

Participating in the Task of Nation Building

Speech of His Excellency Shri Murlidhar C. Bhandare, Governor of Orissa on the Occasion of 22nd Cultural Festival and Awards- 2009 organised by Delhi Telugu Academy at Mavalankar Auditorium, New Delhi on 30.08.09

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to be amidst you all on the occasion of 22nd Cultural Festival and Awards organized by Delhi Telugu Academy. At the outset, I extend my hearty greetings and good wishes to you. I would like to thank the Academy for the invitation to this evening's magnificent Cultural and Awards presentation programme. This is not only a great colourful cultural event but also a wonderful opportunity to interact with Telugu community staying in Delhi.

I understand Delhi Telugu Academy came into existence precisely to develop close relation among the members, uphold and promote their culture and of course serve their growing needs. With its distinct identity, it has spread its activities even outside Delhi. I am told that the Academy recently helped in establishing Bal Sahitya Parishad, a creative resource centre for children, in Hyderabad. The Academy together with Bal Sahitya Parishad has launched a scheme to identify, honour and nurture the creative children irrespective of socio-economic status. It is heartening that the Academy is working ceaselessly to generate cultural awareness and to promote cultural exchanges at the regional and national level as well. The Academy is doing a laudable work and deserves commendation. Holding this Cultural and Awards presentation programme year after year in such grand manner itself speaks its commitment. I take this opportunity to congratulate the members of the Academy for taking keen interest in furthering its aim and objective with a spirit of togetherness.

Telugu community is known for their involvement and participation in the great task of nation building and enrichment of our art and culture. They play notable role in our growth and prosperity. The visible presence of Telugu community in every part of our country and across the globe as well needs no special mention. I am told that in Delhi alone they number 6 lakhs.

I have just mentioned that it gives me immense pleasure to mingle with the Telugu community. I am awe struck when I look at its splendid achievements. Let me congratulate you for getting the declaration that Telugu is a Classical Language. Your State is indeed blessed with a 1000 km coastline, mighty rivers, hill stations and breathtaking valleys, Balaji temple, Buddhist shrines, eternal monuments, inestimable cultural wealth and heritage. Your government deserves credit for the various rural development schemes. The State's performance exceeded the national average in every sector including agriculture. This is indeed a remarkable feat considering that Andhra Pradesh was formed by combining most backward regions with different socio economic background. One cannot thus foresee an emerging India without Andhra Pradesh.

I am pleased to note that you have chosen to honour the celebrities who have distinguished themselves through their significant contributions in their chosen fields. I find on the dais eminent educationists, entrepreneurs, scientists, administrators and artistes. I congratulate the Awardees on the occasion and wish them great success in future.

I would like you to remember a quotable quote: "We cannot change our past. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude." Therefore, let us resolve to enrich our way of life and to better our performance individually and to lend a helping hand collectively to the government in all its effort to emerge successfully from every situation and particularly the present effects of global financial crisis. Indeed the crisis has awakened us to transform the challenge and opportunity into advantage and this is the need of the hour before all of us. We should rise to the task of seizing the initiative and pushing for alternatives in keeping up the upbeat mood. Our Government has already taken steps to combat the global financial crisis and recession. Our rich cultural heritage will always unite the people in one thread that is we all are Indian and we believe in peaceful coexistence and tolerance. Let this colourful programme inspire us to imbibe the great teachings of our rich culture and take pledge to preserve and propagate it for posterity.

I once again congratulate all of you who have been involved in preparing the celebration. With these words, I wish Delhi Telugu Academy all success in its future endeavours.

Jai Hind