

Republic Day Speech of Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh

Sri ESL Narasimhan

On January 26, 2017

ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ రాష్ట్ర ప్రజలందరికీ గణతంత్ర దినోత్సవ శుభాకాంక్షలు.

ఈ రోజు భారతీయులందరూ 68వ గణతంత్ర దినోత్సవాన్ని జాతీయ పండుగగా జరుపుకుంటున్నారు. ఈ శుభసమయాన మన స్వాతంత్ర్యం కోసం పోరాడిన ఎందరో మహనీయులను, త్యాగమూర్తులను, రాజ్యాంగ నిర్మాతలను స్మరించుకోవడం మన విధి. వారి త్యాగాల ఫలితంగానే నేడు మనం ఈ వేడుకులను ఘనంగా జరుపుకుంటున్నాం. వారి ఆశయాల మేరకు రాష్ట్ర సమగ్ర అభివృద్ధికి నాప్రభుత్వం అనేక కార్యక్రమాలు చేపడుతోంది. నా ప్రభుత్వం చేపట్టిన అనేక సంక్షేమ, అభివృద్ధి కార్యక్రమాలలో ప్రధాన అంశాలను ఒకసారి మననం చేసుకుందాం.

After the State re-organisation, this is the third occasion I am addressing the people of this State on the Republic Day. During these last two and half years, we have achieved remarkable progress on all fronts. Undaunted by the hurdles that ensued in the wake of bifurcation, Andhra Pradesh is making big strides on the path of development thanks to visionary leadership.

Undaunted by the numerous challenges post bifurcation my Government converted every crisis into an opportunity thanks to an astute leadership. The results are visible and these include: completion of Pattiseema in a definite timeframe,

moving ahead with Polavaram project, transforming of 22 million units of power deficit to a surplus status, undertaking innovative drought proofing measures, especially in Rayalaseema.

In our endeavour to establish a happy, healthy and globally competitive society and in sync with our vision to become one among the best three States in the country by 2022, the best State by 2029 and the best investment destination in the World by 2050, we are working out resilient strategies on a sustained basis.

Moving towards global transformation:

The State Government is relentlessly making efforts to put on track the development agenda. At a time, when the world is moving ahead from the 8 Millennium Development Goals paradigm to 17 Sustainable Development Goals, I believe it's time we move in sync with them for a total transformation towards 'Prosperity with Happiness' of our society.

Sustained economic growth

While the State Re-organization had put tremendous stress on the financial and other resources, my Government's commitment to surge forward with specific growth strategies yielding a fruitful result-double digit inclusive growth, continues relentlessly.

Growth story of Andhra Pradesh revealed encouraging trends. Due to untiring efforts and innovative

policies, my Government could successfully post a healthy growth rate of 12.23% during the first half of the financial year 2016-17.

Andhra Pradesh, as a predominantly agrarian State where about 60% of the population eke out their livelihood in the Primary Sector, needs special focus on agriculture. The Primary Sector mission set up in the State is working closely with the departments in delivering results, especially in productivity improvement and value addition. As a result of unstinted efforts, Agriculture and Allied sectors have shown phenomenal growth of 24.44% during the first half (April-Sept2016) of the current financial year. Fisheries with 42.57%, Livestock with 14.91% and Horticulture with 18.33% have been providing support to the agriculture sector.

As Service Sector is one of the major contributors to growth, my Government is contemplating to focus on the key sub-sectors pertinent to services sector and give it a big push.

We are confident that our State will sustain this growth for the financial year 2016-17 and beyond as we have recognized that maintaining impressive economic growth as an imperative for sustained development leading to a happy society.

Holistic framework and Global Benchmarking

Innovations and technology are my Government's initiatives for accelerated socio economic development. Our effort on

adoption of participatory and innovative digital financial inclusion, real time governance and a comprehensive monitoring framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) linked to the themes of Kutumba Vikasam and Samaja Vikasam programmes, will go a long way in accomplishing the vision targets and in setting global bench marks for realizing our objective of making Andhra Pradesh a happy, healthy, prosperous, inclusive and globally competitive society.

Effective dealing of demonetization issues

Recently, the Union Government has taken a bold decision to control black money and eliminate corruption. With a view to ameliorate the temporary hardships of people following demonetization of the high denomination currency notes, my Government has come up with innovative approaches to encourage and promote adoption of digital currency, payment methods and incentivisation mechanism.

We have launched a special campaign in the entire State for enhancing Digital Financial Literacy for encouraging cashless transactions. A large section of population including students, SHG women, MGNREGS job cardholders, pensioners and FP shop owners have been sensitized to spread digital financial literacy.

Janmabhoomi – Maa Vooru

To make the people of the State partners in the development process and to bring the administration to their door step, my

Government have launched 4th round of Janmabhoomi – Maa Vooru program during this month across all the Grampanchayats and Municipal wards with 15 themes of Kutumba Vikasam and 10 themes of Samaja Vikasam as the key focus areas.

We, therefore, have an enlarged vision to make Andhra Pradesh poverty-free State ensuring growth that is inclusive. It is a matter of pride to announce that the perception surveys undertaken during the programme have been highly encouraging and meeting our norms of achieving about 80% people's satisfaction on the governance.

Inter linking of rivers - Polavaram, the lifeline

The long cherished dream of interlinking of major rivers Godavari & Krishna became reality with the inauguration of Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme in a record time of 1 year and water is released through all the pumps and motors in March 2016. During the year 2015-16, about 8 TMC of water is diverted through River Krishna saving Khariff crop in 8 lakh acres with conjunctive use of Ground Water which yielded crop estimated at Rs. 2500 Crore. During this year, about 56 TMC of water is diverted and Khariff crop in 10.65 lakh acres in Krishna Delta could be saved.

The Union Government in tune with its commitment to fully support completion of Polavaram as a national project, released an amount of about Rs.1981 crore through NABARD to the Polavaram Project Authority. We have started concrete works at

the Polavaram dam site. My Government invited farmers from all the 13 districts to be part of the celebration, making it as a memorable event. My Government is focusing on completion of Polavaram Project by 2019.

My Government is consciously working out completion of other priority projects within a definite timeframe. Vamsadhara project is expected to be completed by June 2018 and the interlinking of Swarnamukhi-Vamsadhara Rivers would be taken up and completed at the earliest. We are committed to set up 'smart water grid' through interlinking of rivers.

Water management – Neeru Pragati:

My Government is committed to provide access to quality drinking water by conservation and sustainable management of its water resources. Efficiency enhancement, conserving groundwater resources, and increasing irrigation potential are the chief goals for this sector. We also aim to drought proof the State and provide safe drinking water for all the people.

My Government is implementing strategies for effective water resource management such as improving ground water and surface water levels, Neeru-Pragathi, improving irrigation potential for major, medium, and minor projects, Panta Sanjeevini, Panta Raksha, and bore wells.

Large-scale implementation of the farm pond (Panta Sanjeevini) concept has become a boon for the farmers of rain-

fed districts of Andhra Pradesh. The farm ponds help in storing rainwater and gradually raise the groundwater level in surrounding areas are making farmers happy. Under the scheme, we are targeting to dig over 5 lakh farm ponds in the State during this year and the progress is encouraging.

Farmer-friendly approach

I am glad to inform that my Government has secured 7th position in the Agricultural Marketing & Farm Friendly Reforms Index launched by the NITI Aayog. Out of 13 Best Practices from the States across the Nation pertaining to Agriculture and Allied Sectors selected by NITI Aayog for 2016, two are from our State.

My Government has put in maximum efforts for achieving higher growth in the sector despite deficit rainfall. As a strategic intervention and as it proved to be a successful experiment in the kharif season this year, we are planning to deploy Rain guns during Rabi season and ensuing Kharif as an yield protection measure by placing their services based on the soil moisture assessment. We are also planning to give adequate wettings to the groundnut crop in Rayalaseema districts to protect the yields.

'Horticulture' sector is an integral element for food and nutritional security in the State. A.P ranks 1st in the production of Oil-palm, Papaya, Citrus and Chillies, 2nd in the production of Mango & Tomato in the Country. 6.93 lakh Ha. of area has been covered under Micro irrigation in the State benefitting 6.25 lakh

farmers. To achieve the concept of **“More crop per Drop”**, micro irrigation is being encouraged by the State Government. My Government targets to cover 1 million farmers in next three years under Farmer Producer Organisations for Agriculture & Allied sectors to establish forward and backward linkages and to promote the products of Andhra Pradesh to global standards.

Livestock sector has been showing enormous potential for growth. We focus on improvement in production of milk, meat and egg under livestock sector so as to earn a minimum Rs.10,000 income per month to every household concerned. My Government is planning to prepare an action plan to supply feed & fodder including silage, concentrate feed in saturation mode to the farmers at 50% subsidy throughout the State.

Growth in Fisheries sector has been a revelation in the recent past. My Government is preparing an action plan to exploit the existing resources to full extent and adopt best practices to achieve a growth rate of 50% in the fisheries sector. We are also working out to provide the insurance in shrimp and tying up MGNREGS funds to dig fish ponds and farm ponds so as to facilitate farmers to take up fish culture. In the years to come, Andhra Pradesh State will become the **‘Aqua Hub’** of the World.

My Government has launched **‘Vanam Manam’** programme as a people’s movement and preparing action plan for covering about 50 per cent of land across the State by greenery by the year 2029, under the Mission Harithandhra

Pradesh campaign. The entire process will be monitored with geo-tagging. Giving urban forestry a huge fillip, sustained efforts are being taken up to ensure that all Nagara Vanams are operational by the end March, 2017.

Despite a revenue deficit, we have been implementing the debt redemption scheme through **Farmers' Empowerment Organization**. This is a defining moment as no Government in the country has ever embarked on loan redemption of such magnitude, regardless of the economics of this socially relevant measure under difficult circumstances.

My Government is adopting State of the art models to follow the track of a cyclone before land fall and simulate its impact on coastal areas for possible wind damage and storm surge inundation.

Welfare – our priority

With a concern to lend a helping hand to the pensioners, we have enhanced welfare pensions by five-fold. Under '**NTR Bharosa**' scheme, the monthly pension to destitute women and the aged has been raised from a meagre Rs.200 to Rs.1000. The differently-abled are also happy that their monthly pension has been raised to Rs.1500. In addition to the existing 43 lakh pensions, 3.5 lakh pensions have been distributed during the recent Janma Bhoomi programme.

My Government has established a robust citizen centric and integrated institutional mechanism to deliver services through all Government programmes, schemes and activities to eradicate poverty and enhance empowerment. Under Chandranna Bima Scheme, 52.47 lakh beneficiaries have been covered during the first half year and we are targeting to saturate the coverage of beneficiaries in the current year. We intend to cover missing marine fishermen under this insurance scheme.

My Government gearing up to supply ration under public distribution system to all eligible who have applied for ration cards from January, 2017 onwards. With a view to ensure celebration in every household, commodities have been provided through public distribution system under Christmas Kanuka, Sankranthi Kanuka and Ramjan Thofa. My Government is taking necessary steps to declare AP as 100% LPG connection (Kerosene free) State by June 2017. Steps will also be taken up for supply of 5kg cylinder in hilly and tribal areas where transport facilities are limited.

My Government is contemplating to bring all the welfare departments under one platform for coordination and assessment of effectiveness and efficiency in delivery. We are planning to conduct awareness programmes on availing **NTR Vidyonnathi** scheme.

Reflecting our commitment for development of SCs and STs in the State, my Government has taken adequate care in ensuring implementation of SC/ST sub-plans in letter and spirit. Under **'Unnathi'** programme, Rs. 210 crore has been provided as loan to 58,000 SC, ST and other poor families for livelihood and asset creation during this year.

My Government has specific concern for welfare of Backward Classes. In respect of minorities also, several programmes are being implemented with a view to make growth inclusive. About 3.26 lakh ST students, 4.6 lakh SC students, 2.6 lakh minority students are getting benefitted under scholarship schemes. Interests of Kapu and Brahmin communities are also being protected through appropriate measures.

Education-our main stay

My Government is keen to achieve 100% literacy by 2019 and is making all out efforts to achieve this landmark. We will soon embark on conducting online courses through **'AP e-knowledge exchange'** which will be a forum for discussions by students, schools and researchers. About one lakh teachers have already been partnered in this endeavour.

Technical education is reaching new heights in the State and with the advent of new premier institutions in engineering, medicine, management and other disciplines, I am sure my

Government will make Andhra Pradesh, hub of technical education. Skill development is being given adequate focus.

Affordable health facilities:

My Government is continuously attempting innovative steps for improvement of maternal and child health care to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. Noteworthy progress has been achieved during this current financial year. Over 2 lakh mothers have made use of **Talli-Bidda Express**, 1.39 lakh patients covered under **NTR Vaidya Seva**, 100% achievement in children breastfed exclusively for 6 months, 99% pregnant women were provided supplementary nutrition regularly and 72.34% achievement in child malnutrition immunisation (0-5 years) and several other health related issues have been addressed.

Necessary steps are being taken for completion of construction of incomplete anganwadi buildings and for filling up of vacancies of anganwadi workers and Helpers.

Capacity building – Harnessing the Human capital

We are adopting a multi-pronged strategy to convert our vision into reality. Taking the State to new heights will require welfare measures, sustainable harnessing of natural resources, and development of infrastructure and of human resource. To meet the requirements of the growing economy, my Government has established a corporation exclusively for skill development. Our Government is working closely with reputed organizations to devise practical and effective skill development strategies.

My Government has provided Rs. 4569 crore through bank linkage and Rs. 464 crore to about 2.5 lakh SHG women towards creation of livelihoods. We are firming up the strategy for an assured monthly income of Rs. 10,000 to every SHG household.

Providing employment to youth stands top on priority list. While encouraging employment in the private sector, my Government is issuing notifications for vacancies in various Government departments. Sports persons are getting encouragement and adequate infrastructure support to prove their talent in international competitions. My greetings to P.V.Sindhu who has excelled in the Olympics and brought silver medal to the Country.

Culture and Heritage

Protecting the cultural heritage and respecting the age-old sentiments of people, my Government has organized Krishna Pushkarams in a highly festive environment. A total of 1.62 crore pilgrims visited various ghats in the State during the event.

The biggest achievement of this Krishna Pushkaram is that our administration was able to organize the event smoothly and effectively with the help of centralized monitoring system 'Command Communication Centre' at Vijayawada. A magnificent river front structure was setup by my Government at Pavithra Sangamam with recreational and tourism facilities in the vicinity.

In our efforts to encourage native arts and culture and as part of the '**5th International Kuchipudi Dance Convention**', we have organised classical dance of Andhra Pradesh 'Kuchipudi' which found a place in the Guinness World Records yet again when a record 6,117 dancers coming together from all across the World to present a show of the dance form.

Encouraging scientific temper

My Government enjoys the pride of having organised the 104th Indian Science Congress in Tirupati with 'Science and Technology for National Development' as the focal theme. World renowned scientists including Nobel laureates have participated in the conclave which has marked a great leap in the history of Indian Science. My Government has pledged to give a reward of Rs.100 crore to the Nobel winner from this State. I hope that this decision will motivate our scientists to redouble their efforts.

Coinciding with the Indian Science Conference, building on the dream of former President and scientist A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, we are starting an international science museum — "**Brahmand**" which will soon dot the skyline of the temple city of Tirupati. The facility would enable a brief stay of students for conducting experiments and research.

Information Technology

With a view to create the People Hub as a reliable single source of database, my Government has undertaken

‘Prajasadhikara Survey’ to capture the required socio-economic data directly in digital form, with online validations. 1.37 crore households and 4.32 crore family members have been covered under the survey. Impressed by the successful implementation of the Prajasadhikara Survey in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana has proposed to emulate it.

Under the E-Pragati chapter of the project, real time data could be collected with effective use of technology in programmes like electrification, cleanliness and controlling pollution.

New capital and other infrastructure

In our endeavour to build a world-class capital city for new Andhra Pradesh at Amaravati, my Government is making all out efforts. We have shifted our complete administration to the new capital.

I am sure the new capital city will be an ideal role model in the entire country and perhaps the World. Master Plan of the new capital city has been notified with more than 90% of the land in possession. The Infrastructure Plan is completed and tendering work for major roads and underground cabling of EHT lines is in progress. My Government has appointed the Master Architect for Government complex and land is allotted for various Educational and Medical Institutions like– VIT, SRM, Amrita, Indo-UK Health Institute, Dr. BR Shetty Medical City and various Central and State Government Organizations.

My Government is committed to provide shelter to poor and under NTR rural housing scheme, 49,000 houses have been grounded. In urban areas houses are planned under Affordable Housing Program and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

My Government is keen to consider building economic cities and proposals in respect of Amaravati and a few other cities are being considered.

Energy security

My Government can proudly announce a number of success stories in the power sector. From the status of a power deficit State in June 2014, we have not only become a power surplus State but able to provide power to all domestic consumers on 24x7 basis. This year we have energized more than 52,000 agriculture pump-sets and energization of the pending agricultural bore wells is our priority. Our performance on the additional non-conventional capacity generation – both solar and wind is very encouraging. My Government has successfully brought down the T&D losses to single digit.

My Government has put in place several technological interfaces such as on-line feeder monitoring system; Geo-tagging of agriculture bore wells; Smart metering installation; Utilization of '**Kaizala app**' for all employees and HT Consumers. We are also moving towards cashless transactions for DISCOMS. Mori village in the East Godavari district stands as an example in the Country as it has gone fully digital with all the households

enjoying Wi-Fi, Internet connectivity and cable TV while making all transactions cashless.

The fibre grid connectivity is taking complete shape. All the issues that may arise during the execution of Fibre cable connections to offices / households / schools are being sorted out.

In recognition of our outstanding efforts and achievements in various sectors, my Government has received national and international level awards. The State received five awards in Energy sector, one award each in Irrigation sector for better water management, Industries sector in Ease of Doing Business, Revenue for **Mee-kosam portal** - a public grievance redressal forum and one award to the Finance department.

Airports

The Vijayawada, Tirupati and Visakhapatnam airports have witnessed highest growth in the country in terms of passenger traffic. The works of new airports at Bhogapuram, Orvakallu, Dagadarthi, Nagarjunasagar, Donakonda and expansion works at Vijayawada, Rajahmundry are progressing.

Ports, Logistics Parks, Inland Waterways & Beach Corridor

My Government has initiated the land pooling and land acquisition works of Machilipatnam and Bhavanapadu ports and on the inland waterways front, we are expediting the land acquisition for the identified land through delineation in the coastal districts of East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna. We

are expediting the work relating to identification of the land needed for the priority section of the Beach corridor project at Kakinada in East Godavari District to Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram District.

Industries and investments

North coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema regions are expected to witness a major boost in the food processing sector as eight mega food parks are being planned by private firms in the State. While five of the food parks are expected to come up in the four coastal districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari, three of them are being planned in the Rayalaseema districts of Chittoor, Kurnool and Anantapuramu.

Andhra Pradesh has become a global leader in Ease of Doing Business. Andhra Pradesh is ranked No.1 in Ease of Doing Business, 2016 as per the ranking given by World Bank.

My Government is signing MoUs with private investors for an estimated investment of Rs 5,980 crore in the State. At the same time, at least two ultra-mega food parks are also expected to take shape in the next couple of years.

We are planning to complete all the 102 projects which are in various stages of completion as soon as possible. Proposals of 80 industries worth Rs.15,000 crore are being finalised and revival of sick industries is being examined.

It is matter of pride that my Government got the opportunity to host Partnership Summit 2017 & 2nd Sunrise AP Investment Meet in succession at Visakhapatnam on 27th and 28th January, 2017. Several Ministers of Trade from various countries and key industry representatives have already confirmed their participation.

My Government is moving fast on setting up of Coastal Economic and Employment Zone at Krishnapatnam and graded incentives are being proposed for industrial units based on employment generated in this zone. With an intent to boost indigenization in upstream oil & gas sector, my Government is keen to set up Petroleum Economic Zone in the State.

My Government is interested to step up MSME credit performance needs during the year. Efforts are being made to extend full support to this sector.

Tourism

As part of our commitment to promote tourism, tourist circuits have also been proposed covering the pilgrim centres and nature's attractions in districts. My Government is planning to organize weekend culture program every fortnight in each district.

Sustaining the momentum – need of the hour

చివరిగా..

మన రాజ్యాంగ నిర్మాతలు ఆశించినట్లు అభివృద్ధి ఫలాలు అందరికీ సమంగా అందేలా కృషి చేద్దాం. ఇందుకోసం అందరం చేయి చేయి కలిపి పరస్పర సహకారంతో సమిష్టిగా కృషి చేద్దాం.

స్వర్ణాంధ్రప్రదేశ్ సాధన కోసం అనుక్షణం శ్రమిద్దాం. ఈ లక్ష్య సాధనలో యువతరం ముందుకు రావాలని, ఉత్సాహంగా, స్వచ్ఛందంగా ప్రభుత్వ అభివృద్ధి కార్యక్రమాలలో పాల్గొనాలని కోరుతూ....

అందరికీ మరోమారు శుభాభివందనాలు.

Jai Hind