

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT INAUGURATION OF SANKARA MULTISPECIALITY HOSPITAL
AT KONERIKUPPAM, ENATHUR ROAD, KANCHIPURAM
ON 30.09.2019 AT 5.00 P.M**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Dr.C. Vijayabhaskar,
Minister for Health and family welfare

Thiru S. Visvanathan,
Managing Trustee

Thiru. V. Lakshmanan,
Trustee

Dr. Hasit Joshipura,
Member Executive Committee,
L&T

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here at this function organised by the Shri Sankara Kripa Educational and Medical Trust for the inauguration of the Multi Specialty Hospital at Konerikuppam.

The Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam and the Sri Sankara Kripa Educational and Medical Trust have over the years, guided, encouraged and sponsored the setting up of numerous institutions to serve the needs of the poor. Their focus areas have been social welfare activities and initiatives in the domains of Culture & Heritage. The Sankara Vidyalayas, Sankara Colleges and Kanchi University in the educational sector and numerous Hospitals like the Hindu Mission Hospitals, Child Trust Hospital, Sankara

Nethralaya, and Sankara Eye Hospitals across the country bear testimony to this. One more jewel in the crown is this Multi specialty Hospital which is a 42,000 sq ft facility equipped to provide Outpatient and In-Patient services across several specialties in addition to providing Maternity & Child care, Dialysis and Digital x-ray facilities.

Making health care comprehensive, affordable and qualitatively professional is the main objective behind the setting up of this hospital. I consider this to be, indeed a noble initiative taken for reaching health care to the masses.

The nobility attached to the activity of healing needs no emphasis. From times immemorial, philosophers 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.

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.

Health is Wealth is a famous saying. Health care is an important determinant in promoting the physical and mental health and general well being of people. It revolves around the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease, illness, injury

and other physical and mental impairments in human beings.

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

This multi-specialty hospital which is focussed on committed and comprehensive health care is definitely a useful addition to the healthcare infrastructure of the State of Tamil Nadu. At this juncture, I wish to suggest to the Shri Sankara Kripa Educational and Medical Trust that they should soon start a medical college attached to this hospital.

Rural areas in India have a shortage of medical professionals. 70% of doctors serve in urban areas that serve about 35% of the population. In a country where the doctor population ratio is 1:1500 there is a need to increase the number of medical colleges and the hospitals, both in the public and private sectors.

The 71st National Sample Survey (NSS) revealed 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 care facilities.

To utilize the treatment capacity available in the private sector and to cater to the unmet healthcare needs of the population the scheme of Ayushman Bharat has been launched.

The scheme which is a brain child of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Thiru.Narendra Modiji, 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 and nearly 50 crore people are to receive benefits under the scheme.

Tamil Nadu has always been an important centre for medical diagnosis and treatment. It was the first State to enact the Public Health Act.

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.

The State ranks first in the country in terms of number of children immunized.

Tamil Nadu serves as a hub for medical services in the eastern part of the globe thanks to the professional strength of medical practitioners and nursing and other staff have contributed

immensely to enable the attainment of the premier position that the state enjoys in the country.

The members of the medical profession are not merely doctors. To the patient they are his saviours and the pain relieving messiahs. 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”.

I applaud the efforts of the Shri Sankara Kripa Educational and Medical Trust who have imaginatively set up this multi-specialty hospital, in a backward area, but close to Chennai. This

makes it easily accessible for those coming by train or by air upto Chennai. At the same time it provides professional health care to the local people right at their doorstep.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to the Shri Sankara Kripa Educational and Medical Trust who have set up the Multi - specialty hospital. I am sure that their activities will go up manifold in the coming years to serve the interests of the people of India and Tamil Nadu.

Nandri Vanakkam...

Jai Tamil Nadu....

Jai Hind...