



Address by the Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan,
at the Webinar of Vice Chancellors of all Universities in Andhra Pradesh on
**“creating awareness among general public to
curb the spread of Covide-19 in the State”,**
at 11.30 AM on April 20, 2021

Dr. A. Suresh, Minister for Education, Sri Satish Chandra, Special Chief Secretary, Education, Prof. K. Hemachandra Reddy, Chairman, AP State Council of Higher Education, Vice Chancellors. A very good afternoon to you all.

As you all are aware, the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic is sweeping across the country. In our State of Andhra Pradesh also more and more Covid positive cases are being reported on a daily basis.

Laxity among people is said to be the main reason behind the increasing number of cases and it is necessary for all of us to come together and take up awareness programmes on a mission mode basis in order to succeed in the fight against Covid-19 menace.

Keeping in view of the alarming situation, Hon'ble Prime Minister reviewed on the issue with all the Chief Ministers on April 8. The Prime Minister again held meeting along with Vice President Sri M. Venkaiah Naidu with all the Governors and Lt. Governors on April 14.

The Prime Minister has stressed on the need for implementing Five-fold strategy of 'testing, tracing, treatment, Covid-appropriate behaviour and vaccination.'

The Prime Minister has also advised that a campaign should be taken up with active involvement of Universities and students to spread awareness about the Covid-appropriate behavior and all other precautions as required to prevent and control the Covid-19 pandemic with the support of civil society, prominent persons, religious leaders, public representatives etc.

The process was initiated by organising a Webinar with the officials of Indian Red Cross Society, Andhra Pradesh State Branch along with district administration of all 13 districts on April 12. I have interacted with the

Collectors and Joint Collectors and reviewed the prevailing situation of Covid-19 in their respective districts and steps taken by them to curb the spread of the virus.

Officials of Andhra Pradesh State Branch and Chairmen of District branches of Indian Red Cross Society have been advised to work in close coordination with the district administration and organize awareness campaigns on Covid-appropriate behavior such as wearing masks, advise people to avoid crowds and maintaining social distance, frequent hand wash etc. They were also advised to prepare IEC material on Covid-appropriate behavior and distribute the same among general public with the help of Youth Red Cross volunteers.

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed a huge challenge to the Higher Education Institutions. The Vice Chancellors and higher management of the Universities not only have direct responsibility of readiness towards the risks of COVID to the inhouse students and the staff during the sessions and management of such health risks without compromising the academics and teaching responsibilities of faculty, but such institutions of higher education have larger responsibility towards the public to create an environment of awareness among the population about protective and preventive aspects of saving themselves from the covid infection and resultant health and psychological impacts. The students have capacity to make themselves as a messenger to their immediate, extended family and the community for campaigning awareness related to Covid appropriate protocols and behaviour.

I would request the Vice Chancellors to mobilize their students along with the already existing network of NCC and NSS cadre and follow a systematic approach towards involvement of the students and faculty in the process of campaigning for awareness on the precautions as necessary and

protocols to be adhered to for prevention of the spread of the Covid pandemic.

COVID-19 virus has paralyzed our everyday life and has seriously affected our economy. We have to come together and fight the war against the invisible enemy COVID-19 virus and break the chain. I call upon every student in the Colleges and Universities to use the AP Red Cross Mobile app and take up a campaign for community surveillance throughout the State on war footing. Protect yourself first, educate your parents and your neighborhood for using mask, maintaining physical distance and frequent handwash. Please visit at least five houses every day and take up community surveillance using the app and give us the feedback. We will suitably award 10 best colleges in each District and 3 best universities in the State based on the participation of their students in the community surveillance against COVID-19.

While creating awareness on Covid-appropriate behavior, young students should also advise general public on maintaining physical fitness with regular practice of yoga and to take Ayurvedic medicine wherever possible, in consultation with the doctors.

I want to mention a few simple tips to prevent the spread of Covid-19 which can be used in spreading of effective message as required to create awareness among people:

Wear a mask: The World Health Organization (WHO) states that masks are “a key measure to suppress transmission and save lives”. Masks will be useful for either protection of healthy person or to prevent onward transmission. Proper wearing of mask fully covering nose and mouth is mandatory. Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth.

Social distance: Maintain physical distance of two metres with others and avoid crowded places. Maintain a safe distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

Hand wash: Regular hand wash using soap and water, or an alcohol-based sanitiser.

People should be advised to cover nose and mouth with your bent elbow or a tissue when they cough or sneeze.

They should be advised to stay at home if they feel unwell.

If anyone has a fever, cough and difficulty in breathing, they should be advised to go for testing immediately and seek medical attention.

I request the Vice chancellors to chalk out an action plan and launch an intensive campaign to create awareness among the people by making them aware of all the facts about Covid-19, advise them to take appropriate precautions and follow guidelines issued by the health authorities and district administration.

I am confident that if these interventions are implemented by the Universities with the help of students, on a mission-mode basis, the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic can be won and precious human lives can be saved by breaking chain and curbing spread of the virus in the coming days. Collective and collaborative human endeavor is imperative to bring humanity out of this crisis.

Thank You, Jai Hind