

Address Of Smt. D. Purandeswari, MoS (HRD-HE) on the
Occasion Of 51st Year Of The Establishment Of Andhra Pradesh
on 2nd November, 2007
at A.P. Bhawan, New Delhi.

I feel extremely delighted to have this oppurnity to be here to share with you my sense of pleasure, privilege and pride on the occasion of the 51st celebration of the establishment of the State of Andhra Pradesh.

As all of you are aware Andhra was created for the first time in 1953 being curved out of the composite province of Madras after the sustained and selfless struggle under the leadership of Shri Potti Sreeramulu. The name of Late Potti Sreeramulu conjures up in our mind a picture of a man whose life was a saga of complete sacrifice and who literally gave himself up for a noble and sublime cause for which the entire Telugu population in the country down the ages would ever remain grateful. Before I deliver my address, I offer my respectful homage to this departed leader and I hope all of you present here would join me in the same.

The State of Andhra Pradesh come into existence on 1-11-1956 following the implementation of the recommendations of State Reorganization Commission which brought about some further territorial adjustments in the boundaries of different States in the country. Andhra Pradesh has a rich heritage and legacy. It is one of the front-ranking States of the Indian Union with all round effective

contribution to the development of our country in various sectors including politics, science, education, sports etc. The modern political history of the Telugu people dates back to Kakatiya in Warangal in the 11th and 12th centuries. Who is not aware of the glorious achievements of the rulers of the Vijayanagar Kingdom whose names are written in golden letters in Indian History and who are our illustrious ancestors? As a part of the composite Madras Presidency during the British rule, Andhra Pradesh played an effective role in all developmental activities and we have been on the vanguard of the country's freedom movement against the British. Presently the State is marching forward in rapid strides towards attaining all round development in the wake of the challenges and opportunities of globalisation and liberalization. Our Telugu Language is a very rich and well-developed language and one of the biggest linguistic units in India and fulfills some of the major criteria for attaining a heritage status. I hope before long we shall be able to achieve the same. I am sure that the glorious past of the Telugus and our ongoing determined efforts for an all round development in India would be crowned with utmost success.

When we speak of the development of modern Andhra Pradesh, the account will be incomplete if I do not make a reference to two bright sons of Andhra who have rendered yeoman's service to the development of AP. First is late Potti Sriramulu about whom I have already made a reference earlier. His name conjures up in our mind a picture of a man whose life was a saga of complete sacrifice and who literally gave himself up for a noble and sublime cause and

which led to the creation of Andhra Pradesh. If Potti Sriramulu was responsible for the birth of AP, it was left to late Dr. N.T. Rama Rao to nourish her to full maturity and to inject and instill distinct identity and individuality in every Teluguite. Dr.Rama Rao made his debut during one of the worst period in the recent history of Andhra Pradesh when the dignified existence and individuality of the average Telugu citizen was at stake. In that deteriorating scenario of moral degeneration, Dr.Rama Rao, who was then in an ascending heights of success and fame in the world of celluloid's, gave up his professional career to stand by the people of AP and to provide them the moral booster in their fight against widespread affront on their prestige and honorable existence. He made all Teluguite realize the virtues of *swabhiman* so that they could stand erect in all situations in life adverse or favourable. In his eternal prayer to the Eternity, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore implored that: **“our country might awake into that heaven of freedom where the mind is without fear and the head is held high.”** Dr.Rama Rao precisely sought to achieve this quality of mind for his people and I would request every Teluguite, to live up to this lofty idealism propounded by the Nobel laureate in his priceless composition, “The Gitanjali.”

Friends, I feel proud that I am in the midst of those who belong to the fourth largest State and the fifth most populous State that has completed a glorious half century recently. Andhra Pradesh is a land with a recorded history spanning back to a thousand years before Christ., A.P. has always been known for its rich culture and fine graces of civilization. Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist cultures have

coexisted together with modern western influences from the early 20th century. Andhra Pradesh has traversed a long distance from being just a rice bowl to be a major talent pool for engineers and a destination for IT majors. Our State has been singularly responsible for exporting some the best professional talent to the world. Our government deserves credit for the various rural development schemes that have been initiated from PM's Rozgar Yojana to DWACRA and VELUGU programmes. A.P. can also boast of improving the lives of backward sections of the society by giving them reservations in education and employment. To-day AP is a land of opportunities, a hub of innovation, a cultural hub of the country which enjoys number one position in IT with a global standing.

We are all proud of our past achievements and our present performances. Nevertheless we never take an exclusive or secluded view of our culture. We consider ourselves as an integral part of the Dravidian Civilization which is one of the most ancient and advanced civilization of the world. We, as an integral part of the Dravidian civilization made substantial contribution of the growth and development of not only Dravidian civilization but also to the Indian culture and thought.

From time immemorial India's strength consisted in its strong philosophy of unity in diversity. In other words, the fabric of Indian civilization is exuberant with its diverse language and cultures, which has an inbuilt character of assimilation and unification. In such a

background, some visionaries started searching new grounds for firmly establishing the spirit of integration.

Indian culture is a culture of great antiquity and it has made, and will continue to make, a rich contribution to world civilization. That is, however, not to suggest that, it has not gained, or and will not continue to gain, by its interaction with other civilisations of the globe. We believe that no culture or civilization is an island unto itself. Therefore inspite of this staunch patriotism, our civilization does not encourage or foster exclusiveness. India is a pluralistic, multi-faceted, multi –polar society which has always been open to good idea wherever they come from. The message of the Rig Veda is clear. “Let noble thoughts pervade us form all directions”. Our seers and saints dedicated themselves to this philosophy inspite of great upheavals in history. They inspired our society towards a global feeling. These thoughts, developed into a magnificent philosophy, has been nurtured by tolerance, compassion and dignity of human life without discrimination of big or small. To us the whole world is but one family. This simple idealism represents in a nutshell the quintessence of India’s philosophy of cultural universalism and her openness to the outside world. India’s achievements in diverse fields are a result of her heritage of inter-active openness with the outside world. It is this openness of our culture and our heritage, inclusive openness and interactive openness to give to and take from the outside world which is our inherent strength. As Prof. Amartya Sen says: “India’s real strength lies in her cultural universalism and not in cultural nationalism.”

With this words, I congratulate you all on the occasion of 51st establishment of the formation of A.P.

Jai Hind.
