

Address by Sri Biswabhusan Harichandan, Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh as Chief Guest at Dr. YSR Lifetime Achievement Awards Presentation programme on November 1, 2022 at A Convention Hall, Vijayawada

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Sri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister,

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**PRIYA MYNA SODARA SODAREE MANULU
ANDARIKI NAMASKARAM.**

At the outset, I convey my best wishes to you all on the occasion of Andhra Pradesh State Formation Day.

It gives me immense pleasure to participate in today's programme to present Dr. YSR Lifetime Achievement Awards and Dr. YSR Achievement Awards-2022. I am happy to know that these prestigious awards are being presented to individuals and institutions, who

have been selected for their extraordinary contribution to the society, in the fields of agriculture, health, education, art and culture, literature, women empowerment and protection and media.

I congratulate all the winners of Dr. YSR Lifetime Achievement Awards and Dr. YSR Achievement Awards. I wish to say that the award presented to you is a great recognition of the invaluable contribution made by you in your chosen fields, that made a difference and influenced the society.

The rich cultural heritage of Andhra Pradesh can be perceived from its melodious music, scintillating dance forms, delectable cuisine, ingenious arts & crafts, and its wonderful people. Andhra Pradesh owes its rich cultural heritage to the several dynasties and empires that ruled the State in the ancient times, like

the Satavahanas, Ikshvakus, Pallavas, Eastern Chalukyas, Kakatiyas, Kalingas and the Vijayanagara Empire etc.

In the world of creativity, Andhra Pradesh has procured a high position with its works of art. The State is undoubtedly a prized gem in the crown of the Indian glory. The relishing dishes of Andhra cuisine including 'Pulihora' and 'Gongura Pachadi', are a must on every festive occasion.

Andhra Pradesh is a multi-talented State, from technology to arts and crafts that comprise of a remarkable range of handicrafts, paintings and handlooms. The Kalamkari work produced in Srikalahasti is famous for its intricate hand-painting on the fabric.

Andhra Pradesh has always been known for its wide range of performing arts, including dance, drama and music. The Kuchipudi

Dance-drama performance with its roots in the ancient Sanskrit text of Natya Shastra, which originated in Kuchipudi village, is indigenous to Andhra Pradesh.

The greatness of Telugu literary history lies in the fact that it flourished for more than one thousand years without any break. Nannaya's Mahabharata marks the beginning of Telugu epic tradition. Mahabharata in Telugu, written by Kavi Triyam - Nannaya, Tikkana and Errana, was started in 11th century and completed in 14th century, and remains as the longest classical work, compared to Mahabharata written in other regional languages.

Andhra Pradesh has been known since ages for its rich musical heritage for being the homeland of Thyagaraja, Shyama Sastri and Muthuswami Dixitar - the three prodigies of the Carnatic Music Trinity and the Telugu

language makes the true essence and spirit of Carnatic music.

Andhra Pradesh is a top destination for pilgrims in the country as some of the most revered temples are located in the State like Lord Venkateswara temple in Tirumala, Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy temple in Srisailam, Lord Shiva temple in Sri Kalahasti, Lord Narasimha temple in Simhachalam and Ahobilam, Sri Kanaka Durga Ammavari temple in Vijayawada etc.

Andhra Pradesh has given birth to eminent personalities like Manyam Veerudu Alluri Sita Rama Raju, whose 30-foot bronze statue was unveiled in Bhimavaram by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi, as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in commemoration of 75 years of independence, Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy, Andhra Kesari

Tanguturi Prakasam, first Chief Minister of Andhra State, Pingali Venkayya, the designer of our national flag, N.G. Ranga, Potti Sriramulu, whose supreme sacrifice led to the creation of separate State of Andhra, Outstanding Educationist C.R. Reddy, Founder & first Vice Chancellor of Andhra University, etc. One can go on and on as the list of eminent personalities from Andhra Pradesh, who made a mark and enriched the State and the Nation, with their immense contribution in different fields, is very long.

Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, former Chief Minister of united Andhra Pradesh, after whom the awards are named and being presented today, made a permanent place in the hearts of people of both the Telugu States. Dr. YSR's love for development of agriculture sector and implementation of pro-poor welfare

programmes on a saturation basis, is unparalleled in the country. He is remembered for implementing a well-laid out agrarian and welfare policy. If agriculture, loan waiver and major irrigation projects were the key components of his rule, the welfare part consisted of weaker section housing, social pensions, free education and medicare.

Dr. Rajasekhara Reddy held an impeccable political record having served as a Member of Parliament for four terms and as an MLA for five terms. People's unflinching love and affection for him can be gauged from the fact that he had won every election he contested, which is a rare distinction in India's political history.

His three-month long padayatra in 2003, covering the length and breadth of Andhra Pradesh took him closer to the people from

every walk of life and gave him an opportunity to understand the people's aspirations and the problems they faced in their day to day life and enabled him to connect with the people at the grass root level.

After he became the 14th Chief Minister of the united Andhra Pradesh in 2004, he launched a slew of welfare programmes with an aim to alleviate the suffering of the poor people that he witnessed during his padayatra. More popular among the welfare schemes implemented by him were the free electricity for farmers, Arogya Sri, 108 Free Emergency ambulance service, Pavala Vaddi, a low-interest loan scheme for women self-help groups, weaker section housing scheme, reimbursement of college tuition fees for the under-privileged sections of the society etc.

All through his tenure as Chief Minister, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy laid emphasis on welfare of the downtrodden sections of the society, with a majority of programmes targeted at reducing rural poverty.

Jala Yagnam project, commenced during his term to irrigate 40 lakh hectares of land through the construction of major, medium and minor irrigation projects, has helped the State to make a significant progress and made agriculture sustainable and doubled the income of farmers.

The continuation of the pro-poor welfare programmes started by Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, by the successive governments stands as a testimony to his vision and foresight.

Late Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, is regarded as a natural leader and he will always be

remembered by the generations to come, for his contribution for development of the State.

I wish that State of Andhra Pradesh progresses further by all-round development of all the sectors, especially agriculture, health and education. I once again congratulate and wish best for the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Thank you all.

Jai Hind