



ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATURE

ADDRESS

BY

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GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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Hon'ble Chairman, Hon'ble Speaker and Hon'ble Members of the State Legislature,

I am extremely happy to address the joint session of both the houses of Andhra Pradesh Legislature on the occasion of the budget session of 2015-16. I extend my best wishes to all of you.

The members may kindly recall my address in the Legislature of the New State of Andhra Pradesh in June, 2014 where I have exhaustively touched upon certain key issues resulting from the unscientific and hurried bifurcation process of the erstwhile state of Andhra Pradesh and the consequent hardship faced by the people. The provisions made in the A.P. Re-organization Act 2014 for the development of the State of Andhra Pradesh in regard to income generation, employment opportunities, health and educational institutions, R & D and training facilities and the social infrastructure are inadequate to compensate the lost opportunities for the people of Andhra Pradesh. The decision to bifurcate the state without taking all the stakeholders on board and finalizing the capital city has caused avoidable hardship.

The post bifurcation issues, especially the huge financial deficits continue to affect the new state of Andhra Pradesh, which is home for 58.32% of the population of erstwhile undivided Andhra Pradesh state.

My government, having inherited various kinds of deficits, took reins in the most difficult circumstances. Adding to the problems, the twin effect of Hudhud cyclone and drought compounded the agony. During these nine months, my Government have taken up all measures, not only to overcome the difficulties but to convert the crisis into opportunity and also lay solid foundation for "Sunrise Andhra Pradesh".

The members may kindly recall that the Union Government had assured the State of Andhra Pradesh in the A.P. Reorganisation Act, 2014 and in the speech of the then Prime Minister in Rajya sabha to support our state on several fronts that include: 1) bridging revenue deficit, 2) industry incentives, 3) special development package for the backward areas in seven districts, 4) assistance to

State Capital development, 5) railway zone for the state and 6) special category status.

During these few months, the State had anticipated a more favourable support from the Centre. A more favourable response is still awaited. Financial support of Rs. 650 crore for the affected districts under Hudhud cyclone was released to the state, as part of Hon'ble Prime Minister's announcement of Rs. 1000 crore relief assistance during his visit to the cyclone affected areas of the state. Similarly, Rs.350 crore under the special development package for the seven backward districts in the State and an adhoc financial support of Rs. 500 crore towards non-plan revenue deficit were sanctioned.

The recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission have not provided any special preference to the state despite requests for handholding support. Our expectations for the state in the Union Budget 2015-16 did not fructify.

Andhra Pradesh has lost significant resource base after division and is at a disadvantage to compete with its

revenue surplus neighbouring states. This has put the State at a great disadvantage which is not of its own making. To compete with developed cities like Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad of neighbouring states, the Centre should give required assistance to stand on a level playing field vis-à-vis its neighbouring states. We have availed every opportunity to meet the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Union Finance Minister and other Ministers to strongly put forward our case towards this end.

As you are all aware, despite the critical financial position, my government is relentlessly making efforts to bring the development agenda back on track. We are planning to achieve inclusive growth through efficacy in implementing the government policies and programmes and their outreach to the poorest and marginalized sections of society.

In our endeavour to ensure that growth with equity remains the core agenda, my government has started drafting the long term Vision 2050 document that will usher in a new

development paradigm leveraging the opportunities arising due to renewed growth climate.

The members may recall that as I have mentioned in my Republic Day address that our vision is to make Andhra Pradesh as one of the first three high-performing States in India by 2022 and the best state in the country by 2029. My government is committed to eliminate poverty, reduce economic inequalities, and make our society healthy, happy and clean.

My government firmly believes in making the public as partners in the development process and to bring the government at their door step. It is the essential feature of effective governance in any democratic set up.

With the inspiration derived from the earlier rounds of Janma Bhoomi programme, my government have launched Janmabhoomi – Maa Vooru program in October, 2014. The response has been very encouraging. The essential by-product of this people-centred initiative was the micro plan data on 24 essential social indicators. Periodic monitoring of the progress under these indicators

is giving us good results, especially on the health related outcomes.

In line with this thinking, the Janmabhoomi – Maa Vooru program has become the basis for the innovative participatory development initiative “Smart Village-Smart Ward towards Smart Andhra Pradesh” launched by my government across all the Gram Panchayats and Wards in the state. “Smart Village-Smart Ward towards Smart Andhra Pradesh” initiative envisions transformation of all the villages and wards through achieving global standards in terms of the 20 non-negotiable development commitments. The response evinced by Non Resident Indians, Non Resident Villagers, People’s representatives, Non Government Organisations, Corporates, senior government officers and others to become partners in this development endeavour, is encouraging.

I am indeed happy to share with all of you that the growth matrices of the important sectors of the state’s economy have been quite satisfactory in the current year. This positive factor really inspires us to serve even better and

the resurgence broadly indicates that the growth enabling policies put in place by my government started paying dividends. Reflecting the positive impact of these initiatives, the state, as per the advance estimates, has recorded a growth rate of 7.21% in 2014-15. All the three sectors, namely, Agriculture, Industry and Services have shown encouraging growth. For achieving comprehensive development, my government is working out District-wise growth strategies.

While the Central Government revised the base year for compiling the estimates of the Nation's economy from 2004-05 to 2011-12, the states will continue to prepare estimates at the old base until the base year is revised to 2011-12. This will take a couple of months' time. With the new base, the growth rate of Andhra Pradesh for 2014-15 is likely to further go up by more than 1.2%, thus exceeding our national average growth rate of 7.4% by 1%, if not more.

Despite a deficit rainfall of 36.34% resulting in severe drought, the Agriculture sector growing at 5.90% and

Industries sector growing at 5.25% during 2014-15, gave us some respite. Fisheries subsector with abundant potential in the state, grew at 17.3%. In tune with the spirit of "Make in India" initiative of the Union Government, Manufacturing subsector has shown decent performance. Services sector which continued to be the prime contributor, registered a growth rate of 8.48%. Reflecting a perceptible surge in the standards of living, the Per capita Income of Andhra Pradesh, which currently stands at an impressive level of Rs. 90,517, is expected to grow even faster.

However, given the long term growth agenda, we need to put in greater efforts at cutting edge level to achieve a higher growth rate in the coming years. In fact, Andhra Pradesh state is envisaging a double digit growth and identified nearly 40 growth engines spreading across Agriculture, Industry and Services sectors of the economy, which together account for 80% of the total Gross State Domestic Product. Paddy, Maize, Groundnut in agriculture, Chillies, Banana, Mango in horticulture, Milk, Meat and Egg in Livestock and above all Marine and Inland prawn

and fish under Fisheries sector are some of the key identified growth engines that are projected to register a quantum jump in value addition.

In order to make micro planning and policy making more useful, my government has embarked on compilation of Mandal Domestic Product. This exercise has been successfully piloted in two districts – East Godavari and Ananthapuram.

As part of holistic and long term development strategy, plans are afoot to provide basic social & economic infrastructure, create human and institutional capacity and focus on the growth areas in identified sectors for increased resource use efficiency through a mission-based approach. The seven missions, namely, Primary Sector, Social Empowerment, Knowledge and Skill Development, Urban Development, Industry Sector, Infrastructure and Service Sector Missions, while ensuring all stakeholder participation, will lay foundation for a rapid growth momentum. Two missions, namely, Primary Sector and

Social Empowerment Missions have already been launched and the other missions will be in place soon.

The five campaign modes, namely, Pedarikam Pai Gelupu, Polam Pilustondi, Badi Pilustondi, Neeru-Chettu and Swacha Andhra Pradesh launched by my government, are turning out to be central in harnessing the strength of the Self Help Groups and to generate employment, create awareness, improve water-use efficiency and inculcate cleanliness among citizens. Through the Neeru-Chettu programme launched from Thambalapalle village in Chittoor district on 19th February 2015, we have kick-started measures for water conservation, improve ground water table level to make the State drought-proof within five years.

The Swacha Bharat programme of the Government of India, which aims to accomplish the vision of a 'Clean India' by 2nd October 2019 marking the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, continues to be the key motivator for the Swacha Andhra Pradesh initiative of the state.

Hon'ble members are aware that within Andhra Pradesh, the levels of development are uneven. Rayalaseema area, despite being endowed with plenty of mineral and other natural resources, remained an area of concern for centuries. With highly depleted levels of ground water and bore wells getting dried up repeatedly, water for drinking and irrigation purposes is posing a very big challenge. Without affecting the interests of farmers in Godavari districts, my government have initiated steps to utilise the Godavari waters that are flowing into the sea by diverting them to the River Krishna with Pattiseema project and thereby help the people in the drought affected areas of Rayalaseema area to a considerable extent through Handri-Neeva, Galeru-Nagari and other projects. Interlinking of rivers is now a national priority. Priority of my government is to recharge water table of Rayalaseema and fill the reservoirs to full storage capacity.

My government is committed to conserve every drop of water and optimize water consumption. Drip and sprinkler irrigation methods will be scaled up for increasing production using less water, especially in drought prone

areas of Rayalaseema. Based on soil tests, micro nutrients will be used scientifically for increasing production. The required thrust will be given for horticulture crops, commercial crops with modern technologies and high yielding variety seeds. Food processing industries, cement, mineral industries will be encouraged in these areas on large scale to ensure balanced development and Rayalaseema districts in general and Ananthapuram and Chittoor districts in particular, which have been perennially affected by failure of monsoons, call for immediate and greater attention. The Ground Water table in these two districts has plummeted to abnormally lower levels of 1300 to 1400 feet. My government will make all possible efforts to bring the Rayalaseema and North Coastal Andhra districts into the main fold of development umbrella. Road connectivity will be established from the new capital to these districts.

My government believes that farmer is the backbone of the Nation. My government's concern centers around reviving the agriculture sector and help the farming community. The farming sector, subjected to frequent

crisis, remains the major source of employment, supporting lakhs of farm families. The Primary Sector Mission launched by my government will address the farm related issues like enhancing value addition from horticulture, livestock and fisheries and shortages in storage space including cold storages.

The latest NSSO Survey projects that 93% of farmers in the State are debt ridden, maximum in the Country. Despite financial crisis, we are committed to implement the debt redemption scheme in respect of crop loans through 'Farmers Empowerment Organization'. Having completed the first phase of the scheme providing relief to a tune of Rs. 5,000 crore to the eligible farmers in the State, we are finalizing the second phase beneficiary farmers. Together in both the phases, millions of farmers' will benefit from the biggest ever loan redemption and free them from debt trap. Relief to a tune of Rs. 10,000 per acre is provided to farmers growing horticulture crops.

The adverse rainfall situation prevailed during the Kharif and Rabi seasons of 2014-15, affected the sowing areas

and consequently production of foodgrains, which is projected to be 111 lakh tonnes, a fall of 4.7% over last year. Production of oil seeds too experienced a decline.

To make matters transparent and accountable and help the farming community, a quantity of 16.24 Lakh Metric Tonnes of paddy worth Rs.2219 crores was purchased at Minimum Support Price from 1.37 lakh farmers through RTGS/Account payee cheques only.

E-Marketing is being put in place to eliminate the mediator's involvement. Through this process, electronic network will be set up networking the markets, which improves linkage between farmers, food processors and retailers.

Extending a helping hand to the members of the families of the farmers who have committed suicide, my government have enhanced the compensation amount by more than three times from Rs. 1.50 lakh to Rs. 5.00 lakh. This includes Rs. 3.50 lakhs as ex-gratia to the farmers' families and Rs. 1.50 lakhs towards their indebtedness to money lenders.

The State has rich Livestock resources with 291 lakh Livestock and 815 lakh Poultry providing livelihood to about 46 lakh farm families. The livestock sector, nearly contributing 6.5% to the state economy, added Rs.33,600 Crores in 2013-14, to the state economy. The state, producing one egg out of every five eggs produced in the country, occupies second position in Egg production. The State is also one among top producers of Meat with an output of 4.89 lakh Metric Tonnes. Our Milk production stands at 90.83 lakh Metric Tonnes.

Fisheries sector is identified as one of the growth engines for rapid socio and economic transformation of Andhra Pradesh. The state is endowed with bountiful resources such as vast coastline of 947 kms, immense brackish water potential and productive inland water bodies, Ponds, Tanks, Reservoirs, Rivers and Lakes. Fisheries sector contributes 5.42% to the state GDP. Andhra Pradesh stands first in India in total fish/ prawn production & value of fish/ prawn produced in India.

My government is keen to make Andhra Pradesh the aquaculture capital of the world and a marine processing hub of the country. My government wants to make the state number one in terms of processing capacity, value addition and highest exports of seafood.

Irrigation as an essential backbone for agriculture will continue to be the focus during this year also. In addition, our priority is to enhance water use efficiency for increasing irrigated area.

The Polavaram project, which will be the life line of Andhra Pradesh, has been declared by the Centre as National project. The Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) with state and central officials as its members will take care of getting all the necessary clearances. Earmarking a meagre amount of Rs. 100 crore for the Polavaram project, declared as a National Project, has put our plans disarray. Not discouraged by the minimal allocation in the Union Budget for this project, we will make all-out efforts to complete this dream project by March,2018.

My government have identified six irrigation projects namely, Pattiseema Lift irrigation scheme, Tatipudi, Handri-Neeva, Galeru Nagari, Veligonda and Vamsadhara projects to complete them on priority. The other projects will also get completed in a time bound manner.

My government remains pro-poor and will continue to uphold its promises for their betterment. With this concern, we have enhanced welfare pensions by five times under 'NTR Bharosa' scheme. The monthly pension to destitute women and the aged has been raised from Rs.200 to Rs.1000. In respect of the differently-abled category, the monthly pension has been raised to Rs.1500. We are contemplating to give pensions to another 1 lakh eligible persons also. My Government is committed to spend around Rs.25,000 crore in the coming years on welfare pensions alone. The eligible age limit, for certain vulnerable tribes, has been brought down from 65 to 50 years for drawing pension benefits.

My government is committed to strengthen the technology usage in Public Distribution System, by using e-POS

(electronic Point of Sale Device) in 6000 identified high density F.P. shops having more than 750 white ration cards to ensure that the commodities reach the beneficiaries without diversion with Aadhaar Authentication.

Welfare of SCs, STs, BCs, Minorities and Women is on the forefront of our welfare agenda. Our 'Ambedkar Vidya Nidhi' is taking care of educational needs of talented SC and ST children. Orders have been issued for implementing 'NTR Vidyonnati' for providing professional guidance during 2015-16. The SC and ST students now need not forego the opportunity to do post-graduation or any such courses in the best western universities for want of financial support. Government is assisting the SC, ST students who can now go to 10 countries for pursuing Higher Education. Making payment of scholarships online to students of schools and colleges has been the hallmark of our graft free governance. Free power is being given to 4.99 lakh SC/ST households with consumption limit not exceeding 50 units per month. My government is implementing the SC/ST sub-plan in letter and spirit.

Post-Matric Education scholarships have been awarded to 34,181 ST students. My government is keen to develop the skills of the ST youth for their employability as a part of implementation of Social Empowerment Mission. During 2014-15, so far 3,172 ST youth were trained and provided placements.

As a mark of respect and reverence to the great freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, government have organized 'World Adivasi Day' on 09-08-2014, declaring Alluri Sitarama Raju Jayanthi as state festival on 4th July every year.

Based on the priorities of Government towards welfare of the tribal population, certain new programmes like conversion of hostels into residential schools for providing quality education, Drinking Water and other basic infrastructure related schemes, 'Giri Putrika Kalyana Pathakam' for extending assistance of Rs.50,000/- to tribal girls at the time of their marriage, strengthening of online monitoring of programmes upto last mile to improve transparency etc., are proposed during 2015-16.

My government is strongly committed to political, economic and social empowerment of Backward Classes. In tune with the promises made in the election manifesto, we will give special focus to the Backward class people and implement schemes targeting their all-round development. With our BC Declaration framework, we are planning to work out strategies that benefit the Backward Classes. Without hurting the interests of the BCs, government is committed to extending reservations to Kapu community.

The BC federations and some of the corporations have become defunct in the last few years and could not optimally tap the Central Government funds. As part of our comprehensive and inclusive development agenda, we are planning to implement various welfare schemes for artisans, handloom workers, weavers, fishermen, washermen, shepherds, vadderas and other backward classes through a sub plan for BCs.

My government is committed to provide power tools, fishing nets and other kits to the people depending on

their nature of trade. The weaving community will be specially focused. As a part of giving fillip to the handloom sector, common work sheds and society buildings have been sanctioned. Re-imbursement subsidy on purchase of hank yarn, dyes and chemicals is being offered to the handloom weavers cooperative societies. Neta bazaars have been constructed to enable the weavers to sell their products. Skills will be imparted to all the Backward Class people engaged in different activities.

Development of Minorities remains at the core of our welfare agenda. All programmes such as 'Dukan-Makan', 'Roshni' and 'Shaadikhana' will be implemented as promised. Introduction of honoraria for Imams and Mauzins is also on the anvil. Financial assistance offered as subsidy by the State Finance Corporation is planned to be linked to the credit component of banks. More than one lakh minority students are being benefited under various 'Minorities Tution Fee' and Reimbursement of Tution Fee schemes.

Women's self help groups and DWCRA of the state of

Andhra Pradesh were once a global success story which through social mobilization, community empowerment and capacity building became critical in the poverty eradication strategy. Empowering the groups to be active partners in the economic progress of the state is once again going to be strategy of my government. My government is committed to waive loans of DWCRA women to a tune of Rs. 10,000 and interest thereof. In order to keep the groups economically engaged and as a poverty reduction strategy, my government have entrusted the paddy procurement and sand quarrying activity to DWCRA women.

My government is unveiling a relief package for the groups in near future. The initiative to involve DWCRA groups in sand quarrying is paying dividends in insulating the quarries from the influence of mafia and also to empower women economically.

My government have sanctioned 2,415 posts of Nutrition Counselor cum Additional Anganwadi Worker for 3 high burden districts and 6432 Link Worker posts to monitor

nutrition for children under three years of age and pregnant women. Under the restructured ICDS scheme, 3535 Anganwadi Centre buildings are sanctioned.

As part of our efforts to reduce Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Malnutrition and ensure healthy growth of infants, my government have provided one full meal a day to 3.45 lakh pregnant and lactating women. More than 90,000 malnourished children identified under various programmes have been covered under the special care & supervisory feeding scheme "Gorumuddalu".

I am happy to announce that my government have decided to provide rice @ 5 Kgs. per head to each white card-holder @ Rs.1/- per Kg from 1st April this year.

Safety and security of women is one of the top most priorities of my government. Under various steps taken to protect women from social evils and thereby provide them a secured environment, my government have ensured to place one Woman Deputy Superintendent of Police for each of the 13 districts of the state.

With a view to address the women related issues more comprehensively, my government is working out to evolve an appropriate institutional mechanism for Gender Responsive Budgeting. New initiatives like i-click, Abhayam, CCTV Networked coverage of the urban areas, CCTV coverage of Police Station have been initiated to make women safe and secure in our state.

In tune with the Government of India's vision of Housing for all by 2020, my government is also contemplating to provide houses for all the deserving. 67,490 houses have been completed during the financial year 2014-15.

Last few years have witnessed corrupt practices and allotment of houses was done through unfair means. My government with a view to ensure that the deserving people get their benefits, have taken up Geo tagging of the houses with the help of National Remote Sensing Centre and so far 25.80 lakh houses were geo tagged against the target of 36.82 lakh houses constructed during the years 2004-2014. Aadhaar seeding is completed for 33.08 lakh houses.

It is my privilege to inform this august house that Government of Andhra Pradesh is one of the 3 States in the Country selected for implementation of "Power for All" programme. Government of Andhra Pradesh is committed to supply 24X7 quality, reliable and affordable power to all domestic, commercial and industrial consumers and will also ensure 7 hours of free power supply to farmers. AP Discoms have already tied up sufficient power for the year 2015-16.

My government is giving big thrust to renewable energy, particularly Solar and Wind. It is proposed to add a significant quantum of Wind and Solar Energy in the year 2015-16. Two Ultra mega Solar Parks of 1000 MW capacity each are being set up by National Thermal Power Corporation Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVN) in Ananthapuram and Kurnool respectively. It is also proposed to provide 10,000 Solar pumpsets to farmers during 2015-16.

The energy conservation and efficiency measures adopted by my government will help in a big way. All the domestic

incandescent bulbs are being replaced with energy efficient LEDs in the State.

My government is taking steps to increase the green cover from the existing 25% to 33% and also encourage energy efficient and environment friendly *green building* constructions in all the municipal corporations and municipalities in the state. We have amended the Andhra Pradesh Building Rules, 2012 accordingly.

My government is evolving a model of Port-led development. The long coast-line will become the gateway of the State's prosperity. My government will connect the Ports with the hinterland through road and rail network. Inland and coastal water ways will be developed as major transport routes. Andhra Pradesh will be made the logistic hub and gateway to South East Asia. Government has plans to develop four new ports in the State during 2015-16.

It is proposed to develop one Green Field International Airport at Bhogapuram, near Visakhapatnam, besides modernization of three existing Airports at Tirupati,

Vijayawada and Rajahmundry to International standards and development of 6 No Frill Airports.

My government is also taking up one Floating Storage Regasification Unit LNG Terminal at Kakinada in association with GAIL India, GDF Suez and Shell. AP Gas Development Corporation is laying gas pipelines from Kakinada to Srikakulam, Tumkur to Tirupati and another pipeline from Vijayawada to Nellore. It is the endeavour of the Government to extend gas pipeline to each and every household over a period of time.

To reinforce our commitment to make Andhra Pradesh a globally competitive and responsive industrial hub, we have introduced a system of Single Desk Clearance under e-biz to enhance the ease of doing business in the state to make it a competitive destination for investments. Necessary permissions and clearances will be accorded in 21 days time under this system. The e-Biz project envisages a G2B (government-to-business) interface/portal to serve as a one-stop-shop for delivery of efficient services to investors and industries. We are also

working on ensuring ease of doing business by simple procedures and deleting redundant laws and rules.

Government is keen to develop urban infrastructure in the State including mega convention centres, International Schools, Sports Complexes and Golf Courses. A large number of companies from Japan have started visiting the State.

Works relating to the mega food park in Chittoor district, mega aqua foodpark near Bhimavaram and mega weavers' cluster in Guntur district are in progress. Mega agriculture food parks, Electronics & Hardware parks, Minor ports, Domestic air terminals, Textile parks, Aqua processing units have been proposed as part of district wise strategy for 'Industrial Promotion and Employment Generation'.

The Vision of Andhra Pradesh tourism is to promote steady and sustained growth phase of the travel and tourism sector in Andhra Pradesh making the destinations more accessible, more attractive with many facilities and

amenities for the tourists worldwide. Various tourist circuits are being planned to attract more tourists.

My government's decision to build a world-class capital city for new Andhra Pradesh near Vijayawada is picking up pace. I am sure the new capital city will be an ideal role model in the entire country. The first phase of the master plan of the new capital will be ready by June, 2015. The Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) is entrusted with the development activity.

The most welcome and exhilarating feature of the biggest of its kind land pooling in the Country, and perhaps in the World, is that nearly 33,000 acres of land has been voluntarily given by enthusiastic farmland owners, who have become willing partners in the development of the capital.

The US Government has signed MoU with the Government of Andhra Pradesh for developing smart city in Visakhapatnam. Under this MoU, US Government will provide funds and technical inputs for feasibility studies,

study tours and workshops to materialize the idea into reality.

In our effort to tap best talent available anywhere in the globe, my government is actively engaging with the governments, companies and PSUs of the countries like Japan, Singapore, USA, Australia and other nations for inviting investments and technology transfer. Australia is keen to work with the state government in the field of aquaculture and dairy industry.

My government is keen to bring in necessary administrative reforms and ensure corrupt free administration. We have set up a Cabinet Sub Committee to examine the corruption that has prevailed in the government during the last few years. My government is also working out the strategies to institutionalize corruption-free and good governance practices so as to make the principle of less government and more governance, a reality.

All the technology and development should necessarily help create a healthy and happy society. My government

is embarking on establishing a new system of transparency in welfare programmes by using the technology. Beneficiaries of welfare pensions are now getting information relating to delivery of benefits like pension etc on their mobile phones. E-Governance is a major initiative in bringing good governance. 100% Aadhaar based system to ensure the timely delivery of intended benefits to the eligible persons is going to be the cornerstone of delivery system in the state. We are establishing the State Enterprise Architecture to realize the vision of e-governance and to leverage technology for effective service delivery.

Our Information technology policy aims to achieve 5 per cent share in national IT exports. The focus will be on development of two ITIRs, promotion of 10 IT hubs, 20 manufacturing clusters and creation of five lakh jobs. The new IT policy envisages broadband connectivity to every household.

My government is seriously concerned about providing employment to both the skilled and un-skilled workforce.

In respect of providing jobs, we have plans to fill in the vacancies of teachers and other posts. The efforts being made by my government to attract investments and set up industries in a big way, will provide employment in the private sector and necessary skills will be imparted to the unemployed in various trades with a motto to generate maximum employment.

My government have taken up a programme which would develop Andhra Pradesh into an infrastructure hub in the coming years. Through the Innovation and Start-up Policy, the government intends to create an ecosystem that produces an entrepreneur in every family. In line with the thinking of the Government of India's Digital India initiative, our aim is to create at least one home grown 'billion dollar technology' start-up.

My government is planning to make the Hudhud affected areas cyclone 'proof' with the support of World Bank putting in place an underground cabling and other infrastructure works. The reconstruction works are continuing in these affected areas. A United Nations

report, which has put the losses at US \$ 11 billions in Hudhud cyclone, lauded the commitment and timely rescue operations undertaken by the State government and praised the disaster preparedness and timely evacuation that saved many lives. Keeping in view the damage and needs assessment, the Government of Andhra Pradesh requested Department of Economic Affairs for support for a new Disaster Recovery Projects of US \$ 250 millions financed by the World Bank for damage reconstruction, recovery and disaster risk mitigation.

Considering increase in longevity and working capacity of persons, my government have raised the retirement age of the government employees by two years from 58 to 60 years. With this decision, the government employees, who are the pillars of administration, will have the opportunity to use their experience to serve people for two more years. To make them even happier and inspire them to render better service, my government have announced to implement the 10th Pay Revision commission recommendations and effected a substantial hike of 43 percent fitment in pay with retrospective effect from June

2, 2014. Since employees form an important segment in the society and keeping in view of their impeccable commitment for integration shown during the State bifurcation period, my government have since decided to lift the cases booked against the employees in the Samaikyandhra movement. Government have also issued orders to treat the strike period as special casual leave and release the salary withheld to government employees. Health cards are also being issued to take care of health concerns of employees. Health cards have also been issued to media persons.

All the cases booked against people who have agitated for keeping the state united during the Samaikyandhra movement have been unconditionally lifted by the state government. A few cases booked by central government agencies like the railways are in the process of being withdrawn.

Respecting the traditions and living close to nature have been the hallmarks of this land. We have a culture to treat river as Mother. Pushkaram is essentially worship of

mother river. In order to make Godavari Pushkarams a grandeur event, my government is undertaking several works to renovate the existing infrastructure as well as create additional facilities in the towns which host Pushkaram on a big scale. My government is committed to protect the cultural heritage and respect the age-old sentiments of people, irrespective of caste, creed and religion.

On the eve of Sankranti in January, 2015, my government came up with the offer of 'Free Package' worth Rs. 240 each, called "Chandranna Sankranti Kanuka" comprising six essential commodities to all white ration card holders incurring an expenditure of Rs.286 crores.

Under *NTR Aarogyaseva*, the ceiling on the cost of treatment has been raised to Rs.2.5 lakh. Besides, 100 diseases are covered anew taking the total number of diseases covered by the scheme to 1038. The Government is committed to strengthen and revamp the health sector.

As a part of the universalisation of elementary education programme, more than 6.33 lakh children have been

enrolled into class-I under the Badi Pilustondi programme. 25,923 children were admitted into schools from 31,286 "out of school" children.

Additionally, my government will strive for 100% literacy as means to access the better livelihood opportunities and to eradicate darkness of the social evils prevalent in the society. We also strongly feel that education is the greatest equalizer.

Under the Social Empowerment Mission, launched recently by my government, the State is envisioning to set standards in the higher education spectrum. Reflecting our commitment to enhance job opportunities, we have set up Skill Development Centre in Vijayawada which, as part of the Skill Mission will strive to impart enriched capacities. With the IIM at Visakhapatnam turning out to be reality, I am quite optimistic that all the other institutes of excellence promised by the Centre will be launched soon. Special efforts will be made for improving quality of education and skill development in order to empower

youth, especially women. Andhra Pradesh will soon become a knowledge state and education hub.

While we prioritize, welfare and development, my government pays adequate attention to the safety and security of the citizens. Transformational process in AP police has been initiated by leveraging the technology.

Protection of natural resources is a key concern of my government. In our endeavours to put an end to smuggling and other illegal activities, my government have created a specialized unit, the Red Sanders Task Force. The Unit strives to curb Red Sanders smuggling. The determined and organized response to the Red Sanders Smuggling has yielded positive results. Similar efforts are also being made to protect other natural resources like sand and barytes.

For maintaining law and order, my government will effectively implement the existing statutes and strengthen surveillance.

By and large, the last few months of post-bifurcation period has been an eventful period for the state and for

our country. Encouraging levels of economic growth and implementation of a number of developmental and welfare programmes is a testimony for this. In this challenging period, we will work relentlessly and achieve best possible results.

In this crucial hour, I would appeal to all my beloved people of this state, cutting across political parties, caste and religion, who are hardworking, entrepreneurial, knowledge and skilled to come forward to re-build the state where development during the last few years was not only dented by lack of concrete action but also by the adverse impact of bifurcation leaving the residuary state of Andhra Pradesh with tight resources and crippling deficits. I will put on record my greatest appreciation for all the persons who have put faith in the government and had willingly and voluntarily come forward to give their lands for the noble cause of building our capital city. Their commitment for this historic task will be remembered by the generations to come.

Achieving results on a sustainable basis not only require unstinted efforts of the state, but a complete cooperation and support of the Union Government as well. We are hopeful that in addition to all these measures so far taken, albeit small, the Centre will come to the rescue of the State in a big way and help succeed in our development vision. I would also appeal to all political parties to have a purposeful debate on these issues in the current session of the Assembly.

JAI HIND