

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF PLEDGE FOR LIFE, A
KAUVERY HOSPITAL INITIATIVE FOR ORGAN DONATION AT VASANTHAM HALL,
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI ON 21.07.2018 AT 10.00 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Dr. Vijayabaskar
Minister for Health and Family Welfare

Thiru. Vellamandi N. Natarajan
Minister for Tourism

Thirumathi. S. Valarmathi
Minister for Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare

Dr. S. Chandrakumar
MD & CEO, Kauvery Hospital

Dr. S. Manivannan

Thiru. P. Kumar, M P
Member of Parliament

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am happy to be here at Tiruchirapalli for the launch of the Pledge for Life' – an organ donation initiative of the Kauvery Hospital.

Organ donation occurs when an organ of a person is removed, legally, either by consent while the donor is alive or after death with the assent of the next of kin.

The Donation may be for research, or to be transplanted into another person. The latter is often the case.

Common transplantations include: kidneys, heart, liver, pancreas, intestines, lungs, bone marrow, skin and corneas. Some organs and tissues can be donated by living donors, such as a kidney or part of the lungs or part of the intestines, but most donations occur after the donor has died.

The surgical process depends upon the organ being donated. After the surgeons remove the organs, they are transported as quickly as possible to

the recipient, for immediate transplantation. Most organs only survive outside the body for a few hours. So recipients in the same region are usually chosen.

The first living organ donor in a successful transplant was Ronald Lee Herrick, who donated a kidney to his identical twin brother in 1954. The lead surgeon, Joseph Murray, won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1990 for advances in organ transplantation.

Our National Statistics are indeed revealing. 5 Lakh people in India die due to non availability of organs, over 1 lakh die due to Liver disease but only a 1000 get a Liver Transplant, 2.2 Lakhs need a kidney transplant but only 15000 get it, 10 Lakhs await Corneal Transplant, while 50000 await a Heart transplant and 20000 await a Lung transplant.

The potential for transplantation depends on suitable donors becoming available. There are number of areas on which we could concentrate to maximize the potential supply of organs, to match them up effectively with potential recipients, for enabling successful transplantations.

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has urged people to come forward to generously donate organs to help the noble cause of saving precious lives.

For this, to become widely accepted, we need to change the attitude to organ donation, both at an individual level and at an organizational level. I foresee a time when organ donation will become the norm so that the availability organ for transplantation does not pose a problem.

We also need to encourage everyone to share their views on organ donation with their loved ones. If these issues are discussed in advance by individuals, and made clear to their next-of-kin, it will help to ensure that their wishes for organ donation are realized. Being aware of a loved one's views can provide comfort and peace of mind to those who are left behind.

Cadaver Donor – Organ Donation & Transplantation came into vogue in India with the passage of Transplantation of Human Organ Act passed in 1994. This act curbed illicit organ traffic & regularized organ donation by sanctifying the intent & content of this mission.

Internationally SPAIN is the leader & pioneer in Organ Donation followed by the USA. A total of 5,259 organ transplants were carried out in

Spain during 2017 alone. Spain had a reputed 46.9 donors per million people in 2017. Thus Spain is a model from which other countries have a lot to learn. “The most important success to be noted is that the system has made organ donation to be routinely considered when a patient dies, regardless of the circumstances of death”.

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 in Chennai 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 more than 100 years. 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. The Tamil Nadu model is the best prototype health care delivery system in resource-limited settings in the country and is worthy of emulation by other states engaged in developing a better health care delivery system. It is heartening to see that Tamil Nadu’s initiatives in organ donation and transplantation are also worthy of this record.

By the end of December 2016, Tamil Nadu had achieved about 5000 organ transplants in the eight years since it began to proactively promote organ transplantation.

The state has been recognized as a leading state for organ transplantation in the country. Specifically, Tamil Nadu’s cadaver transplant programme has been judged the best in the country.

While transplantations are done free of cost in government hospitals, patients who undergo transplants in private hospitals are covered under the Chief Minister’s Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme. Under this scheme, patients are provided with financial support of up to Rs 30 lakh.

The key to these efforts have been entities like the Multi Organ Harvesting Network (MOHAN) Foundation and the National Network of Organ Sharing (NNOS), which helps hospitals to strengthen the secondary and tertiary activities around organ transplantation, and is involved in such

activities as training transplant coordinators, grief counselling for donors' families, educational programmes for hospital staff and so on.

What all these efforts have done is make it more likely that consent can be obtained from relatives of brain dead patients for organ donation, that donor bodies and organs are well cared for and hence suitable for transplantation, and that the matching of donors to recipients is carried out as smoothly as possible, so that no valuable organs are wasted.

It is the well-coordinated, efficient process instituted under the Tamil Nadu Cadaver Transplant program, that has contributed significantly to the state's dramatic turnaround in organ transplantation.

While a lot has been done there is a scope for considerable improvement. I am sure that attention will be paid to areas such as in surgical management and laboratory facilities for cross matching donors and recipients.

It is heartening to see that the Kauvery Hospital has come forward with an initiative for organ donation. I am sure that many more hospitals will follow suit. This will reflect the concern that medical professionals have for the patient and enable a better psychological connect.

As Dr. Donald M. Berwick rightly 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."

I congratulate the Kauvery Hospital for organizing this function in the City of Tiruchirapalli and wish them success in all their endeavours to serve humanity through the medical profession.

Nandri Vanakkam

Jai Hind

Jai Tamil Nadu