

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF 1ST INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON MINIMALLY INVASIVE LIVER SURGERY & LAUNCH OF  
MULTIORGAN TRANSPLANT CENTRE OF GEM HOSPITAL ORGANISED  
BY GEM HOSPITALS, AT HOTEL HILTON, GUINDY, CHENNAI  
ON 17.08.2019 AT 6.00 P.M**

**Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam**

**Dr. Palanivelu,**  
Chairman,  
GEM Hospitals

**Dr. Asokan,**  
Director and Chief Executive Officer,  
GEM Hospitals

**Dr.Senthilnathan,**  
Director,  
GEM Hospitals

**Dr.Yao Ming Wu,**  
Surgeon,  
Taiwan

**Distinguished Invitees**

**Ladies & Gentlemen**

I am happy to be here today at the inauguration of the International Conference on Minimally Invasive Liver Surgery organised by the GEM Hospitals. The Multi organ transplant centre of GEM Hospitals is also being commenced today.

I am informed that Minimally Invasive Surgery, be it laparoscopic or robotic is useful for treating cancers of liver and other benign conditions of the liver. It scores over other techniques in that it reduces blood loss and hence blood transfusion can be avoided or minimised.

The recovery of the patient is much faster and he can resume his normal life sooner. Minimally invasive surgeries are also considered more safe for elderly people.

The environment we live in the food we consume and the fast-paced life of current day living have resulted in the liver having become more vulnerable to damage and decay. As you are all aware, the liver performs the useful function of neutralising the toxic substances in the human body. The need for a liver transplant occurs when the liver suffers decline and decay. Liver transplantation is a treatment option for end-stage liver disease and acute liver failure.

Most of the liver related ailments can be prevented by regular exercise, avoiding alcohol consumption and a healthy diet intake. Nowadays, it is not uncommon to find youngsters in their thirties developing liver cirrhosis.

The World Health Organisation report of 2018 says the per capita alcohol consumption in India has increased two folds between 2005 and 2016.

Hepatitis caused by virus is another cause, but can be controlled by taking the vaccines in time.

A Major threat for the liver is from obesity and fatty liver diseases.

Epidemeological studies suggest that upto 32% of population in India could be affected with fatty liver diseases.

Tamil Nadu has always been well known for the special attention that it provides to the sick and suffering. Many innovative techniques whether it be Liver transplantation, or eye care or Cardiac

treatment have been propagated widely in the State.

It is a matter of immense pride for us that most cutting-edge medical procedures being performed anywhere in the world are now being done in our Chennai hospitals at a cost which is far less. Tamil Nadu is hence figuring as the main hub for medical tourism in the eastern part of the world.

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 is

expected to 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.

It is a matter of satisfaction for me that the GEM Hospital management has decided to launch a multi organ transplant centre. I am sure that many more hospitals will follow suit. This will reflect the concerns that medical professionals

have for the patient and enable a better psychological connect.

Organ donation occurs when an organ of a person is removed, legally, either by consent while the donor is alive or after death with the assent of the next of kin.

Common transplantations include: kidneys, heart, liver, pancreas, intestines, lungs, bone marrow, skin and corneas. Some organs and tissues can be donated by living donors, such as a kidney or part of the lungs or part of the intestines, but most donations occur after the donor has died.

The first living organ donor in a successful transplant was Ronald Lee Herrick, who donated a kidney to his identical twin brother in 1954. The

lead surgeon, Joseph Murray, won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1990 for advances in organ transplantation.

Our National Statistics are indeed revealing. 5 Lakh people in India die due to non availability of organs, over 1 lakh die due to Liver disease but only a 1000 get a Liver Transplant, 2.2 Lakhs need a kidney transplant but only 15000 get it, 10 Lakhs await Corneal Transplant, while 50000 await a Heart transplant and 20000 await a Lung transplant.

Cadavar Donor – Organ Donation and Transplantation came into vogue in India with the passage of Transplantation of Human Organ Act passed in 1994. This act curbed illicit organ traffic

and regularized organ donation by sanctifying the intent and content of this mission.

For this, to become widely accepted, we need to change the attitude to organ donation, both at an individual level and at an organizational level. I foresee a time when organ donation will become the norm so that the availability of organ for transplantation does not pose a problem.

We also need to encourage everyone to share their views on organ donation with their loved ones. If these issues are discussed in advance by individuals, and made clear to their next-of-kin, it will help to ensure that their wishes for organ donation are realized. Being aware of a loved

one's views can provide comfort and peace of mind to those who are left behind.

The state has been recognized as a leader in organ transplantation in the country. Specifically, Tamil Nadu's cadaver transplant programme has been judged the best in the country.

It is the well-coordinated, efficient process instituted under the Tamil Nadu Cadaver Transplant program that has contributed significantly to the state's dramatic turnaround in organ transplantation.

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. The award

winners of today have risen to their present position of recognition by their contributions. I applaud their efforts and admire their commitment to societal welfare.

I am sure that the deliberations at the international conference will enable the participants to acquire knowledge about the latest techniques in medical treatment. I extend my best wishes and greetings to the Chairman, the Chief Executive Officer and the staff of GEM Hospitals and congratulate them for having organised the workshop. May success visit them in all their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Tamil Nadu....

Jai Hind.....