

ADDRESS BY SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT THE 10TH CONVOCAATION OF DATTA MEGHE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), SAWANGI (MEGHE), WARDHA, ON 25.06.2019 AT 10.30 A.M.

Good Morning

Shri Dattaji Meghe,

Founder and Chancellor,
DattaMeghe Institute of Medical Sciences

Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra,

Pro Chancellor

Dr. Rajiv M. Borle

Vice Chancellor

Dr. A. J. Anjankar,

Registrar

Shri Sagar Megha

Trustee and Member, Board of Management

Distinguished Invitees

Students and Teachers of the Institution

Ladies & Gentlemen

It is a matter of happiness to be here today to address all of you on the occasion of the 10TH Convocation of Datta

Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences. This University was established in the year 2005 by Shri Dattaji Meghe. I know Shri Dattaji Meghe since last 50 years. During his illustrious public life, he has come across lot of hardship. In spite of all these difficulties, Shri DattajiMeghe was able to establish such a prestigious institution, which has faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, Ayurved, Nursing, Para-Medical Sciences and Interdisciplinary Sciences under its ambit and offers educational programmes ranging from Under Graduate courses to Doctoral promgammes. In addition, the University also offers Fellowship programmes in various innovative and emerging areas of knowledge have endowed the University with variety and prestige leading it towards excellence.

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”.

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 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.

Healthcare is conventionally regarded as an important determinant in promoting the general physical and mental health and general wellbeing of people. It revolves around the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease, illness, injury and other physical and mental impairments in human being.

The United Nations and World Health Organization have emphasized the need for universal healthcare coverage. But statistics reveal that access to health care varies across countries. Even among the OECD Countries, universal health coverage is not available in US

and Mexico. The United States however enjoys the top position in terms of expenditure as calculated as the share of the health care industry in the nation's economy. 17.7% of the GDP of the USA is accounted for by the health care industry. In comparison, countries such as Switzerland, Germany and Netherlands, where the healthcare industry accounts for about 11% of the GDP, have not only provided universal health coverage but also outdistanced the US in terms of life expectancy figures. It is therefore quite clear that it is not only important that more money should be allocated for healthcare but the money should also be effectively targeted so as to benefit the population better.

Primary healthcare is understood to be the first point of consultation for all patients. Depending on the nature

of the health condition, patients may be referred for secondary or tertiary care. A primary care practitioner should possess a wide breadth of knowledge in many areas. Secondary care involves the treatment carried out for a short period of time for serious illness or injury and is normally administered in the emergency department or intensive care unit. This care requires skilled attention by specialists working along with allied health professionals such as dieticians, physiotherapists, etc. Tertiary care is specialized consultative healthcare for in-patients, who required advanced medical investigation and treatment such as in the case of cancer management, neurological surgery, cardiac surgery, etc. Quaternary care is an extension of tertiary care for treatment of uncommon diagnostic or surgical procedures wherein the treatment is highly specialized and not widely accessed.

India has made substantial progress in healthcare in the last 7 decades as is evidenced by fundamental statistics. But a lot needs to be done to reduce inequalities across States.

Life expectancy at birth improved in the country from 59.7 years in 1990 to 70.3 years in 2016 for females, and from 58.3 years to 66.9 years for males. Yet, as the Indian Council of Medical Research says in its latest report, *India: Health of the Nation's States*, there are continuing inequalities between states. Life expectancy ranges from 66.9 years in Uttar Pradesh to 78.7 years in Kerala for females, and from 63.6 years in Assam to 73.8 years in Kerala for males in 2016. This should make us re-strategise our methods and approaches required to

improve healthcare in the areas which need more attention.

The 71st National Sample Survey (NSS) of 2014 found that out of the total hospitalization 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 health care facilities. There are about a million modern medicine (allopathic) doctors in the country. For a population of about 120 crores, the availability of doctors is not even 1 : 1000. And of these only around 10 per cent work in the public health sector, according to the National Health Profile 2017.

There is therefore a need to increase the number of trained doctors and motivate more doctors to serve in the rural areas and in the public health sector.

The number of lives covered under health insurance is almost 36 crores, i.e. about 30 per cent of the total population. The National Health Protection Scheme aims to change this situation, and make health care coverage universal.

The Government of India has come out with the National Health Policy, 2017 which aims to strengthen and prioritize the role of the government in shaping health systems in all its dimensions – investments in health, organization of healthcare services, prevention of diseases and promotion of good health through cross sectoral actions, access to technologies, developing

human resources, encouraging medical pluralism, building knowledge base, developing better financial protection strategies, strengthening regulation and health assurance.

The most comprehensive and illustrative support, initiative and encouragement by the Government 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.

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

Dhanvantari, Sushruta, JivakaKumarabhacca, 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. He also taught them how to remove foreign bodies from flesh by demonstrating the extraction of seeds from fruits. His students were known to have practiced on dead animals and on leather bags filled with water, before they performed surgeries on patients.

Considerable improvement in health care can be brought by the use of modern methods. Forming a National Knowledge Network and using it for Tele-education, Tele-CME (continuing medical education), Tele-consultations and creating a digital library are important.

Today, with changes in lifestyle, we have an inversion of disease patterns: a significant burden of non-communicable diseases, and a lower but still formidable level of infectious 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 anaemia or low blood count. There are many, many such health issues that need attention.

I congratulate all the 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 hard work 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 greeting to the Chancellor, the Pro Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor of the University who have taken painstaking efforts to organize the convocation in a befitting manner. May this

convocation be the harbinger of great things to come in the future. May the University be greeted with success in all its endeavours.

Jai Hind !