

ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT INAUGURATION OF WORLD CONGRESS ON HOLISTIC HEALTH AT SILVER JUBILEE AUDITORIUM ON 09.02.2018 AT 04.00 P.M

ANAIVARUKKUM MAALAI VANAKKAM

Dr. C. Vijaya Baskar
Minister for Health

Prof.Dr.S.Geethalakshmi
Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University

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

Dr. K. Senthil Raj,
Commissioner of Indian Medicine

Prof. T. Balasubramanian
Registrar, Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University

Distinguished Invitees
Friends from the Media
Members of Faculty
Doctors and students
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am happy to be present here today to inaugurate the World Congress on Holistic Health organised by the Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University.

This Conference aims to integrate the various systems of medicine that are practised for medical treatment in India and abroad to ensure that the best practices and remedies are gleaned from the wealth of information available, so as to benefit the common man. We are all aware that the allopathic system of medicine, as it is understood, combats disease and infection through the use of drugs or surgery in a manner that brings quick relief to the patients. There are also the traditional systems of medicine which aim to treat ailments over a longer period of time and which are also equally effective. While the former may cause side effects or weaken the patient, the latter have minimal side effects and generally do not weaken the patient substantially.

We are not here to debate as to which system of medicine is superior. The Conference is about identifying and integrating the best practices in the various systems of medicines to ensure better healthcare for the common man.

You may all be aware that the Ministry of AYUSH was formed in November 2014 for the development and propagation of Indian and traditional systems of medicine. The letters A Y U S H stand for Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy. In October 2016, India's first All India Institute of Ayurveda was dedicated to the nation by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji. All this goes to show the importance that the Government attaches to the propagation of the benefits of the traditional systems of medicine.

At the same time, it is also important to realise that the allopathic system of medicine has its own benefits. Mahatma Gandhi, who was a great believer in naturopathy and herbal remedies, started having faith in Western medicine after his intractable piles problem was solved by surgery. This faith got further reinforced when he was successfully operated for appendicitis in Yerwada Jail, where he was interned during the freedom struggle. Based on these experiences Gandhiji advocated continuous interaction between different medical traditions, whether modern or ancient, whether of the west or east, so that they could blend harmoniously and rid each other of their defects.

It is therefore clear that it is necessary to create a new model for health and healing, keeping the patient at the core of the treatment, without being fixated on a single system of medicine.

Indian traditional medicinal systems like Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani have a well-documented history showing the efficacy of their medicines and treatment.

Ayurveda takes the total body matrix to be a combination of the three elements of Vaata, Pithaa and Kapha. The system aims to create the right balance among the three elements within the human body.

The Siddha system of medicine of Tamil Nadu has many similarities to Ayurveda. It is based on a combination of ancient medicinal practices expounded by the Siddhars. The Siddhars were mystics whose knowledge of the human body was profound.

Yoga too, in its therapeutic dimension, looks at the human system as a holistic whole. Yoga believes that each individual is unique and that he or she should participate actively in the healing process by adopting the right attitude and approach.

The entry of homeopathy into India began with the Romanian doctor, John Martin Honigberger successfully treating Maharaja Ranjit Singh of the Punjab.

Owing to wars and military conquests, certain systems of medicines were propagated more vigorously and actively by Governments in the first half of the 20th century. Hence there was a decline of traditional systems of medicine in India and greater focus was laid on the allopathic system. Today the time has come for us to integrate the systems of medicine and not attach too much importance to the deficiencies in any one of the systems. Diseases have become numerous. Lifestyles have become unnatural. Widespread use of substances like plastic, petrol and chemicals has resulted in mankind being subjected to suffering and disease to a level unseen in earlier centuries. It is therefore necessary to focus clearly on the enemy of disease and not fight among friends. By friends I mean the various systems of medicine. The various systems of medicine should be friendly to each other and their goal should be to eradicate their single enemy – disease. The World Health Organisation has also emphasized the integration of medicinal systems for better universal healthcare.

I am sure that this conference is going to be a path-breaking effort in finding methods to derive the best from the practices followed in the medical world. My best wishes are with Dr. MGR Medical University who have thought of this innovative idea and I am sure that all the participants in this Congress will contribute usefully towards the common goal of fighting disease. It is necessary that medical care should be effective so as to reduce pain and suffering and increase longevity. It is important that medical care is universally available and within the reach of the common man. It should be ensured that the medicines necessary for treatment are made available at an economical price. Most importantly, it is necessary that well trained doctors and para medical personnel are available for treating the patients promptly and comprehensively.

I conclude by expressing my greetings to the entire medical fraternity and wish to assure the Medical University, the Health Department of Tamil Nadu and all the doctors and para medical personnel of the State that my best wishes are with them for achieving success in all their endeavours.

Nandri
Jai Hind

Vanakkam.
Jai Tamil Nadu.