

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE 2ND ANNUAL MEDICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD AT
HOTEL LEELA PALACE, CHENNAI ON 30.04.2018**

ANAIVARUKKUM MAALAI VANAKKAM

Dr. C. VijayaBaskar

Dr. J. Radhakrishnan

Dr. J. Selvakumar

Dr. C.M.K. Reddy

Dr. J.A. Jayalal

Thiru Visakan

Dr. V. Shantha

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies &Gentelemen

It gives me pleasure to be here at the function of the World Tamil Chamber of Commerce which is being organized to honour medical stalwarts from Tamil Nadu who have made outstanding contributions for improving the quality of healthcare.

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 hospital for medical treatment has also been existent in

Tamil Nadu for more than 100 years 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 specialising in various fields of medicine. The Tamil Nadu model is the best prototype health care delivery system in resource-limited settings which can be emulated by other states also towards a better health care delivery system. Hence, it is no wonder that Tamil Nadu serves as a hub for medical tourism in the eastern part of the globe.

Today the State attracts about 40% of those who come into India for medical treatment. It has been estimated by the Confederation of Indian Industry that about 15 lakh patients come into Tamil Nadu for diagnosis and treatment. The CII has also estimated that the annual growth of medical tourists coming into Tamil Nadu is more than 20%. The presence of a robust infrastructure coupled with specialised medical care provided by the doctors and para medical staff is one of the most important reasons for this heavy inflow into Tamil Nadu.

Another major reason as to why patients are drawn towards Tamil Nadu is the affordable cost of medical treatment. The American Medical Association has provided the cost comparisons. For example, a knee replacement surgery costs about 40,000 dollars in the USA and about 13,000 dollars in Singapore. In Tamil Nadu the cost is much lower. Similarly, for a bone marrow transplant, the cost is about 400,000 dollars in the US while in Tamil Nadu it is much much lower.

The huge growth in the number of Indian families residing in various parts of the world has also resulted in a greater flow of patients into Tamil Nadu from abroad. By coming back to their country of origin, the family members accompanying the patients are able to combine the medical procedure with other activities such as visiting their relatives or availing the benefits of a vacation by undertaking leisure activities. It has been assessed that most of the medical tourists into Tamil Nadu come from the Middle East, Africa and South East Asia.

Modern health care depends on groups of trained professionals and para professionals coming together to form inter-disciplinary teams. This includes professionals in medicine, psychology, nursing, physiotherapy, working along with many others such as community health workers, so as to be able to provide the best health care services to the people. But it is also necessary to psychologically relate to the patient.

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.”

Allopathic medicine is based on constant enquiry and knowledge based treatment determined by careful experimentation and observation. It is established that Allopathy combats disease and infection through drugs or surgery to bring quick relief to the patient. I am informed that even before the introduction of the allopathic system of medicine, Tamil Nadu had a rich tradition of medical treatment. Ayurveda and Siddha systems have a well-documented history in Tamil Nadu with regard to the efficacy of their medicines in treatment.

Ayurveda takes the total body matrix to be a combination of the three elements of Vaata, Pithaa and Kapha. The system aims to create the right balance among the three elements within the human body.

The Siddha system of medicine has many similarities to Ayurveda. It is based on a combination of ancient medicinal practices expounded by the Siddhars, who were mystics whose knowledge of the human body was profound. The right course is to marry the best of the allopathic and traditional systems of medicine so as to bring about the maximum synergy.

The mission before us is to make healthcare comprehensive, universal, affordable and qualitatively professional. For achieving this objective, the road ahead is going to be complex and arduous. It is only medical experts such as

the award winners of today who can show the way for us to be successful in our mission.

The professionals who are receiving awards today have risen to their present position of eminence by their contributions. I applaud their efforts and admire their commitment to societal welfare.

It is a matter of pride and honour to be remembered as one who has utilized his talents and contributed to the betterment of the society and the nation through his efforts.

I wish the award winners all success in their endeavours.

I wish to conclude by thanking the World Tamil Chamber of Commerce for having given me this opportunity to associate myself with a function related to the healthcare industry about which I am passionately attached and devoted to. I am sure that this initiative of theirs will continue in the coming years. I applaud the Chamber of Commerce for their efforts and wish them well.

Nandri

Vanakkam

Jai Hind

Jai Tamil Nadu