

AGRICULTURE

YSR Rythu Bharosa is the another scheme which has completed its full circle and the second round has begun. Though the promise made was for Rs 12,500 for four years, my Government has extended it to Rs 13,500 and for a period of five years to be paid in three instalments, one before khariff, one before rabi and the third during Sankranti festival. The State has spent Rs 10, 209.32 crores benefiting 49.44 lakh farmers and ours is the only government to extend the benefit to tenant farmers as well. This was never done before.

A YSR Rythu Bharosa Kendra has been established in every village secretariat to cater to all needs of our farmers from seed to sale. We are also establishing 147 YSR Agri-testing Labs at the constituency level and 13 labs at the district level to increase agriculture production. A price stabilization fund of Rs. 3,000 crores has been set up to ensure minimum remunerative price to the farmer. The state government has also earmarked Calamity Relief Fund of Rs. 2000 crores to help farmers overcome the impact of severe drought conditions in the state.

My government is committed to transform the farming activity as a profitable venture by supporting the farmers in all possible ways, especially in case of any unfortunate incident of farmer suicide. The family members of the deceased farmer are supported by the government with Rs. 7 lakhs of financial assistance for rehabilitation. My Government has paid compensation to eligible farmers who were earlier denied compensation.

HOUSING

My government is perhaps the only one to providing House Sites for 30 lakh beneficiaries at a cost of Rs. 7,000 crores and unlike the earlier governments, the beneficiary will know where the plot is and it will be registered in the name of the woman of the household. My government will be providing 25 Lakh houses in four years of which work will commence for 15 Lakh houses in this August itself.

YSR Pension Kanuka was the first scheme to be implemented from Navaratnalu as the State has paid Rs. 14,438 crores to 58.62 lakh beneficiaries, which is contrast to 490 Crores per month spent upto January, 2019 by previous government. The pension is being handed over to the beneficiary at the door step by Village and Ward Volunteers on the first of every month. The old, sick and disabled who had to go to the disbursing office and wait for the whole day are now very happy as the welfare scheme being door delivered.

YSR zero interest scheme for SHGs has benefited 91 lakh Women with Rs.1400 crores, while YSR Vahana Mitra given twice amounting to Rs.500 crores and AgriGold victims were given Rs.236.53 crores. YSR Matsyakara Bharosa was given twice accounting for Rs.211.70 crores while under Netanna Nestam Rs.197 crores was spent on 81,703 beneficiaries.

Other schemes include Restart package for MSMEs amounting to Rs.963 Crores and Law Nestham.

VILLAGE / WARD SECRETARIATS:

The concept itself is to change the rural landscape and decentralise administration by setting up village and ward secretariats.

My government has redefined and has given a new look to villages where 60 per cent of the population still lives. It was the Chief Minister's vision that could provide over four lakh jobs which itself is a record of sorts. This happened just in 4 months after my government took over.

There are 11,158 village secretariats and 3,876 ward secretariats each one catering to the needs of a population of 2,000. There are 10 permanent staff and 40 volunteers to deliver the government schemes to the beneficiaries in each secretariat. All the 50 persons would be locals which will be an added advantage. Of the total employed 2.65 lakh are volunteers and 1.35 are secretariat staff.

The Socio Economic ecosystem of the villages are changing and changing for good. What you see on entering a village is a Secretariat where 541 different services with time lines for each service, from ration card onwards will be available.

Ongoing further there will be a Rytu Bharosa Kendra (RBK) which serves as a one stop centre for all agriculture and allied sector needs advises farmers on crop pattern, supply of quality inputs, e-crop booking, facilitating crop loans, input subsidy, insurance and facilitating marketing facilities besides buying the produce by ensuring minimum remunerative price. My government is planning to establish YSR Janata Bazars to ensure sale of produce at Village & Ward level itself.

If you go still further, there will be YSR Clinics with 54 types of medicines which acts as a Primary referral point for YSR Aarogyasri. Adjacent to it will be a school where English will be the medium of instruction from primary level.

Education, Health, Agriculture & Marketing as a cluster in every village this is how our rural areas will be shaping up and my government is proud to unveil this landscape.

The welfare schemes will be delivered by the staff without any consideration of caste, creed, religion or political affiliations and all eligible persons will get the benefit on a saturation basis.

The Village / Ward Secretariat system has brought in a sea change in the basic administrative structure and in the coming days, it will further amplify the effect and I am sure about it.

WOMEN WELFARE

Besides depositing the money for children education into mothers' bank accounts, and registering House sites in the names of the woman of the household, my government has taken numerous other measures for women welfare.

The zero interest loans would benefit 91 lakh and Rs 1,400 crore was deposited for the benefit of Self Help Groups. Every group will get from Rs 30,000 to Rs 40,000.

Aasara will benefit the women SHGs in clearing the loans amounting about Rs. 27,000 crores, which has been promised in four instalments at the time of general elections, while Cheyutha provides financial assistance to women belonging to SCs, STs, BCs and Minorities who are in the age group of 45 to 60 years. they will be getting Rs 75,000 in four years.

To empower women on the political and economic fronts, 50 per cent reservations are provided in nominated posts and nominated works.

Our Government has brought in Disha Bill to take fast and stringent action against those involved in crime against women and Hon'ble President's Presidential assent is awaited.

4. DEVELOPMENT

a. Rural Infrastructure and Development

Road connectivity triggers economic growth and facilitates new economic opportunities for people and enterprise. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, between 2020-2024, we intend to lay an additional 3,285 km of road, connecting facilities like agricultural market centres, schools, and health centres. A key priority is to enhance productivity of degraded land to facilitate greater rural employment opportunities, and rise in income levels. Towards this, we are focusing on Watershed Development Programmes that develop degraded land resources to enhance land productivity.

We are also advancing livelihood security through Wage Employment Programmes such as MGNREGS. We have implemented the MGNREGS in 12,914 Gram Panchayats across 661 mandals. Presently in 2020-21 our state ranks first nationally, generating over 10.68 crore person-days of employment as on date. In 2019- 2020, we have provided employment of more than 23 crore person-days. Additionally, we have issued over 62,000 new job cards to migrant labour.

b. Urban Infrastructure

A top priority for us under urban infrastructure development is to provide safe drinking water to all urban local bodies. Water supply improvement schemes are being implemented to bring per capita water supply at par with national standards of 135 LPCD. We have improved supply frequency and per capita access in 5 ULBs. Additionally, 5 water supply schemes have been completed under AMRUT, HUDCO and UIDSSMT projects in 2019-20. In phased manner, it is proposed to take up sewerage network and septage treatment in 120 ULBs.

c. Water Resources

Water is fundamental to life, livelihood, food security, and sustainable development. We are prioritizing water resource management through the Jalayagnam Programme. Out of 54 Irrigation Projects envisaged under the programme, 14 have been completed and others are in progress. Poola Subbaiah Veligonda Project, Sangam Barrage, Nellore Barrage, Vamsadhara Phase-II, Vamsadhara – Nagavali Link, Owk Second Tunnel will be completed this year.

My government has also accelerated efforts for completion of Polovaram Project by December, 2021 along with land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement. All other ongoing projects will be completed in the next four years.

My government is initiating steps to take up Rayalaseema drought mitigation project, speeding up of Uttarandhra Srujala Sravanti, enhancing the capacity of Polavaram Right Main Canal (RMC) to 50,000 Cusecs to take care of Krishna Delta, NSP Ayacut and drought prone Rayalaseema, Nellore and Prakasam.

d. Energy

My government recognizes that the health of the distribution utilities (Discoms) is of utmost importance for survival and efficient functioning of the State's energy sector. It would not be out of place to mention that owing to the previous Government's neglect of the sector and the under-release of the subsidy to the Discoms, the Discoms were forced to borrow heavily to sustain and this has jeopardized the whole sector. Bearing in mind the need to bail out the sector, My Government has provided a huge financial assistance, to the tune of Rs. 17,904 crores towards, not just the current year's subsidy component but also for the sector's dues that pertain to the period of the previous Government. Another issue of concern is the financial burden of

subsidizing agricultural power consumption. The annual agricultural consumption is close to 12,221 MUs for the year 2020-21, leading to a subsidy requirement of close to Rs. 8,354 crores. Given the yearly increase in agricultural consumption, the subsidy amount is likely to increase to alarming levels during the next few years. Keeping this in mind, my Government has come up with a scheme of significantly reducing the average cost of purchasing power that is supplied to agriculture by leveraging on the huge solar energy generation potential in the State, by developing solar power project on BOT (build operate and transfer) model to the tune of 10,000 MWp. The power from these projects would be adequate for the agricultural consumption and ensure sustainability of the sector as the cost of supply of power would be significantly lower.

e. Industrialization and Strategic Infrastructure Development

We are committed to drive rapid industrialization of our state through competitive industrial policies and investing in strategic infrastructure. We have already hit the ground by initiating the process for clearing Rs. 4,000 crores of pending industrial incentives of the previous Government, signaling our commitment. To encourage new industrial investments, we will release a new Industrial Policy very soon. We have allotted land to more than 1,466 companies through APIIC. This represents a committed investment of INR 11,548 crores. 39 Large and Mega industries have cumulatively invested over INR 24,000 crores, generating almost 36,810 jobs. 13,122 MSMEs have started operations investing more than INR 2500 crores and generating about 63,897 jobs. To position MSMEs for growth, we have launched the "YSR Navodayam" scheme for a one-time restructuring of MSME loans.

Being an agrarian state, we see tremendous opportunity to leverage our agricultural resources, using them for higher value addition

activities and job creation. Hence, we consider Food Processing a priority industrial sector. We plan to introduce a new Food Processing Policy. A key feature will be setting up new food processing zones in each parliamentary constituency.

f. Strategic economic infrastructure will facilitate accelerated economic growth.

My government is striving to build and strengthen infrastructure that enhances trade. We are striving to operationalise two major industrial corridors viz., Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) and the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC). Corridor development will strengthen connectivity and existing industries such as Textiles, Pharma, Food Processing and also allow for setting up of new ones.

We are expediting construction of the Bhogapuram International airport in Vizianagaram and completion of airport at Orvakallu, Kurnool. We have already entered into an Rs. 2,300 crore partnership agreement with GMR Airports Limited to develop the Bhogapuram airport.

Our state has the 2nd longest coast, stretching 974 kms. We see an opportunity to transform our state into a maritime trading hub for South East Asia. We intend to strengthen our 6 ports and taking up construction of three new ports at Ramayapatnam, Machilipatnam and Bhavanapadu. 8 Fishing harbours will be constructed in three years at a cost of Rs, 3,200 crores.

g. Corruption-free governance

My government is firmly committed to clean and corruption-free governance, and has taken several measures to achieve it.

Reverse-tendering for public works has resulted in savings of around Rs. 2,200 crores.

Under the Spandana initiative, any citizen can register a complaint about corrupt practices by public servants. The complaints are then transferred to the Anti-Corruption Bureau for redressal.

5. COVID

My government has been taking effective steps to contain the spread the of COVID 19 and stand ahead of other states in the number of tests conducted.

- From just one lab my Government has increased the number of testing labs to thirteen. About 15,000 tests are being conducted per day and it tops the national average among the states by conducting over 5.5 lakh tests and more than 10,000 Tests per million. The mortality rate is much lower than that of national average and the recovery rate is higher than National average.
- There are five dedicated COVID 19 hospitals and in districts 65 hospitals are dedicated for corona patients. We have 38,000 isolation beds, 15,000 equipped with oxygen supply and 5,400 ICU beds of which 1,300 have ventilator facility.
- About 24,000 doctors and 24,500 para medical staff are working round the clock in affected areas and we have demarcated red, green and orange zones as per the requirement of containment strategy.
- Our Village / Ward Volunteers, staff of Village / Ward Secretariats, Medical Personnel, Police, Municipal staff, Revenue, Electricity & other staff have done a wonderful job and stood in the front line in containing the spread of Covid-19.
- During the lockdown, essential commodities, including additional rations. of 5 Kg rice per head and one kg dal per card, two times a

month along with one time assistance of Rs.1000/- were delivered to households.

- To address the migrant labour issue, my government set up over 400 relief centres to help provide food, shelter, and basic amenities to over 1.2 lakh migrant workers. APSRTC buses and Shramik Special trains were utilised to transport over 3.2 lakh stranded workers to their homes, both in AP and in other states, free of cost. Free food was provided to the workers while they were on the road. Workers returning to their homes in rural AP are being provided additional MGNREGS jobs to help them earn an income.
- My government has spent Rs 2,200 crore towards market intervention and purchased agri products from farmers during Covid and facilitated in exports of Marine.
- The volunteers have conducted four rounds of household survey and we followed the norm of trace, test and treat and is still going on.
- My government firmly believes that we have to live with Corona in the coming days and have opened up economy keeping the safety norms as the wheels of economy have to roll on.
- All these measures have helped Andhra Pradesh achieve a low mortality rate, a low positivity rate, and a much higher recovery rate than most of the states.

6. LEGISLATIONS

My government has legislated path breaking laws which will usher in social, economic and political justice in the strictest sense.

We have brought in a law setting up BC Commission on a permanent basis and have provided 50 % reservations to SC, ST, BC and Minorities in nominated posts & nominated works and in all Temple Governing Councils coming under Endowments Department.

Providing 75 % reservations to locals is another landmark legislation made by my Government and introduced Skill Development to churn out skilled workforce.

The important legislation my government has brought in is introducing English medium from Primary level as children from the weaker sections study in government schools and will be at a disadvantage when they pass out from school. This is to increase the enrolment ratio and to make them globally competitive. Though there are some hurdles, they will be cleared soon as 97% of the parents are wishing that their wards study in English medium.

My government has also brought in legislation to regulate the private schools and colleges which are not up to the set guidelines and standards.

A Judicial Preview Commission has been formed through a legislation where in all tenders above Rs. 100 crores will undergo the scrutiny by a retired High Court Judge and will be finalised by the Commission. Through Reverse tendering nearly Rs 2,100 crores was saved which shows the sincerity of my government.

The Land Titling Act will put a check on irregularities in land registration and put an end to land disputes.

Disha Bill is historic legislation as it provides for a speedy trial and conviction within 21 working days which deals with crime against women. To deal with atrocities against women and children.18 Disha Police Stations have been set up. Dedicated Special Courts are being set up.

We have amended the State Prohibition and Excise Act giving it more teeth to implement reduce consumption of liquor. We could close down 43,000 belt shops and shut down 4,300 permit rooms and reduced the timings of sale while increasing the price to reduce the consumption of

alcohol. Due to above efforts results are visible with reduction in consumption of Alcohol.

We have merged the APSRTC with Government through a law taking in 51,400 employees, into newly created Public Transport Department.

Decentralisation of Administration has been the key Principle, based on which the legislation is in process to have three capitals concept. Under this concept Amaravati will be the Legislative Capital, while Visakhapatnam will be the Executive capital and Kurnool will be Judicial Capital.

7. CONCLUSION

1. My government hopes that better days will come and the life goes on smoothly.
2. To sum up my Government has done exceptionally well in social justice and bringing welfare schemes to the intended sections, brought in sweeping reforms in administration, improved the health care system manifold, instilled confidence among farmers, has taken measures to revamp schools and hospitals. All sections are touched through the welfare & developmental schemes and I hope this year will be still better.

Jai Hind