

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE 13TH CONVOCATION OF SAVEETHA INSTITUTE OF
MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES AT M.M. CONVENTION CENTRE,
SAVEETHA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES,
VELAPPANCHAVADI, CHENNAI ON 03.06.2019 AT 4.30 P.M**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Dr. N. M. Veeraiyan,
Founder and Chancellor,
Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences

Dr. V. Saveetha,
Pro Chancellor

Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma,
Vice-Chancellor

Dr. V. Thiagarajan
Registrar

Dr. V. Deepak Nallaswamy,
Director of Academics

Dr. R. Rajagopal,
Advisor

**Distinguished Invitees
Ladies & Gentlemen**

It is a matter of happiness to be here today to address all of you on the occasion of the 13th Convocation of the Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences.

This day is a special day for all the graduands present here in this august assembly. I convey my warm greetings and best wishes to all of them and their family members on this happy occasion. They are all stepping into the wide world from the sheltered cocoon of the portals of the University. Having been equipped with academic qualifications and armed with the training that University education has given them, they are fully equipped to overcome the challenges that they may encounter. To them let me say, "Step out with strength; lead from the front; conduct yourself with dignity, grace and discipline. The world is yours".

I am informed that the Saveetha Medical and Educational Trust was created in the year 1986 mainly to provide medical relief, to promote Education and

encourage Research. Subsequently, a Dental College was established in the year 1988. The addition of a Nursing College, a Physiotherapy College, an Occupational Therapy College and an Engineering College in later years have endowed the University with variety and prestige leading it on towards excellence.

Tamil Nadu has always had a rich tradition of scholarship. Even ordinarily planned families give great emphasis for education. This has had a direct impact on social development indices and on the economy. The State has had a proud culture of research and innovation in the fields of science, medicine and technology and is particularly well poised to serve as a hub for medical tourism in the eastern part of the globe.

The 71st National Sample Survey (NSS) found that out of the total hospitalisation cases in rural areas, 42% were in public hospitals and 58% in private facilities. The corresponding shares in urban areas were 32% in public and 68% in private hospitals. For some decades now, the trend has been to move towards private health care facilities.

There are about a million allopathic doctors in the country. For a population of about 125 crores, this availability of doctors works out to about 1:1250. Tamil Nadu is however better placed with an availability of 12 doctors for every 10000 population. This is almost equal to the world average of 1:800. This has been made possible by the early starts given to medical education in Tamil Nadu and the encouragement received by the medical profession from the Government and private sector.

The most comprehensive and illustrative of such support, initiative and encouragement is the recently launched Ayushman Bharat scheme has the benefit of health cover for Rs. 5 lakh per family per year. The target beneficiaries of the scheme are the poor and vulnerable groups. Nearly 50 crore people in the country are expected to receive the benefit of health insurance. This increased access to health care and medication is certain to result in improvements in health outcomes, timely treatment, patient satisfaction, improvement in productivity and efficiency and job creation thus leading to an overall improvement in the quality of life in the country.

The medical profession is a noble profession.

The famous French philosopher Voltaire once said

“Those who are occupied in the restoration of health to others, by the joint exertion of skill and humanity, are above all the great of the earth. They even partake of divinity, since to preserve and renew is almost as noble as to create.”

The delivery of 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.”

The mission before us is to make health care comprehensive, universal, affordable and qualitatively professional. For achieving this objective, the journey ahead is going to be performed in your company and it is important for us to work together in a constructive manner to fight the common enemy i.e. disease. We should all join hand in hand and march together so that we achieve success.

Nations are built by Visionaries who through their lives which are characterized by compassion, hard work, patriotism and total commitment to the welfare of the people are able to inspire the people to engage themselves in nation building. We all have a great responsibility to build tomorrow’s India, whose core competence in any field, be it technological process, industrial infrastructure, societal unity is outstanding. Our nation is fortunately endowed with the benefits of the Demographic Dividend. The youth of the nation are its biggest asset. Let them think big. Our youth have to dream. Dreams get transformed into thoughts and thoughts result in action. It is such proactive actions that become the foundation for growth and development.

The path to progress is illuminated by the lamp of education. Prosperity knocks at your door when people in society acquire the asset of education. All those assembled here, have benefited by this acquisition of knowledge. Let its benefits be now shared with the community so that India becomes a stronger healthier and more prosperous nation.

I congratulate the 669 graduands who have received their degrees today. They are all endowed with the ability to change society, to serve society and benefit society through their actions. May hardwork be their companion and dedication to work be their hall mark. Success is bound to smile on them in all their noble initiatives.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to the Chancellor, the Pro Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor of the University who have taken painstaking efforts to organise the convocation in a befitting manner. May this convocation be the harbinger of greater things to come in the future. May the University be greeted with success in all its endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam.....

Jai Tamil Nadu....

Jai Hind...