

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR
OF TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF RAINBOW CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL & BIRTHRIGHT BY RAINBOW (PERINATAL CENTRE) AT A120-BED-
STATE-OF-THE-ART MODERN HOSPITAL AT GUINDY, CHENNAI ON
02.12.2018 AT 11.00 A.M.**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

**Hon'ble Vice President of India
Thiru. Venkaiah Naidu ji**

Thiru. C.Vijayabhaskar
Minister for Health & Family Welfare Department

Dr. J. Jayavardhan,
Member of Parliament

Dr. J. Radhakrishnan,
Principal Secretary,
Health and Family Welfare Department

Dr. Ramesh Kancharla,
Chairman and MD,
Rainbow Group of Hospitals

Dr. Dinesh Chirla,
Director, Rainbow Group of Hospitals

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

It fills me with happiness to be here today to participate in the function in which the Hon'ble Vice President of India is inaugurating the 120 bedded state-of-the-art modern hospital set up by the management of Rainbow and Birth Right.

This child care hospital, will be most certainly a useful addition to the healthcare infrastructure of the State of Tamil Nadu.

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 in Chennai 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 been existent in Tamil Nadu for more than 100 years. The State ranks first in the country in terms of number of children immunized

and takes pride in the thousands of eminent medical practitioners specialising in various fields of medicine. It is therefore no wonder that Tamil Nadu serves as a hub for medical tourism in the eastern part of the globe.

Today the State attracts about 40% of those who come into India for medical treatment. It has been estimated by the Confederation of Indian Industry that about 15 lakh patients come into Tamil Nadu for diagnosis and treatment. The Confederation of Indian Industry has estimated that the annual growth of medical tourists coming into Tamil Nadu is more than 20%.

The 71st National Sample Survey (NSS) of 2014 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. For some decades now, the trend has been to move towards private care facilities.

India's hospital industry which stood at US\$ 61.79 billion in 2017 is expected to reach US\$ 132.84 billion by 2022, growing at a rate of 19% annually.

In the area of maternal and child care the mortality rates in Tamil Nadu have been reduced to the level of 50% of the national average.

The Infant Mortality Rate has been reduced to 17 per 1,000 live births while at the national level the figure is 34. Similarly the Maternal Mortality Rate, has been reduced to 62 which is less than half of the National MMR of 130.

Being a hub of medical tourism Chennai can play an important role in achieving similar health care parameters in other states of India. In fact though children constitute nearly 40% of India's population, children's hospitals account for only 5% of hospitals.

We therefore need more children's hospitals which offer services to children and adolescents so that the right kind of medical services with the required psychological support is provided.

A related requirement is that of ensuring a safe and well equipped place for childbirth, where both the mother and newborn can be treated safely.

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.”

With a view towards ensuring the availability of Universal health care, the Government of India has recently 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, thus leading to improvement in quality of life.

I appreciate Rainbow and Birthright for coming forward to set up Rainbow Children’s Hospital and Perinatal Centre. Rainbow has come a long way in establishing itself as a large specialized Pediatric and maternity care group with 1200 hospital beds spread across Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Vijayawada, Delhi and now in Chennai.

I wish to conclude by saying that the members of the medical profession are not merely doctors. To the patient they are his saviours and the pain relieving messiahs. The medical profession is a noble profession. In the words of the famous French philosopher Voltaire “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”

My best wishes are with the Rainbow Hospital who have addressed themselves to the task of providing healthcare to children and expectant mothers. I am sure that the hospital will be able to record significant path breaking advances in the coming years to combat disease to make medical care more affordable and

reduce pain, suffering and mortality rates. By doing this, they will be fully realizing the use of their talents and skills for the benefit of man kind.

I wish them all success in their endeavors.

Nandri Vanakkam...

Jai Hind...