

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF THE CENTENARY OF
MEDICAL EDUCATION OF CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE,
VELLORE ON 04.05.2018**

ANAIVARUKKUM MAALAI VANAKKAM

The Chief Guest of the day,
The Hon'ble President of India

Respected First Lady

Thiru. K.C. Veeramani
Hon'ble Minister for Commercial Taxes

Prof. P.J. Kurien,
Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha

Dr. JV Peter,
Director, CMC, Vellore

Dr. Anna B. Pulimood,
Principal, CMC, Vellore

Bishop DK Sahu,
Council Chairman, CMC, Vellore

Distinguished Invitees
Ladies & Gentlemen

It is a privilege and honour for me to be participating in the centenary celebrations of the Christian Medical College, Vellore, being graced by the presence of the Hon'ble President of India as the Chief Guest.

It is not a common occurrence for an institution to complete 100 years of service in the field of medical care and treatment. By accomplishing this feat, the Christian Medical College, Vellore has achieved a record that is unique and noble.

The nobility in the activities of healing and teaching needs no emphasis. From times, immemorial philosopher and thinkers have laid stress on the importance of concern Compassion in society for a civilization to flourish. Our

Indian civilization which has flourished over more than 5000 years can justifiably lay claim to have held aloft the noble values of kindness and compassion. In that respect the Christian Medical College represents a microcosm of Indian Civilization.

There can be no better definition of medical care than the words of Dr. Donald M. Berwick who said “Those who suffer need you to be something more than a doctor; they need you to be a healer. And, to become a healer, you must do something even more difficult than putting on your white coat. You must recover, embrace and treasure the shared, frail humanity and the dignity in each and every soul.”

Tamil Nadu has always been an important centre for medical diagnosis and treatment. It was the first State to enact the Public Health Act. The Government General Hospital and the Government Eye Hospital are among the oldest in ASIA. The State enjoys an impressive record in the reduction of infant mortality and maternal mortality rates. Private sector involvement in the establishment of hospitals for medical treatment has also been existent in Tamil Nadu for several decades with the first entry having been made by the Christian Medical College, Vellore.

The State ranks first in the country in terms of number of children immunized and takes pride in the thousands of eminent medical practitioners specializing in various fields of medicine. Hence, it is no wonder that Tamil Nadu serves as a hub for medical services in the eastern part of the globe. It has been estimated by the Confederation of Indian Industry that every year about 15 lakh patients come into Tamil Nadu for medical diagnosis and treatment.

The dedicated service and sacrifice of innumerable stalwarts and pioneers has resulted in the Christian Medical College attaining the status of a leader in the medical profession. Today CMC, Vellore is a model in medical education, research and treatment for the whole country. At the same time the hospital's services to the local community particularly the poor and

underprivileged groups in Vellore city, have brought immeasurable recognition and admiration to the institution.

The strength of the institution is characterized by the close mentoring done by a dedicated faculty, a high standard of clinical care, and the fostering of an environment based on compassion, care and holistic health.

I am indeed delighted to have been able to participate in the centenary celebrations of this great college. I feel even more privileged in that we have with us the Hon'ble President of India. No words can express my happiness on this grand occasion. I thank the management of the Christian Medical College, Vellore for the invitation extended to me and wish them success in all their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam

Jai Hind.