

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF APOLLO PROTON
CANCER CENTRE AT TARAMANI, CHENNAI ON 25.01.2019 AT 10.00 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

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

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,
Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. O. Panneerselvam,
Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. P. Thangamani,
Minister for Electricity, Prohibition & Excise

Thiru. S. P. Velumani,
Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development &
Implementation of Special Programme

Dr. C. Vijaya Baskar,
Minister for Health & Family Welfare

Dr. Prathap C Reddy,
Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group

Thiru. G. Nageswara Rao,
Chairman, AERB

Smt. Suneeta Reddy,
Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Group

Smt. Preetha Reddy,
Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Group

Distinguished Invitees

Friends from the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me happiness to be here today at the function in which the Hon'ble Vice President of India will be inaugurating a new advanced facility for Cancer treatment set up by the management of the Apollo Hospitals Group.

Cancer which is symptomatic of the dangers that society will have to encounter, if life styles do not blend with nature has become an important and challenging medical problem with which the whole world is wrestling. Surgery and radiation therapy are being commonly practised by doctors to treat cancer. Surgery or radiation therapy is practiced depending on the type, stage, and location of the tumour. In some instances, surgery is superior and in some others radiation is

superior. In some instances, they are also used together. The benefit of external beam proton radiation lies in the dosimetric advantage.

In Proton therapy the dose outside of the treatment region is significantly less and hence it is ideally suited for deep-tissue tumors.

In proton therapy, medical personnel use an accelerator to target a tumor with a beam of protons. These charged particles damage the DNA of cells, ultimately killing them by stopping their reproduction. Cancerous cells are particularly vulnerable to attacks on DNA because of their high rate of division and their reduced abilities to repair DNA damage.

Historically, Proton therapy has been considered to be more expensive than X-ray therapies.

However by the setting up of a proton cancer centre in Chennai the treatment is expected to be more affordable.

Patients from all over the world are drawn towards Tamil Nadu because of the affordable cost of medical treatment and the professional and expert medical care that the state provides. The American Medical Association has provided the cost comparisons. For example, a knee replacement surgery costs about 40,000 dollars in the USA and about 13,000 dollars in Singapore. In Tamil Nadu the cost is much lower. Similarly, for

a bone marrow transplant, the cost is about 400,000 dollars in the US while in Tamil Nadu it is much much lower.

The huge growth in the number of Indian families residing in various parts of the world has also resulted in a greater flow of patients into Tamil Nadu from abroad. By coming back to their country of origin, the family members accompanying the patients are able to combine the medical procedure with other activities such as visiting their relatives or availing the benefits of a vacation by undertaking leisure activities.

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 robotic eye surgery or advanced Cardiac treatment have been propagated widely in the State. It is a matter of immense pride that most cutting-edge medical procedures being performed anywhere in the world are now being done in our Chennai hospitals. Tamil Nadu is therefore 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. 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. I am certain that with this benefit the poor and vulnerable groups affected by cancer who went without treatment earlier will seek medical treatment for curing it.

Pioneering efforts in healthcare bring glory to the people who initiate them, their place of origin and their place of work.

I am happy that the activities of the Apollo Hospitals group who first set up their hospital in Chennai in 1983 have grown manifold. They have carved a niche for themselves in medical care. Their first cancer hospital in Tamil Nadu was set up 25 years ago. Now, this Proton Cancer Centre, the first in South East Asia has been established in

the city. This will make it hat-trick of sorts for Chennai city. The praiseworthy initiative to set up a proton cancer centre in Chennai is certainly a feather in their cap.

I am sure that the hospital will be able to record significant path breaking advances in the coming years to combat cancer and make medical care more affordable and reduce pain, suffering and mortality rates.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to the Apollo Hospitals group on this momentous occasion. May they be visited with success in all their noble endeavours.

Nandri, Vanakkam...

Jai Hind...