

**Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Chief Guest at the inauguration of Sankara Rural Medical Centre organised by Shri Sankara Kripa Educational and Medical Trust**

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Chief Guest at the inauguration of Sankara Rural Medical Centre organised by Shri Sankara Kripa Educational and Medical Trust at Thandalam, Thiruvallur today (11.07.2021) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "It gives me great pleasure to be here today at Thandalam for the Inauguration of Sankara Rural Medical Centre set up by Shri Sankara Kripa Educational & Medical Trust. It is delighted to be here in Thandalam village which is the birth place of Sankaracharya Sri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal.

Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam is aimed to serve the needy people, apart from the spiritual activities. Now, with the blessings of Jagadguru Sankaracharya, numerous institutions were set up in the society as a whole, especially focused on Culture & Heritage, Veda (Spiritual), Vidya (Education), and Vaidya (Healthcare).

In the Healthcare segment, Hindu Mission Hospitals, Child Trust Hospital, Sankara Nethralaya, and Sankara Eye Hospitals established across the country are managed by the respective Charitable Trusts.

The Sankara Multispeciality Hospital was set up in 2009 with the objective of providing relief and succor to the needy population in and around Kanchipuram. The Hospital has been extending emergency care for cardiac patients and dialysis facilities for patients with kidney disorders. The Hospital has been a sought after destination for emergency care as it has the necessary wherewithal in the form of Doctors and equipment to handle critical care.

In deference to the desire of His Holiness, a small well-equipped rural clinic was set up in Thandalam village in the year 2019 so as to provide affordable healthcare to the needy people. Sri A G Narayanaiaha Family, Kaakavakkam, has donated land for setting up the Rural Medical Centre. It is our bounden duty to appreciate his gesture for having

donated the land in the interest of the society as a whole.

It aims to extend affordable and compassionate care to all who need medical facilities. I am told that in order to ensure qualitative care, an MoU has been drawn with Chettinad Hospitals who is pioneer in the field of providing utmost care to delivering the medical services.

I am very happy to hear that only Rs.10/- will be charged from the patients as consultation fee and medicines will be provided free of cost. In case of any emergencies, the patient will be shifted to Chettinad Hospital with the help of their ambulance. I appreciate that the cost of treatment is highly subsidized and is affordable by the patients.

I am very much confident that Sankara Rural Medical Centre with the medical management of Chettinad Hospital will discharge their functions in an excel manner and beyond people's expectations.

Donald M. Berwick, President Emeritus and Senior Fellow at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and former Administrator of the Centre for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and also a top paediatrician at Harvard, USA, said, and I quote, "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 your white coat on. You must take your white coat off. You must recover, embrace, and treasure the memory of your shared, frail humanity – of the dignity in each and every soul."

Our country has 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 could be, they were not

competent to treat disease until they had practical, hands-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 practised on dead animals and on leather bags filled with water, before they performed surgeries on patients.

It is a matter of great significance to see that this hospital is being located in a rural area which gives me satisfaction and happiness.

Let me summarise by saying that the mission before us is to make health care comprehensive, universal, affordable and qualitatively professional. For achieving this objective, the road ahead is going to be complex and arduous.

It is important for us to work together in a constructive manner to fight the common enemy i.e. disease. All of us should join hands and march together so that we achieve success.

I wish to conclude by saying that the members of the medical profession are not merely doctors. To the patient they are 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".

I appreciate the efforts of the Shri Sankara Kripa Educational & Medical Trust who have shown enterprise in pioneering this effort of setting up a Medical Centre, in a backward area. They deserve our praise and support. I wish to conclude by wishing them well. May success greet them at every step, in their journey whose quest is to bring quality medical care within the reach of the local community.

I also request all the people of Tamil Nadu to follow the Government guidelines regarding Covid-19 scrupulously. Follow the Corona-appropriate behavior protocols, wear masks, use hand sanitizer, keep social distancing and stay safe."

On this occasion, Thiru. S. M. Nasar, Hon'ble Minister for Milk & Dairy Development, Thiru. T. J. Govindarajan, Member of Legislative Assembly,

Gummidipoondi Constituency, Thiru. S. Visvanathan, Managing Trustee, Shri Sankara Kripa Educational & Medical Trust, Dr. Alby John Varghese, I.A.S., District Collector, Thiruvallur, Thiru. M. A. M. R. Muthiah, Chairman, Chettinad Group, Thiru. P. Palanisamy, Chief General Manager, Canara Bank and other dignitaries participated.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai – 22

Sd/-

Date : 11.07.2021

Addl. Director (PR)