



सत्यमेव जयते

Address of the Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan,
at the 7th WASH Conclave organised by NIRD PR and UNICEF
on 2nd December, 2020 at 2.30 PM

Swachh Namaskar

Shri Nicolas Osbert, Chief of WASH, UNICEF, India, Shri U.P. Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Smt. Alka Upadhyaya, Director General, NIRDPR, Ms. Meital Rusdia, Chief, UNICEF, Hyderabad Field Office, all dignitaries, Commissioners, Collectors and Chief Executive Officers and other functionaries from different districts of three States, Representatives of development partners, Elected members of PRIs, community leaders, friends from NIRDPR and UNICEF, and others. A warm Good Afternoon to you all.

It gives me immense pleasure to join you all today for the 7th WASH Conclave being conducted by UNICEF Hyderabad Office along with National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).

I am extremely happy that UNICEF and NIRDPR has brought together all the key stakeholders of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene on single platform to discuss key issues with particular focus on hygiene to this 3-day Conclave being held with the theme of "Hygiene Matters".

India has achieved significant strides in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector in terms of achieving Open Defecation-free status, basic drinking water services through piped water supply (PWS) and progressing towards next generation of sanitation and water program issues besides rapidly marching towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal No.6 to provide 'clean water and sanitation'.

The Government of India has launched Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) phase-II and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) with clear guidelines and adequate budgets to provide sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services in a decentralized mode with a target to "enable all households to have access to and use of safe and adequate drinking water within premises to the extent possible" by 2024. Adequate, accessible, equitable and quality water supply and better sanitation facilities in household, community and

institutions-level with community managed water supply and sanitation system is the soul of Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission programmes.

The present 100-days campaign launched by the Government of India, is to ensure and provide water supply to schools, Anganwadi centers, health centers and panchayats that will also be helpful to achieve better WASH facilities. The State-level programme initiatives such as 'Manam Mana Parisubrtha' in Andhra Pradesh, 'Swacchotsava Nityotsava' in Karnataka and 'Palle Pragathi' in Telangana are contributing in a long way towards achieving WASH resilience and healthy society.

Achieving these targets lays a tremendous responsibility on the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana in particular and the entire country in general. The WASH Conclave is a step in the right direction and it is the need of the hour to bring all the key players in implementing the programmes under Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sectors onto a common platform.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has globally affected all walks of life, including our regular lifestyle. It has affected around 9.2 million

Indians till date according to WHO data and around 2 million people across the three states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana. The pandemic has posed double challenge to the States with by limiting our time, resources and attention to the key activities. Nevertheless, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana are working extremely hard and taking various initiatives to control spread of the virus and simultaneously focusing on development activities in line with guidelines issued by the Government of India, from time to time.

Proper hygiene for health has never been felt so important globally as it is now. People have now realized that Hygiene is the first line of defense against the COVID-19 pandemic and in that regard, I feel that the theme and focus of this conclave 'Hygiene matters' is very apt.

Hygiene is not possible without adequate water and sanitation measures. This conclave has brought together all the key stakeholders right from State-level to grassroots-level and independent organizations working in these sectors to discuss WASH strategies and lay down a path forward.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also made a global impact encouraging people across the world to take up new technologies, innovations and find alternate paths of achieving the targets at hand and one such wonderful example is this Conclave, which is being conducted virtually to connect several people across the country through a single platform.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate NIRDPR and UNICEF for creating this virtual platform. Through this conclave, I believe that a lot of cross-learning will happen across the three States and they will be able to strengthen their initiatives further to collectively build a strategy to achieve the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) - Phase II & Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) targets and the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) targets by the stipulated time-frame.

I would like to also express my heartfelt congratulations to all the stakeholders of the three States, who are involved in sustaining the Open Defecation Free status and achieving the milestones of water and sanitation for all. I would like to extend my wishes to you all for your future efforts in making your villages, districts and States become 100% WASH compliant.

I hope that this Conclave will address key issues, challenges, opportunities for improving WASH sector outcomes and by the end of this Conclave and hope that the participants would take home immense

knowledge from each other as well as from the Expert professionals participating in this event.

I wish the UNICEF-NIRDPR all the very best for the successful conduct this three-day Conclave and hope that it will prove to be a very useful exercise for all the key players and stakeholders present here and the Conclave will bring about a momentum in WASH sectors and WASH outcomes in the three States specifically and the country as a whole, will be in line with the flagship programmes the State and the Govt of India.

Thank you and wishing everyone all the success.

Jai Hind