

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC
ORGANISED BY APOLLO HOSPITALS GROUP AND SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS
PVT. LTD AT APOLLO PROTON CANCER CENTRE, TARAMANI, CHENNAI
ON 10.07.2019 AT 11.A.M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Mr. JaeYoung Yang
Managing Director,
Samsung Manufacturing Plant

Dr. Prathap C Reddy,
Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group

Thiru. Shiv Kumar,
Chief Executive Officer,
Apollo Hospitals

Ms. Sangita Reddy,
Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am happy to be here today for the launch of the Mobile Health Clinic – at this function jointly organised by Samsung Electronics Pvt. Ltd., and Apollo Hospitals Group.

The Mobile Health Clinic which is equipped with state of art equipment including phlebotomy services, a fully functional ultrasound machine, digital X-ray machine, Mammography and cardiac equipment including ECG, Echo and TMT machines is meant to provide free medical screening and diagnostic facilities in areas having limited access, to medical care and also provide curative healthcare for common ailments. Besides, it will also spread health awareness about non-communicable diseases.

Promoting awareness about Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) is the need of the hour. Globally fifteen million people die prematurely from Non Communicable Diseases, with over 85 percent of these deaths occurring in low - and middle - income countries. Non Communicable diseases kill 10 people every second in India. Cancer, Cardiovascular disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Diabetes are the main NCDs accounting for a substantial percentage of the mortality rates in India.

It has been estimated that the probability of dying between ages 30 and 70 years from these four major NCDs is 26%, which means that a 30-

year old individual has a one-fourth chance of dying from these diseases before the age of 70 years.

These premature deaths reduce productivity, curtail economic growth and trap populations in poverty.

The rising number of people affected by NCDs is bound to have an enormous burden on our country's economy with the World Economic Forum predicting that the cost of the NCD burden on India will be \$ 4.8 trillion by 2030.

The underlying determinants of these diseases and their shared risk factors clearly show that multisectoral, responses are required to prevent

and control them. This requires sustained action in a concerted and well coordinated manner.

It has been observed that lifestyle related factors are mainly responsible for these non communicable diseases. Rapid urbanization has led to an increase in harmful behavioural patterns such as increased consumption of hastily cooked low-nutritive foods, reduced physical activity and increased exposure to alcohol and tobacco. Most premature NCD deaths are preventable by taking cost-effective action to tackle the main behavioural risk factors. It is estimated that by just tackling these risk factors, 80% of the premature deaths caused by NCDs can be prevented.

Addressing NCDs is also integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Achieving the NCD-related Sustainable Development Goal targets can deliver shared gains across the development agenda, given the multidimensional relationship between NCDs and poverty, inequalities in economic growth and poor achievement of other SDG goals and targets. The World Health Assembly has therefore in 2017, endorsed a set of affordable, evidence-based interventions for the prevention and control of NCDs in all Member Countries.

Health is Wealth is a famous saying. To the people of the State, particularly the younger

generation, I wish to advise moderation in their diet, if they want to lead healthy lives.

It is always advisable to avoid having to go to a doctor by adopting preventive measures. But if the need has already arisen, I am sure everybody in the audience agrees that doctor must be consulted as early as possible so that corrective curative measures can be immediately taken.

I have with me on stage today an eminent doctor Dr. Prathap C Reddy, the Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group who was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan in the year 2010. I am sure that he will vouchsafe for this advice of mine.

Prevention is better than cure. The importance of medical screening to prevent the onset of

disease or to take the correct curative measure at the initial stages to counter the disease needs no emphasis. The Mobile Health Clinic which will enable people to undergo medical screening without travelling long distances is a step in the right direction. Coupled with this it will also serve as the doctor at the doorstep by providing medicines for common ailments.

The Mobile Health Clinic has been developed by the Apollo Hospitals Group in partnership with Samsung Electronics Pvt. Ltd. The concept of the clinic, ingenious in character, is aimed at helping the poor and needy. The two institutions the Apollo Hospitals Group and the Samsung Electronics Pvt. Ltd., deserve kudos for this excellent initiative. To

be able to provide medical care in a mobile health clinic and perform medical screening and diagnosis without compromising on standards of clinical hygiene requires a great deal of planning, uncompromising execution and application.

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.”

Such is the nobility displayed by the members of the medical profession who are tirelessly

engaged in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. India is growing and a healthy India is the best recipe for a wealthy India. I call upon the members of the medical profession to spread out to every nook and corner of the state and the country to help in the elimination of disease. The State and the Central Government are fully backing this effort.

Recently the Government of India has launched the Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission. The scheme has the benefit of health cover for Rs. 5 lakh per family per year. The target beneficiaries of the scheme will be the poor and vulnerable groups and nearly 50 crore people will get the benefit of health insurance. This will

make a big impact on raising the quality of life, since it will lead to increased access to health care and medication. In addition, the unmet needs of the population which remained hidden due to lack of financial resources will be catered to. It will lead to timely treatments, improvements in health outcomes, patient satisfaction, improvement in productivity and efficiency, job creation thus leading to improvement in quality of life.

I am happy that the activities of the Apollo Hospitals Group who first set up their hospital in Chennai in 1983 have grown manifold. They have carved a niche for themselves in medical care. Samsung Electronic Pvt. Ltd., the global leader that it is, is a household name in India where

millions of consumers have benefitted from their mobile phones, air conditioners, refrigerators, television sets etc. I extend my greetings to both these illustrious institutions and wish them a glorious future.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Tamil Nadu....

Jai Hind...