

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT 17th ISP POST GRADUATE CONVENTION "PERIO DIKSHA" AT
CHENNAI TRADE CENTRE ON 17.03.2018 AT 09.30 A.M.**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Thiru. Dr. Siva Kumar
Chairman, SRM

Thiru. Dr. Nitin Dani
President, Indian Society of Periodontology

Thiru. Dr. AbhayKolte
Secretary, Indian Society of Periodontology

Thiru. Dr. Anil Melath
President Elect, Indian Society of Periodontology

Thiru. Dr. K.V. Arun
Organizing Chairman, 17th ISP PG Convention 2018

Thiru. Dr. D. J. Victor
Organizing Secretary, 17th ISP PG Convention 2018

Distinguished Invitees
Friends from Media,
Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me pleasure to be here to inaugurate the National Post Graduate Convention 'Perio Diksha' being organised by the Indian Association of Periodontology and the SRM Dental College.

Periodontology is that speciality of dentistry that studies the supporting structures of teeth and the diseases that affect them. Periodontal diseases take many forms which are usually the result of bacterial infection combined with immuno-inflammatory mechanisms leading to the destruction of the supporting bone around the teeth.

Periodontics is offered as a specialisation in many of the dental colleges of India and I am happy to see many bright young faces of doctors assembled here today at this Convention to deliberate on and come to well-analysed and well-documented conclusions on periodontology.

The theme of this Convention is 'translation of research into reality'. Research is the systematic investigation and study of a topic to establish facts and reach new conclusions. Research gets translated into reality when the conclusions of the study are communicated, propagated and transferred properly so as to benefit the common public. This is similar to the 'lab to land' experiment successfully tried out in the agriculture sector. Many in the audience may be aware that the genomic and grafting experiments of the lab when transferred successfully to the land led to the Green Revolution.

I was recently at an international conference on holistic health which was organised in the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University. The Conference aimed to integrate the various systems of medicine that are practised for medical treatment in India and abroad to ensure that the best practices and remedies are gleaned from the wealth of information available, so as to benefit the common man. We are all aware that the allopathic system of medicine, as it is understood, combats disease and infection through the use of drugs or surgery in a manner that brings quick relief to the patients. There are also the traditional systems of medicine which aim to treat ailments over a longer period of time and which are also equally effective. While the former may cause side effects or weaken the patient, the latter have minimal side effects and generally do not weaken the patient substantially.

You may all be aware that the Ministry of AYUSH was formed in November 2014 for the development and propagation of Indian and traditional systems of medicine. The letters A Y U S H stand for Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy. In October 2016, India's first All India Institute of Ayurveda was dedicated to the nation by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji. All this goes to show the importance that the Government attaches to the propagation of the benefits of the traditional systems of medicine.

At the same time, it is also important to realise that the allopathic system of medicine has its own benefits. Mahatma Gandhi, who was a great believer in naturopathy and herbal remedies, started having faith in Western medicine

after his intractable piles problem was solved by surgery. This faith got further reinforced when he was successfully operated for appendicitis in Yerwada Jail, where he was interned during the freedom struggle. Based on these experiences Gandhiji advocated continuous interaction between different medical traditions, whether modern or ancient, whether of the west or east, so that they could blend harmoniously and rid each other of their defects.

It is therefore clear that it is necessary to create a new model for health and healing, keeping the patient at the core of the treatment, without being fixated on a single system of medicine.

In this context I wish to add that our country is a treasure house of indigenous medicinal plants having miraculous medicinal benefits. The benefits flowing from the Neem bark and leaf extract are well known. Similarly, there are several oral health products based on natural sources such as mango leaf extract, amla, miswak, papaya leaves etc.

The benefits of conferences such as this are manifold. Besides enabling a meeting of minds and exchange of ideas among the doyens of your profession there is potential for informal brainstorming which I consider more valuable. I am sure that during the course of your conversations with your fellow colleagues during lunch or tea, you may come up with bright ideas which can change the course of your profession. I call upon the delegates assembled here to be creative and nationalistic and be committed to the welfare of the common people.

I congratulate the organisers for the special efforts they have taken to assemble the leaders of the dental profession here at this international convention, I am sure that the deliberations at of this conference will be carefully documented and further action pursued so as to lead to logical conclusions. I wish the members of the dental profession and particularly those specialising in the field of periodontology, all success in their endeavours.

Nandri

Vanakkam