



सत्यमेव जयते

RAJ BHAVAN

Press Note:

People should learn to live in harmony with nature – AP
Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan

Vijayawada, June 08: Hon'ble Governor Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan participating as Chief Guest at the Valedictory session of World Environment Day 2020 celebrations, from Raj Bhavan on Monday, said Lock downs imposed by several countries across the world showed that nature can still flourish, if it is given a chance. The Governor said during these lockdowns, people witnessed pollution-free environment, clean air, pure water, animals roaming freely, demonstrating the fact that time has come for the man to live in harmony with nature.

Governor Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan participated in the Webinar held on the theme "It is time for Nature" jointly organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Telugu Association of North America (TANA), AP Non-Resident Telugu Society (APNRTS), Jignasa, End Now Foundation and others, through Video conference.

The Governor said the year 2020 began with major environmental disasters that impacted many lives across the world such as wild fires, cyclones, locust attacks and the Covid-19 pandemic and that all these calamities are a a reminder that the well being of the humanity is connected with a healthy planet. He said the current environmental crisis is a warning that must be addressed by all people collectively as it redefines man's relationship with the nature, the ecosystems and their biodiversity.

He further said that the food we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink and the climate that makes our planet livable, all come from nature.

The Governor further added that the Biodiversity is the foundation that supports all life on land and under the water and embodies every aspect of human life, providing clean air and water, nutritious food, natural resistance to disease and climate change mitigation. Changing, or removing one element of this web of biodiversity affects the entire life system and can produce negative consequences, said the Governor.

He further stated that the human actions such as deforestation, encroachment of wildlife habitats and acceleration of climate change, have caused immense damage to the nature beyond its limit and if it continues further, the loss of biodiversity will have severe implications for humanity, including the collapse of food and health systems.

The Governor said that the emergence of COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the fact that when biodiversity is destroyed, the system that supports human life is destroyed and studies show that every year about 75 per cent of all emerging infectious diseases in humans are zoonotic, transmitted to people from animals.

He advocated massive tree plantation as a solution that would help slow down the impact of climate change, protect people from environment degradation.

Sri B.S. Yeddiyurappa, Karnataka Chief Minister and Sri G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, participated in the programme as Guests of Honour. Sri Raja Kartikeya, UN Diplomat, Sri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, Karnataka Chief Secretary, Sri Ram Villivalan, Illinois State Senator, Mr. Andrew Fleming, Deputy High Commissioner of Britain, Sri Manmohan Singh, Former Special Chief Secretary, Sri Rajamouli, AP Principal Secretary, Sri P.V. Sunil Kumar, Additional DGP, have also addressed the gathering. The programme ended with an Environment

Pledge, Environment Day Declaration and announcement of awards to participants in various competitions organised on the occasion.

Sri Mukesh Kumar Meena, Secretary to Governor, was also present on the occasion.