

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF SUPER-SPECIALTY HOSPITAL MGM
HEALTHCARE AT MGM HEALTHCARE, AMINJIKARAI, CHENNAI
ON 14.07.2019 AT 10.00 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

**Hon'ble Vice President of India,
Thiru. M. Venkaiah Naidu Ji**

**Thiru. O. Panneer Selvam,
Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu**

**Dr.C.Vijaya Baskar,
Minister for Health and Family Welfare**

**Thiru. M.K.Rajagopalan,
Managing Director,
MGM Healthcare**

**Dr. Rahul Menon,
Chief Executive Officer, MGM Healthcare**

**Dr. Prasanth Rajagopalan,
Director, MGM Healthcare**

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here today at the function in which the Hon'ble Vice President of India is inaugurating the super-specialty hospital - MGM Healthcare. It is a privilege for me to be participating in this function being graced by the Hon'ble Vice President.

The nobility attached to the activity of healing needs no emphasis. From times immemorial, philosopher and thinkers have laid stress on the importance of Concern and Compassion in society for a civilization to flourish. The Indian civilization which has flourished for more than 5000 years can justifiably lay claim to have held aloft the noble values of kindness and compassion for thousands of years. The MGM Healthcare is one more

addition to the record of showing our concern for the weak and the suffering.

There can be no better definition of medical care than the words of Dr. Donald M. Berwick who 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.”

Our country has had a great and glorious past in medical education and medical sciences.

Sushruta, Jivaka Kumarabhacca, and Charaka were famous medical experts who showed the

world how to treat diseases and illnesses. At a time when surgeries in England were done primitively, the most complex surgeries were being performed in India by well trained surgeons.

Sushruta is credited with performing advanced surgeries, including plastic and reconstructive surgery. Sushruta was not just a great surgeon, but also a great teacher. He used to advise his students that however well-read they are, they are not competent to treat disease until they have practical, hand-on experience. He taught his students surgical skills by making incisions on the skin of fruits.

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 hospitals for medical treatment has also been existent in Tamil Nadu for several decades.

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. Hence, it is no wonder that Tamil Nadu serves as a hub for medical services in the eastern part of the

globe. It has been estimated by the Confederation of Indian Industry that every year about 15 lakh patients come into Tamil Nadu for medical diagnosis and treatment.

The delivery of modern health care depends on groups of trained professionals and para professionals coming together to form interdisciplinary 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.

The 71st National Sample Survey (NSS) revealed 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. For some decades now, the trend has been to move towards private care facilities.

Today, with changes in lifestyles, we have an inversion of disease patterns: a significant burden of non-communicable diseases, and a lower but still formidable level of infectious diseases. Our interventions must therefore cover tuberculosis and malaria on the one side, as well as diabetes, chronic kidney disease, hypertension and rheumatic heart diseases on the other. If malnutrition is a major problem, so is pollution. Reports indicate that 55 per cent of Indian women

between ages 15 and 49 have anemia or low blood count. There are many, many such health issues that need attention.

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 wish to conclude by saying that the mission before us is to make health care comprehensive, universal, affordable and qualitatively professional. For achieving this objective, the road ahead is going to be complex and arduous.

It is important for us to work together in a constructive manner to fight the common enemy i.e. disease. Distinctions based on public vs private sector, allopathy vs traditional systems and urban areas vs rural areas, should not be given

any importance. We should all join hand in hand and march together so that we achieve success.

I appreciate the efforts of the hospital management who have shown enterprise in pioneering this effort of setting up a super specialty hospital. They deserve our praise and support. I extend my best wishes and greetings to them. May success greet them at every step, in their journey whose quest is to provide quality medical care with professionalism and dedication.

Nandri Vanakkam...

Jai Tamil Nadu....

Jai Hind...