

**Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as chief guest at the Medical Council Award Function – 2021 organised by Tamil Nadu Medical Council at Hotel ITC Grand Chola, Chennai**

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as chief guest at the Medical Council Award Function – 2021 organised by Tamil Nadu Medical Council at Hotel ITC Grand Chola, Chennai today (29.07.2021) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "It gives me great pleasure in participating in this award function of Tamil Nadu Medical Council and presenting awards to eminent doctors who have done yeoman services in the field of medicine, especially during the Covid-19 Pandemic. I always have appreciation and great regards for the services of all doctors, nurses and other cadres of Health Sector. Hats off to you! Please give them a big applause.

I am glad to have associated myself with doctors and the medical community both personally and in official capacities during my long career in public life.

As you are all aware, Doctors' Day is celebrated on 1st of July every year on the Birthday of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, an eminent physician, educationist, philanthropist, freedom fighter and politician. He served as Chief Minister of West Bengal from 1948 to 1962. Dr. B.C. Roy, who was awarded Bharat Ratna, the nation's highest civilian honour in 1961, believed in total commitment to social work.

While delivering the Convocation Address at the University of Lucknow on 15 December 1956, Dr. Roy said, and I quote, "You are soldiers in the battle of freedom -- freedom from want, fear, ignorance, frustration and helplessness. By dint of hard work for the country, rendered in a spirit of selfless service, may you march ahead with hope and courage".

The Medical Profession is one of the most respected professions all over the world from the time immemorial. This honour for the profession dates from ancient days of Sushruta, Hippocrates and Charaka. The doctors were considered next to God as they

save lives and alleviate pain of the sufferers. I am glad that till date the pride for the profession continues and it stands as the most sought-after profession in India and in most parts of the world.

Today, for the celebration of the birthday of Dr. B.C Roy, 31 doctors have been chosen for Tamil Nadu Medical Council Awards 2021 for rendering exemplary services during the Covid-19 pandemic, which made worst impact all over the world. It is true that many more deserving doctors are there in the society doing great service. Today's honours for the selected awardees is a token of appreciation for the best in the profession.

Ever since the coronavirus pandemic hit the country, the doctors have been working round the clock in order to save the lives of people. In the process, many committed doctors succumbed to the deadly virus, which they contracted during their work. However, this has not impacted the people in the field as they continue to make efforts for treating each person.

Initially, when there was no clarity regarding the treatment of coronavirus, many doctors used their experience and treated patients with medicines used for different diseases to cure them of the virus. Medical professionals also went to rural parts of India with basic medicines for treating those who did not have any access to any healthcare facilities. These acts of theirs showed that "It is the reason they signed up for the profession" and a doctor rightly mentioned that "It's like being in the Army in times of war".

Now the Medical experts have warned of a third wave of Covid. Central and the State Governments are taking precautionary measures to counter the possible third wave. Health infrastructure is being further strengthened in Tamil Nadu. I am happy to see that all the ongoing construction projects in the health sector, including eleven new government medical colleges, are being expedited for early completion. A new 500 bedded multi-specialty hospital will be constructed in the King Institute campus in Chennai soon.

Oxygen storage and production capacities are being further augmented in many Government Hospitals across the State. Private investors have been offered a special package of incentives to establish units to manufacture liquid medical oxygen and related equipment in Tamil Nadu.

I also welcome the the Central Government decision of centrally procuring and supplying free-of-cost vaccines to all categories. Central Government is making all efforts to provide adequate vaccine supply to ensure that the entire adult population of India is vaccinated against COVID before this year-end.

As Tiruvalluvar says in his chapter on medicine, and I quote, “Let the physician enquire into the (nature of the) disease, its cause and its method of cure and treat it faithfully according to (medical rule)”. The cause of a disease must be ascertained first before beginning treatment.

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.

I congratulate the recipient doctors for the award and their excellent services to the society. I pray and wish that these doctors are motivators for others and inspire the next generation in medical field. The people and society expect a lot from you, your dedication, sincerity and efficiency. Do all that with a smile; spare time to explain every detail to the patient and relatives. It is not enough if you treat the sickness alone. Walk an extra mile to comfort them and give happiness and peace.

In this context, let me quote Mother Teresa who said, “I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things”.

I also insist upon the medical fraternity in this happiest occasion that India needs more B.C.Roys. I believe that you will rise to that level in the service to humanity. I wish and appeal to young doctors to follow these awardees and develop a passion for serving the poor and rural patients of our country. Every doctor should opt for rural service for a few years.

On this day, I feel it is necessary to create awareness among the people about life-style modifications. Please give more importance to physical exercise, Yoga and Meditation and develop healthy a life-style.

With the continuing pandemic scenario, I appeal to the people of Tamil Nadu to continue their support and co-operation to the Government by following the COVID Protocols strictly, such as Maintaining Social Distance, Proper Wearing of Masks,

following Personal Hygiene, Avoiding gatherings, etc. and achieve 100% COVID vaccination.

I congratulate the Tamil Nadu Medical Council for their efforts in organizing this awards function. I commend the Tamil Nadu Medical Council for the yeoman service rendered and wish to exhort them to expand their activities manifold in the coming years. May they be greeted with success in all their endeavours.

I would like to conclude my speech with this quote which I like very much: “Good doctors understand responsibility better than privilege and practice accountability better than business”.

On this occasion, Dr.K.Senthil, President, Tamil Nadu Medical Council, Dr. D. Marudhupandian, Vice President, Tamil Nadu Medical Council and other dignitaries participated.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai – 22

Sd/-

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Addl. Director (PR)