ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATURE

ADDRESS
BY

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GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH

Vaisakha - Shukla 8, 1943
20 May, 2021
Hon’ble Chairman, Hon’ble Speaker and Hon’ble Members of the State Legislature.

1. It’s a great privilege and honour for me to address this Joint Session of both houses of Andhra Pradesh State Legislature on the occasion of the Budget Session, 2021-22. The brevity of this session is dictated by the ferocious second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic engulfing the entire country.

2. On 10th February, at the start of the second wave, India confirmed 11,000 cases, and an average of 22,000 cases in the next 50 days, which rose sharply to a daily average of 89,800 in the next 10 days. Subsequently, this has crossed an unforeseen 4 lakh per day mark. 40% of India’s total COVID deaths have occurred during the relentless second wave.

3. Even as we face these grave circumstances, we have to respect the sanctity of the Legislative process and it is in this context that the conduct of this session of the Legislature is necessary, nay mandatory.

4. That being said, we have to be cognizant that the State Legislature itself constitutes the gathering of the very people who are involved in combating the COVID pandemic and conduct of the sessions requires undevoted time & attention of the
Secretaries, HoDs & other staff who are involved in this relentless effort.

5. In order to strike a fine balance between the constitutional obligations and the safety of the people at large and under unavoidable circumstances, it became necessary to convene this very short Budget session for FY 2021-22.

I. COVID-19 pandemic—Handling the crisis with a vision

6. As you all know, the COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented in its scale and severity. I convey my deep condolences to all those who lost their near and dear ones to COVID-19. I salute all the frontline workers, who with the utmost courage and selflessness are performing their duty and are helping us combat this deadly virus. During these critical times of COVID-19 pandemic, and especially in 2nd wave, my government has shown its distinction in the country by creating facilities and has shown deep concern towards families affected with the pandemic.

- From zero testing labs in March, 2020, the state could establish testing facility up to sub-district level.
- My government has established 632 COVID hospitals with a total bed capacity of 46056
and recruiting 18270 additional staff for COVID work. In addition to this, we are constructing temporary hospitals abetting Medical Colleges using German hangers.

- We have reserved 50% of private hospitals beds under Aarogya Sri Scheme.

- Ensuring the response of every call made to 104 - Tele-Consultancy is encouraged in a big way.

- 1,80,49,054 samples have been tested in which 14,54,052 have tested positive. The tests done per million in AP is 3.3 lakhs against India’s average of 2.2 lakhs.

- My government is procuring cryogenic tankers from overseas.

- AP State is allotted with 590 MTs of oxygen per day. State is utilizing the 100% allotted quantity. My government has requested the Centre to allot 900 MTs of oxygen.

- By utilizing the State funds, vaccine has been purchased for 45+ age group.

- 1st dose of vaccine was administered to 53.28 lakh persons while 2nd dose was also administered to 21.64 lakh persons, out of 1.48 crore total population covering health workers,
front line workers and persons aged more than 45 years.

II. Economy
7. Considering the global and national economic slowdown, the State’s economy has demonstrated strong resilience once again. The Advance Estimates of state economy for the year 2020-21 projected the overall growth rate at 1.58%, against the Nation’s growth rate of (-)3.8% at current prices and the Per Capita Income of the AP state moved up by 1.03% from Rs.1,68,480 in 2019-20 to Rs.1,70,215 in 2020-21.

III. Welfare and Navaratnalu for Inclusive Governance
8. Despite adverse impact of COVID-19 on the state economy, my government has remained steadfast on its vow of ensuring inclusive governance and unwavering support to welfare of farmers, women, under-privileged, marginalized & vulnerable groups. Focus on education and health continues to be an integral part of the State’s welfare agenda. My government has fulfilled 95% of the promises made in the Manifesto, which is a testimony to our commitment to the people of the State.
9. ‘Navaratnalu’, a unique holistic approach has significantly improved the lives of our citizens.
Implementation of welfare programs through ‘Village/ Ward Secretariat & Volunteer system’ has facilitated disbursement of financial assistance directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries without leakages.

10. My government has also announced the **Welfare Calendar** for the year 2021-22, enabling advance planning for delivery of all schemes, thereby exhaustively covering all eligible beneficiaries.

**Education**

11. My government envisions to develop global competencies amongst the youth through access to quality education. My government has supported 44.5 lakh mothers under ‘**Jagananna AmmaVodi**’ to send their children to schools and so far 13022 crore is spent under the scheme.

12. Through **Jagananna Vidya Kanuka**, my government has distributed teaching learning material to 47 lakh students. Telugu-English dictionary as a part of the student’s kit is being provided to promote English fluency in the students.

13. Under **Jagananna Gorumudda**, 36.88 lakh students have so far been benefitted with a total amount of Rs. 1600 crores.

14. **English is medium of instruction** in schools from primary level to help underprivileged students
to compete with students from affluent sections at National and international levels. English will be medium of instruction for all Degree courses from the academic year 2021-22 onwards.

15. We are implementing CBSE syllabus in schools from the next academic year to improve the standards of education.

16. Under Jagananna Vidya Deevena, my government is fully reimbursing tuition fees. The cumulative disbursement under the scheme works out to Rs.4879.30 crores. This year, under Jagananna Vasathi Deevena, Rs.1049 crore is credited into the accounts of mothers of 10.89 lakh students. So far, Rs. 2,269.93 crores has been spent under the scheme.

17. Under MANA BADI - NAADU NEDU initiative, school infrastructure is being revamped. 15717 schools out of the total 44512 schools have been taken up for revamping under Phase-1 with a financial outlay of Rs.3948.11 crores.

18. Put together, an amount of Rs. 25,714 crore has been spent so far under various schemes relating to education sector nearly benefitting 1.60 crore students.

Health & Nutrition

19. Through Dr. YSR Arogyasri, my government is providing universal health coverage free of cost
for all as an important priority. The scheme covers about 1.44 crore BPL families, nearly 95% of the state's population.

20. Under **Dr. YSR Aarogya Asara**, a maximum of Rs. 5000/- per month @ Rs.225 per day is provided to patients for post-surgery care.

21. The 108 ambulances and 104 mobile medical units are revamped under **Nadu-Nedu** programme. My government is also planning to establish 16 medical colleges in addition to the existing 11 medical colleges in the state.

22. **Dr. YSR Kanti Velugu** is being implemented to reduce avoidable blindness from 1% to 0.3%, in (6) phases.

23. My government has introduced **YSR Sampoorna Poshana Plus** scheme under which supplementary nutrition is provided through Anganwadi centres with an annual budget of Rs.1,863 Grores. All the 55,607 Anganwadi centers are now **YSR Pre-primary schools**. English is medium of instruction for pp1, pp2 and pre first classes in Play way method in YSR pre-primary schools.

**Agriculture sector**

24. A resilient farming sector is mainstay of the State's economy. The Government is leaving no
stone unturned to make agriculture more viable and profitable.

25. Under the "YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM Kisan" since 2019-20, 52.38 lakh farmer families were benefitted with a total amount of Rs. 17,030 crores.

26. My government is implementing YSR Free Crop Insurance scheme to protect the farmers against crop loss, so far extending financial assistance of Rs. 1968 crores to 15.67 lakh farmers. Under YSR – Sunna Vaddi Panta Runalu scheme, so far, Rs. 1105 crore has been incurred benefitting 58.96 lakh farmers.

27. My government has established 10,778 Rythu Bharosa Kendralu (RBKs) one at every village as well as the e-Crop Booking facility, Nine hours of free electricity during day time at a cost of Rs.7200 Crore.

28. My government is encouraging Horticulture, Livestock and Fisheries sectors as growth engines. Milk collection centres are being set up in the RBKs in partnership with Amul and Dairy farmers are getting Rs. 5 to Rs. 15 as additional income per litre through Amul interface.

29. The Y.S.R. Matsyakara Bharosa, stands unique in the country for extending relief to fishermen during the lean period.
30. Like never before, my government has extended assistance of Rs. 68,000.41 Crores to farmers under various schemes.

31. Farmers’ incomes are being protected by ensuring MSP for paddy under the decentralized paddy procurement scheme, with 1,696 centres and electronic payment to farmers within 48 hours. AP is the 1st State to provide **Home delivery** of essential commodities to all ration card holders through 9,260 mobile units.

32. Under **YSR Jala Kala**, 2 lakh free bore wells are planned to be drilled in four years benefiting more than 3 lakh farmers.

33. To prevent distress, my government is providing Rs.7 lakh as support to the family of the farmers who have committed suicide.

**Housing and Social safety nets**

34. Housing is one of the top priorities of my government. Under **Pedalanderiki Illu**, 28.81 Lakh house site pattas distributed to all the eligible beneficiaries in the name of women so far and to construct 30.9 lakh Individual Houses in (2) Phases. 15.60 Lakh houses are being taken up under Phase-1 with a project cost of Rs.28,084.09 crores at a unit cost of Rs.1.80 lakh and are named as **YSR Jagananna Colonies**.
35. For the first time in the country, all types of pensions worth Rs.1487 crore are being delivered to about 61.73 lakh persons on the first day of every month at the doorsteps of the beneficiaries under **YSR Pension Kanuka**, without any discrimination of caste, creed and political affiliation. So far, an amount of Rs.32,469 crore is spent for the scheme.

36. My government is implementing various schemes for families engaged in the traditional occupations. Under **YSR Nethanna Nestham**, Rs.390.74 Crores is released to 81,783 weaver beneficiaries.

37. Through **Jagananna Chedodu** Rs.10,000/- is given to the eligible Washermen, Nayee Brahmins, and Tailors.

38. Eligible women who are in the age group of 45 to 60 Years and belonging to Kapu, Telaga, Ontari and Baliya castes are provided financial assistance of Rs. 75,000 in five phases under **YSR Kapu Nestham**. During this year Rs. 491 crore was paid to 3.27 lakh women.

39. Social security insurance cover is being provided to workers of age group 18-70 years through **YSR Bima** programme for accidental, natural deaths and disability incidents.
40. To implement the government schemes designed for BCs, **56 new BC Corporations** are established covering the 139 castes enlisted in BC list.

41. My government is providing an annual cash incentive of Rs.10,000/- under **YSR Vahana Mitra** scheme to 2.74 Lakh driver-cum-owners of autos and taxis to meet maintenance expenses.

42. Under the **'EBC Nestam'** for Economically Backward Caste (EBC), my government will provide assistance to women aged between 45-60 years @ Rs.15,000 per year.

**Women Welfare**

43. Under the **YSR Asara** scheme, an amount of Rs. 6,792.21 crores was credited into accounts of 87,74,674 women SHG members.

44. Under **YSR Sunna Vaddi**, my government is providing zero interest loans to DWCRA/SHGs. Rs. 1,399.79 crore was credited into the accounts of 8.78 lakh SHGs covering 90.36 lakh members.

45. Through **YSR Cheyutha** scheme, an amount of Rs. 4604.13 crores was distributed to 24.55 eligible women belonging to SC, ST, BC and Minorities aged 45 to 60 Years.

46. My government has already signed an MoU with multinational companies like Amul, ITC, HUL, P&G,
Reliance and banks to realize the goal of women empowerment.

IV. Development - Rural and Urban Infrastructure

47. Improvement of rural road connectivity creates jobs and drives economic growth. 3,285 km of rural roads are being improved under the PMGSY scheme, in a span of 4 years.

48. The State continues its leadership in the implementation of MGNREGS scheme. During 2020-21, 2,593 lakh person days of wage employment have been generated and Rs.5,957.60 crores of wages have been disbursed.

Water Resources

49. Out of the 54 Jalayagnam Irrigation Projects, 14 projects have been completed. The works relating to the Polavaram, Vamsadhara-Nagavali, Veligonda, Nellore Barrage, Sangam Barrage, Owk Tunnel, etc. priority projects and the other ongoing projects are in brisk progress.

50. Under the Jal-Jeevan Mission, my government is committed to provide every rural household, with adequate and safe water for drinking, cooking and other basic needs by 2024.
Energy

51. Promotion of **Renewable Energy** Power Projects is one of our priorities. My government had established Andhra Pradesh Green Energy Corporation to install 6400 MW (AC basis) and 10000 MW (DC basis) of solar power.

**Strategic Infrastructure for Accelerated Growth**

52. By operationalizing (3) major industrial corridors viz., Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC), Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor (CBIC) and Hyderabad-Bangalore Industrial Corridor (HBIC), we are nurturing industrial development around the key nodes.

53. A new greenfield international airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram District is being developed. The green-field Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy Airport at Orvakallu is now operational.

54. My government is developing 6 ports and construct 8 fishing harbours in two phases. The State has adopted a port-clustered strategy to attract investments and promote industrial development.
Industries

55. A series of incentives are announced for the benefit of industrialists from SC and ST communities under 'Jagananna YSR Badugu Vikasam'.

56. To support and nurture the growth of MSMEs, my government has decided to support and monitor the implementation of One-Time Restructuring of MSME loans scheme under an umbrella program "Dr. Y.S.R Navodayam".

Skilling and Employment

57. My government has passed a legislation reserving 75% of employment for locals in the industries and factories that set-up in the state. My government has proposed to establish **Skill University** and 25 World class multi-skill centers in 25 Parliamentary Constituencies.

V. **Transparent and Corruption free Governance- Village/ Ward Secretariat System**

58. The ‘Village/Ward Secretariat and Volunteer system’ has facilitated the financial assistance to go directly into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries without leakages. The system proved extremely useful in the current COVID-19 context in organizing the tests, supply of medicines, ensuring timely ration
and extending awareness about the pandemic from time to time.

59. In order to make grievance redressal more effective and corruption free, new portal for Spandana grievance redressal is launched on 26\textsuperscript{th} March 2021. My government has redressed 2.22 crore service requests out of the total 2.27 crore registered through the Village/Ward Secretariat and Volunteer system.

60. It is indeed a matter of pride that the World Bank has applauded the initiatives of my government in education, health and other sectors and also in grass-roots service delivery by adopting e-governance. It has also appreciated that the Government has continued the social security and livelihood schemes, even during the period of COVID-19 lockdown and transferred financial assistance directly into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries, thus ensuring food security and preventing economic distress among the most marginalised.

VI. Conclusion

61. To conclude, I reiterate that my Government is committed to resolutely face the COVID-19 pandemic and take every necessary step required to protect the health and lives of the citizens of the
State. In untiring pursuit of this mission, the Government draws inspiration from the thoughts of the Father of our nation,

"Keep your thoughts positive because your thoughts become your words. Keep your words positive because your words become your behavior. Keep your behavior positive because your behavior becomes your habits. Keep your habits positive because your habits become your values. Keep your values positive because your values become your destiny."

- Mahatma Gandhi

62. We are hopeful that people of the State will continue to support the government to fulfill their aspirations. I appeal to all my beloved citizens of the state to safeguard themselves from the COVID by taking necessary safety measures.

JAI HIND