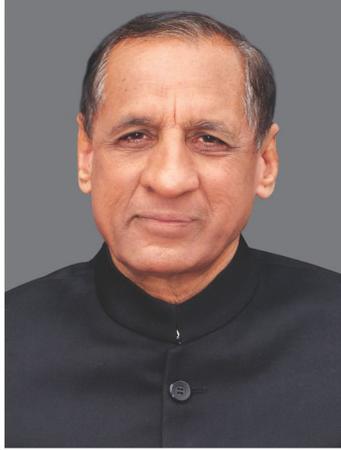




REPUBLIC DAY SPEECH OF
H.E. THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH



Shri E.S.L. Narasimhan

on 26th January, 2014

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH FOR REPUBLIC DAY

I extend warm and joyful greetings to my fellow citizens of Andhra Pradesh on this 65th Republic Day. 26th January is forever etched in our memory and forms the most significant landmark in our tryst with democracy. On this day 64 years ago, our Constitution was unveiled enshrining our rights and responsibilities as citizens of this great nation.

2. Our Constitution embodies the yearnings of generations of Indians for equity of opportunity and social justice regardless of caste, colour, and creed. Our Constitution is a love of labour reflecting the wisdom and foresight of our founding fathers under the able stewardship of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. It envisages balanced development of all the regions, with harmony amongst its people, good governance for a stable social order, and heralds the rise of independent India as a global player.
3. India in its journey as a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, and Democratic Republic has made rapid strides in successfully taking forward an inclusive development agenda to towering heights. Today brand India is shining in a

globalised world and is a matter of pride for all of us. Rapid economic development, self sufficiency in food production, harnessing of Science & Technology for building up strategic capability & disaster preparedness, and recent breakthroughs in space technologies have filled us all with a sense of pride.

4. I am glad that the efforts of my Government are bearing fruits and the performance of the State's economy is heartening. Our endeavours for all round development coupled with relentless effort to usher in citizen's welfare by harnessing information technology and good governance practices have made Andhra Pradesh a happening State.
5. Notwithstanding nature's fury by way of cyclonic storms that devastated the State in the months of October, and November, Andhra Pradesh is all set to achieve record food grain production of over 207 Lakh Million Tonnes (LMTs) during 2013-14, surpassing its previous best of 204 LMTs achieved in 2007-08. This entire credit is due to our hardy and resilient farming community who have borne the vicissitudes of nature's fury undeterred with rare courage and fortitude. On my own behalf and on behalf of people of Andhra Pradesh I convey my grateful thanks to my farmer brethren.

6. Reflecting definite improvement in living standards, the per capita income of Andhra Pradesh moved upwards rapidly in the recent past. From Rs. 69,350 during 2011-12, the per capita income went up to Rs. 78,564 in 2012-13, showing an increase of 13.29%. I am glad that Andhra Pradesh is way ahead of the Country in registering higher per capita income and more so for maintaining this consistent trend during the last 10 years.
7. Reflecting the global trends, the performance of our economy during 2012-13, the first year of the 12th Plan, has only been moderate. As per the latest estimates, the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is Rs.7.49 lakh crore. The GSDP growth at 2004-05 prices in 2012-13 is 5.78% which is higher than the national average.
8. With encouraging rainfall and good sowings, the GSDP for the current year is expected to be higher than the growth achieved by the state in the previous year.
9. Andhra Pradesh stands tall among the States, with the largest outlay of over Rs.3.43 lakh crore for the 12th Plan period. With robust and sector specific growth strategies in place, the State is poised to address all the challenges.
10. A clutch of welfare and development programmes being implemented by the State

have succeeded in paying a rich dividend with inclusive growth as the outcome. A significant reduction in basic poverty level in the past 7 years from 29.9% in 2004-05 to 9.2% in 2011-12 testifies to the efficacy as well as success of my Government's programmes in poverty alleviation.

11. While we need accelerated growth, we do not view growth as an end in itself. Our real objective must be to improve the condition of lives of the common man and it is for this reason we emphasize that growth must be inclusive. Rapid economic development compatible with inclusive growth is our goal by putting in place strategies providing access to increase in employment avenues & incomes.
12. I have a deep concern for the people who were affected by the recent cyclones. While drought during Kharif 2013 severely affected the economy of the State, cyclones in the form of Phailin, Helen and Leher occurred in the months of October and November resulted in huge losses to Agriculture, Horticulture sectors and Infrastructure relating to public and private sectors in several districts. The timely rescue operations taken up by the officials and nongovernment organizations deserve special commendation.
13. All of us as citizens cherish Good Governance

as an effective tool that safeguards human rights, delivers justice, ensures rule of law and public order, and creates a climate of equal opportunity for all the strata of society. It is also a prerequisite and enabler of growth and equity and seeks to root out all forms of rent seeking while delivering timely, seamless and quality services at the doorstep of citizens.

14. Public servants of all the hierarchies acting in unison are a means to this end. A good work man never neglects his tools. Alive to this adage, my Government have ushered in cashless medical treatment for the benefit of serving employees as well as pensioners. Inflation affects fixed income earners and government servants fall in this category. The State Government have announced an interim relief of 27% which has been the highest and would come as a welcome relief. The 10th Pay Revision Commission will address the other service conditions and betterment in due course.
15. As a reward for our relentless effort towards development and good governance, Andhra Pradesh has been conferred on "Best Performing State in Governance" award by India Today in its "State of the States" conclave. Outcomes of various people-friendly initiatives put in place by my government

targeting the poor and vulnerable justify the selection.

16. Let me outline some of my Government's achievements under various good governance and outreach initiatives.
17. My Government have been successfully implementing Rachabanda, a people-centric initiative and a massive outreach program aimed at bringing governance to the doorstep of the people on saturation criterion. Under the 3rd round of Rachabanda programme held during November 2013, sanctions have been accorded for about 14.52 lakh ration cards, 8.43 lakh pensions - including 0.77 lakh disabled pensions, 0.56 lakh Bangaru Talli certificates and 13.65 lakh houses.
18. Empowering women and facilitating faster socio-economic development of the girl children have been the prime concerns of my government. Andhra Pradesh Bangaru Talli Girl Child Promotion and Empowerment Act, 2013 provides financial incentives to girl children born in the State on or after 1st May 2013 and till they attain the age of 21 Years. Under the scheme, over one lakh beneficiaries have been paid first milestone financial incentive of Rs.27 crore @ Rs.2,500/- each.
19. Under the Indiramma Pensions Scheme, pension coverage is being provided to 76.26

lakh to the old, differently-abled, weavers, toddy tappers, and widows. These benefits are disbursed every month through Direct Benefit Transfer mode.

20. We believe that economic empowerment of women holds the key for transformative rejuvenation of the poor and with this objective a number of pension schemes like Abhaya Hastham, Aam Admi Bima Yojana and Janshree Bima Yojana have been initiated to cover the SHG members with access to Social Safety nets and entitlements. Under the Abhaya Hastham pension scheme, an amount of Rs. 928 crore has been spent covering 5.33 lakh pensioners since inception of the scheme.
21. Andhra Pradesh with the goal of providing shelter for all stands first in the country in providing pucca houses to the deserving poor both in rural and urban areas. 66.11 lakh houses have been completed since 2004 and 8.38 lakh more houses are in various stages of progress.
22. About 7.75 lakh acres of cultivable land was distributed since 2005 in six phases as a part of the massive Land Distribution programme to 5.5 lakh SCs/STs. Under the ongoing 7th phase land distribution program, out of an identified extent of over one lakh acres of cultivable government land, an extent of

58,770 acres has already been distributed to over 39,000 beneficiaries.

23. My Government is providing rice at a highly subsidized price under the Public Distribution System for ensuring Food Security and enhancing nutritional support. During 2012-13, 7.87 crore consumers were provided Rice @ Rs.1 per kg. with a subsidy totalling Rs.3,210 Crore.
24. My Government have announced an incentive price of Rs.1500/- per quintal for superfine varieties of paddy to encourage production of these varieties. Under the "Mana Biyyam" scheme, Rice procured in the district is being distributed to the cardholders in the same district through the fair price shops.
25. My Government is aware that food & shelter form the core needs of the poor. To insulate the poor from the price rise of essential commodities, we continue to provide a pack of nine essential commodities at Rs.185/-, to white cardholders under 'Amma Hastam' scheme.
26. To implement in true letter and spirit the landmark legislation which provides a statutory framework for Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), public representatives have been involved in identifying habitation wise works under

"Indiramma Kalalu" programme. These works are included under the Sub Plan and are being taken up on priority during the current year.

27. It is indeed my proud privilege to pronounce that my Government have been working for the development and welfare of dalits, tribes, backward classes, minorities and the other under-privileged sections of the society. An amount of Rs. 4096 crore has been spent during the year 2012-13 towards all forms of scholarships to benefit 27 lakh students of these communities.
28. My Government is implementing Ambedkar Overseas Vidya Nidhi scheme to encourage SC students to pursue overseas education. Under the scheme each student will get a grant of Rs.10 lakh, besides visa facilitation.
29. Health and nutrition go hand in hand. A healthy mother paves the way for a happy household. Under 'Indiramma Amrutha Hastam' programme, through high priority ICDS projects nutritional support through one cooked meal is being extended to 2.86 lakh pregnant women & 2.77 lakh lactating mothers during the current fiscal with an outlay of Rs.148 crore. The Nutrition cum Day Care Centers (NDCCs) run by the SHGs are providing the meal.

30. My Government have been successfully implementing various welfare measures for the benefit of backward classes, such as maintenance of pre-Matric hostels, residential schools, and maintenance of college hostels for boys and girls. My Government is undertaking construction of 9 new BC Residential Schools. My Government have also taken up online monitoring of BC welfare hostels to improve their functioning.
31. Through innovative programs like 'Punadi' and 'Quest', my Government is committed to achieve quality education at all levels in Tribal Welfare educational institutions. My Government is implementing a special policy for fostering entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Physically challenged youth.
32. MAARPU – a convergence initiative among departments relating to delivery of health services for improving the health and nutritional levels of women and children is proving effective by significantly reducing Maternal and Infant Mortality Rates with the support of Self Help Groups at the community level.
33. Andhra Pradesh has made headway in area, productivity and production of food grains. As a part of our strategy to encourage farming,

we have been ensuring timely credit, free power and input subsidy to the farmers. To sensitize farmers of the latest information and disseminate the technological advances, we have organized Rythu Chaitanya Yatras and Rythu sadassulu during April-May 2013. These programmes have a telling effect on the small and marginal farmers in adopting new varieties and best agricultural practices.

34. In order to achieve the targeted food grain production, 31.84 lakh metric tons of fertilizers were supplied during the last kharif and 31.5 lakh metric tons of fertilizers are proposed to be supplied during the current rabi season to the farmers. Supply of 12.32 lakh quintals of quality seed with a subsidy of Rs. 192.4 crore to farmers will be another important measure for achieving the goals set.
35. My Government is committed to supply free power to the farmers, notwithstanding the difficult power situation. Adequate power has been ensured to over 32 lakh pump sets in the State with a subsidy of Rs. 5449 crore during 2012-13.
36. My Government have targeted to deliver Rs. 67,224 crore of Agriculture credit during 2013-14 as against Rs. 37,574 crore during 2009-10. We have been implementing improved incentive scheme of Vaddi Leni

Runalu (0% interest crop loans) under which farmer need to repay only principal amount and State Government remits the interest amount directly to the banks. Under this initiative, claims amounting to Rs. 347 crore have been settled benefitting nearly 31 lakh farmers. Due importance is being given to farm mechanization and convergence of agriculture with MGNREGS which is closely monitored to ensure the availability of labour especially during the peak agriculture season.

37. My government is giving thrust to Post-harvest Management of horticultural produce as it is an important activity for value addition by reducing losses and enhancing quality.
38. In order to extend a helping hand to the poultry sector which is facing challenges, my Government have decided to give 50% subsidy on power with effect from December 1, 2013 up to March 31, 2014. During this year, my Government have targeted to supply 32,593 high-yielding milch animals and heifers to eligible farmers.
39. Fisheries is evolving as an important sub sector of agriculture sector. More than five lakh families are engaged in marine fishing which provides livelihood to approximately 15 lakh people. The State now contributes Rs.3241 crore by way of marine exports, which

accounts for 40% of the marine exports from India.

40. Irrigation and Power are the crucial inputs that have a decisive role in economic development. Under 'Jala Yagnam', 82 projects were grounded so far at an estimated cost of Rs.1.68 lakh crore. Of these, 17 projects were completed and 24 partially completed creating an irrigation potential of 23.36 lakh acres, which includes stabilization of 3.96 lakh acres.
41. I am happy to inform you that the 'Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanti' and 'Pulichintala' were inaugurated recently. The 'Yellampally' project and 'Manthani Lift-Irrigation Scheme' are at an advanced stage of completion. Along with major and medium projects, we are equally emphasizing minor irrigation.
42. In the power sector, we plan to add 9709 MW of capacity to the existing 16,669 MW during the 12th Plan period. The year 2014 is hopefully the best year for new capacity addition in the power sector starting with the commissioning of the 800 MW Krishnapatnam first unit.
43. My Government is giving adequate attention to electrification of un-electrified SC habitations, provision of electricity connections to 50,000 SC households and energizing irrigation sources. For all the SC families utilizing less than 50 units power per

month, waiver of electricity charges amounting to Rs. 67 crore per annum was announced. This will benefit 7.69 lakh SC families. My Government is also providing adequate power supply to industries through express and dedicated industrial feeders. We have taken up energy efficiency and energy conservation activities in a big way.

44. Andhra Pradesh has made significant inroads in the implementation of rural development programmes and emerged as leader in the country.
45. Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, 24.5 crore work days have been generated to benefit 97.6 lakh wage seekers incurring an expenditure of Rs. 4243 crore so far in the current financial year. An amount of Rs.23,512 crore has been spent under the scheme since 2009-10. My Government have also enhanced the wage rate to Rs.149/- from Rs.137/- per day under this scheme.
46. More than 1.16 crore rural women organized into 10.6 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) in our State are engaged in various economic activities. We wish to nurture the SHG-Bank linkage further as it is a potent means facilitating financial inclusion of the poor.
47. Under the Stthree Nidhi Credit Cooperatives initiative, my Government have promoted to

address the issue of finances for meeting emergent and other needs of the poorest of the poor, an amount of Rs.1459 crore has been disbursed so far to 8.66 lakh members.

48. Under the land development project Indira Jala Prabha, my Government have so far brought 2.39 lakh acres of barren land belonging to poorest of the poor SC/ST households under cultivation with an investment of Rs.360 crore.
49. My Government also launched 'Indiramma Pachcha thoranam' scheme under which planting of bulk wood and fruit-bearing trees is taken up on vacant government lands for providing sustainable employment to the landless SC and ST households.
50. Under the 'Rajiv Yuva Kiranaalu' programme, necessary training, skills & placement have been provided so far to 4.36 lakh youth. Some of the other States are also keen to emulate the spirit and structure of this programme.
51. Education is an essential component of human development. Towards achieving quality education, my Government have introduced a new curriculum on human values and professional ethics for first year students in all degree colleges from the academic year 2013-14. As part of our efforts to strengthen school education, 234 model schools will be set up in the second phase in the State.

52. Under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, 3,667 primary schools have been opened in school less habitations and 5,943 primary schools have been upgraded to upper primary schools in the State during the last five years. 38,319 teacher posts have been sanctioned for providing quality education in primary schools and upper primary schools. The dropout rate of children for classes I to X has come down from 53.36% to 37.82%. The Midday meal programme not only improved retention, but also contributed to improvement in the nutrition levels of school children.
53. My Government have taken up construction of new school buildings, sanction of additional School Assistant Posts in a large scale under Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA).
54. Technical education is recognized as a key area for promoting quality education and enriching scientific temper among the youth. The Technical Education department anchors a key sub-mission under Rajiv Yuva Kiranaalu. During this year, my Government have launched a large recruitment drive. My Government accorded administrative sanction for 21 new Polytechnic buildings and for establishing 25 Skill Development Centers in all the districts to strengthen technical education.

55. My Government have introduced 2% sports quota in all Government recruitments to encourage persons with outstanding sporting abilities. My Government have also made sports a curriculum in all schools in order to promote physical education, sports and games for the holistic development of school children. Construction of stadia and modernization of sport facilities is being taken up at a cost of Rs.200 crore.
56. My Government is committed to providing affordable and equitable quality health care to all citizens of the State. My Government have initiated a number of measures to strengthen the health system. Improvements to medical education and super-speciality care across the State by strengthening the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) and Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS) are on the anvil. The Visakhapatnam Institute of Medical Sciences will be developed as a centre of excellence in super-speciality care. Strengthening and consolidating our flagship health programme, Arogya Sri, which continues to provide advanced tertiary care for a very large number of patients is underway. It is heartening that the 104 and 108 health services are continuing their exemplary performance.

57. The Information Technology sector in Andhra Pradesh is surging ahead and registered a turnover of over Rs.64,000 crore during 2012-13. The total recruitment of IT professionals in this sector in our State stands at 3.27 lakh. This vital sector's growth rate is expected to be robust during the current year.
58. Government of India have recently notified Hyderabad as Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR). Hyderabad ITIR is expected to be developed in an area of about 202 square km. On completion, ITIR will generate an estimated revenue of around Rs.3.11 lakh crore, besides providing direct employment to nearly 15 lakh professionals and indirect employment which will benefit 5 million people. My Government have initiated measures to set up IT incubation centres in several cities and towns across the State. IT Investment Region (ITIR) in Visakhapatnam is soon expected to be in place and this project is likely get clearances on a fast-track mode.
59. Mee Seva, an online web based citizen-centric service facility to provide quick and easy access to the citizens is being implemented successfully. Mee Seva currently offers 235 citizen-centric services through more than 7000 Common Service Centers spread across the State pertaining to 20 departments. Mee

Seva has so far completed over 3.64 crore transactions and has also been bestowed with "Gold Icon National e-Governance award" by Government of India for this year.

60. My Government have approved a policy for promoting gaming, animation, media and entertainment (GAME) sectors. In tune with it, a first-of-its kind GAME Park in Ranga Reddy district is coming up. This Park, upon successful completion will provide office space to 100 enterprises, employment opportunities for 15,000 professionals and will achieve US \$500 million in exports.
61. My Government was successful in obtaining clearances amounting to Rs.12,000 crore for 252 projects under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to improve the civic infrastructure in all the urban areas. My Government have also sanctioned Rs.3,725 crore to bring in Godavari waters to address current as well as future needs of Hyderabad Metropolis. Krishna water phase-III project, aimed at providing 90 million gallons of water daily with an outlay of Rs.1,670 crore, is under progress. Further, Andhra Pradesh Municipal Development Project with World Bank assistance and support from 13th Finance Commission will ensure planned growth of urban areas in our State over next four years.

62. It is heartening to note that my Government have introduced a revised Citizens' Charter in all urban local bodies brining in accountability.
63. My Government have taken up construction of 4-lane road-bridge over river Godavari at a cost of Rs.808 crore, which is expected to become operational by May 2014.
64. My Government is expediting the construction of 158 km. length of Outer Ring Road (ORR) around Hyderabad at an estimated cost of Rs.6,786 crore.
65. The work on the prestigious 72-km-long Hyderabad Metro Rail project with an outlay of Rs.14,132 crore is progressing smoothly and will be expedited to ease traffic congestion and to benefit the commuters.
66. The Government of India sanctioned 3 National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZ) one each to Chittoor, Prakasam and Medak districts. Each NIMZ, spread over 5000 hectares, is expected to attract investments of Rs.30,000 crore.
67. A detailed study for establishing industrial nodes in the districts of Anantapur, Chittoor and Nellore, as part of a Chennai-Bangalore industrial corridor project, is being conducted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
68. The foundation stone for a prestigious

Aerospace Park in Ibrahimpatnam mandal of Ranga Reddy district has been laid. This facility has a potential to provide direct employment to 2,000 professionals and indirect employment to benefit nearly 10,000 people.

69. My Government have taken steps for expansion of the Vijayawada airport. A major seaport at Duggarajapatnam in Nellore district is proposed by the National Port Authority which will be an addition to the Visakhapatnam port.
70. My Government have approved 1801 drinking water schemes to be implemented in 13 districts with 13th Finance Commission funds. A mega drinking water project has been conceived with an estimated cost of Rs. 7,200 crore to find a lasting solution to drinking water problem of Chittoor district.
71. During the last three years, four State Investment Promotion Board meetings were held and 76 investment proposals cleared with an investment potential of Rs.1.42 lakh crore and expected to create 1.6 lakh new jobs.
72. My Government have issued orders simplifying disbursement of incentives to prospective industrialists as an investor friendly measure.
73. My Government have issued orders for allotment of land to Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes entrepreneurs through the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) on nominal lease and in case of purchase on easy terms. This is the first of its kind in the country.

74. To encourage women entrepreneurs, my Government have announced a policy for setting up "Women Entrepreneur Industrial Parks" in each district. Industrial parks for women are on the verge of operation in Mahabubnagar, Visakhapatnam, and YSR districts.
75. I am also delighted to share that the State received the award of the 'Most Competitive Investment Driven Economy' in the country instituted by the Mint Newspaper and Harvard Business School's Michael Porter Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness in June 2013.
76. Andhra Pradesh attracts the largest number of tourists in India with more than 600 tourist locations. Our plans include a wide variety of tourist attractions such as Water Fleet, Sound and Light Shows, Rope ways, Eco-tourism and Cultural festivals. Andhra Pradesh has been judged as the "Best State" for comprehensive tourism development in the country.
77. My Government have created a separate department for Telugu language. Revival of academies to give a fillip to culture as

announced during the fourth World Telugu Conference has been successfully undertaken.

78. My Government have taken effective steps to contain the twin challenges on the Law and Order front viz., Left Wing Extremism and Terrorism. The State has always been a role model for the rest of the country in addressing the problem of LWE through a multi-pronged strategy of Development, Welfare and Enforcement. My Government is fully committed to protect peace, preserve public order and maintain communal harmony.
79. I envisage a greater degree of people and stakeholders participation in all the Government's developmental initiatives. This should come about through involvement of people in formulation, implementation as well as social audit of all the people centric programmes. Nothing would deter my Government from achieving this objective. Towards this end, my Government have been empowering the stakeholders, communities as well as institutions. The objectives of welfare and development are achievable goals as we have amply & consistently demonstrated.
80. Let me conclude my speech with the noble message of Swami Vivekananda, which continues to be a great source of inspiration for generations:

"The power is within you to do or undo. You have infinite strength. Realize it and make use of positive power, you can achieve your goals. ... If what you are today is the result of your past actions, you can definitely achieve what you want in future by your efforts today".

JAI HIND

