



Message of Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
to the people of Andhra Pradesh on the occasion of
completion of two years in office
to be telecast over Doordarshan and AIR on 24th July 2021

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NAMASKARAM.

It is two years since I have assumed charge as the Governor of Andhra Pradesh. I consider it a privilege to continue to serve the people of Andhra Pradesh, a progressive and forward-looking State, endowed with rich historical and cultural heritage.

On this occasion, I would like to share my thoughts and views with you all.

In the past two years, I have had the pleasure of interacting with several high-level dignitaries both from other countries as well as dignitaries from other States, civil society leaders, officials and common citizens, who have visited the Raj Bhavan on several occasions.

I have also had the privilege of interacting with the officers of defence forces from India and abroad undergoing training at the National Defence College, New Delhi, during their visit to the State as well as senior officers of the Eastern Naval Command who visited Raj Bhavan on a courtesy visit.

As you all know, we have not been able to host many functions and programmes at the Raj Bhavan, which are generally held as a customary practice, since March, 2020, due to the situation posed by Covid-19 pandemic.

I appreciate the enormous resilience shown by the people of Andhra Pradesh in the face of adverse conditions created by the Covid-19 pandemic. People of the State have extended unstinted support by strictly adhering to the guidelines issued by the authorities from time to time, since the advent of Covid-19 pandemic. All of us are still experiencing the constraints posed by the pandemic.

I pay my tributes to the people who have lost their lives due to the Covid-19 virus and offer my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members. The pandemic has indeed caused untold misery to the people of the State as in the case of many people all over the world. The Central and State governments have come to the rescue of orphaned children by extending a helping hand to them and launched programmes for their welfare to ensure continuation of their education and to take care of their well-being till they become adults.

I also pay my humble tributes to doctors, nurses, healthcare workers and frontline workers who have laid down their lives while serving the patients in the fight against Covid-19 and offer my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members. We all know that the loss of their loved ones cannot be replaced in any manner.

As with the rest of the world, the necessity to maintain social distance has forced us to adopt digital technologies by participating in University Convocations, conferences, meetings etc. in virtual mode through video conference system from Raj Bhavan premises itself.

With the lessons learnt from the first phase of Covid-19, the gaps in health infrastructure and institutional preparedness, have been largely taken care of during the second phase of the pandemic by ramping up testing, increasing hospital beds, supply of oxygen, keeping stock of required medicines and mobilizing the required number of health staff etc. As a result many lives of Covid-19 patients have been saved.

The hard work and the tremendous efforts of our scientists to develop a viable vaccine to fight against Covid-19 virus have finally paid off with the development of two different vaccines in the country, which is a

breakthrough achievement and God given gift to save the humanity from the threat posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Andhra Pradesh government has been in the forefront in the country in vaccinating more number of people by organising intensive vaccination programmes. The State has also a created record by administering over 13 lakh vaccines to eligible people in a single day.

On 7th September, 2020, I have participated in the Governors' Conference on the 'Role of National Education Policy 2020 in transforming Higher Education' chaired by Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind. In the conference, the initiative taken up by the State government in setting up e-Learning Communities to bridge the digital divide between students of urban, rural and remote areas has been highlighted and the commitment of the State government in implementing the National Education Policy 2020 has been re-affirmed.

As a follow up of the Governors' Conference on the role of NEP 2020 in Higher Education, a conference of the Vice Chancellors of Universities in the State was held on 16th October, emphasizing the need for implementation of NEP 2020 in its true spirit and the Vice Chancellors have been advised to ensure that Andhra Pradesh would be a role model in the country in implementation of NEP 2020.

Andhra Pradesh is blessed with abundant natural resources, fertile land, river basins, extensive canal system and conducive agro-climatic conditions. The State is also equipped with abundant human capital with huge potential and high level of progressive mindset and entrepreneurial aptitude.

The State government has introduced several business-friendly industrial policies and with robust physical and industrial infrastructure, Andhra

Pradesh is headed towards a growth trajectory and is bound to make giant strides in development in the future.

I deeply appreciate the untiring efforts of the Andhra Pradesh government, doctors, healthcare workers, Red Cross volunteers, voluntary organizations, police personnel, sanitation workers etc. in prevention of spread of Covid-19 and protecting lives of people and the society.

As new variants of Covid-19 are emerging by the day, I appeal to the people to remain guarded at all times and follow the Covid-appropriate behavior of wearing mask, maintain social distance and get themselves vaccinated as early as possible, if not already done.

I pray Lord Jagannath, Lord Venkateswara and Maa Kanakadurga, for the well being of the people of Andhra Pradesh and to continue to shower blessings on all of us.

Jai Hind