

THE TAMIL NADU DR.M.G.R MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, CHENNAI
VICE – CHANCELLOR’S ADDRESS FOR THE 23rd CONVOCATION
(SILVER JUBILEE YEAR 1987 - 2012)

1. Your Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of
the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University,
2. Hon'ble Minister for Health, Government of Tamil Nadu and
Pro-Chancellor of the University,
3. Esteemed Chief Guest & Guest of Honour,
4. The Recipients of Hon. Doctor of Science & Life Time Achievement
Awards,
5. Former Vice Chancellors of the University,
6. Members of the Governing Council,
7. Respected Trustees, Deans, Principals and Professors of the affiliated
Colleges.
8. Distinguished invitees.
9. Graduates, Parents, Students,

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It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to this august gathering, on the occasion of the 23rd Convocation in the Silver Jubilee Year of the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University.

I welcome His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. University. He has been constantly supporting the development of our Medical University.

His Excellency always advocates a coordinated effort between all stake holders, for the medical facilities to reach the people at door steps. Sir, with your advice and directions our University is taking all steps to accomplish this task.

His Excellency believes in “Employment Linked Training Programs”. Sir our University is proud to affirm your belief has paid special emphasis and has commenced various degree and diploma programs. Several students are currently enrolled on such programs across hospitals in Tamil Nadu, affiliated to our University. On completion they would all find suitable employment in various hospitals.

His Excellency has contributed to the State of Andhra Pradesh as its longest serving Finance Minister and is well known for adhering to strict fiscal management principles and effective mobilization & utilization of government funds. Notable is his efforts during his tenure to award retirement benefits to teachers. Sir, with your continued support and directions our University will strive hard and reach out to the needy. We have great pleasure in welcoming you Sir.

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I welcome the Hon. Minister of Health and the Pro-Chancellor of the university who is a medical professional and has been the source of support to the activities of this University. Our Pro-Chancellor has high regard for teachers and has served the needs of Govt. Doctors as a member of the Association.

Our Minister of Health has taken the mandate to improve the public and private health care delivery in Tamil Nadu in the recent year. All of us know that access is the key to healthcare and our beloved minister with the directions and advice of our beloved Chief Minister is engaged in designing and delivering the Insurance scheme which would be a boon for all concerned citizens.

Sir, with your support the University will stride harder to achieve laurels

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I have great pleasure to welcome our Chief Guest Dr. Prathap C Reddy, the architect of corporate healthcare India.

Dr. Prathap C Reddy is the founder Chairman of the Apollo Hospital Group. His mission started in 1979 when he returned from US and could not accept the fact that Indians have to travel abroad for life saving Cardiac surgeries. He decided to CHANGE the situation and here we are, proud to say the trend has reversed and India has become the preferred Medical Tourism destination for other nationals.

Students gathered here - I used to remember Dr.Reddy's favourite comment "The first hospital I built in Greams Road. I faced any number of problems equivalent to the number of bricks used to build the building". Students you should all understand that perseverance can make things happen. You need to really believe and just believe to achieve.

Recipient of the Padma Bushan, Padma Vibushan and many other awards, Dr.Prathap C Reddy has brought accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to our country. His institution has many first to it's hat... Starting from first MRI in the country to the latest Cyberknife to introduction of Preventive health checks.

Another major initiative launched by the Apollo group is the "Health hi-way" wherein all doctors in the country would be linked and electronic patient record would be the order of the day, thereby elevating the quality of healthcare to the highest level for all Indians.

Thank you Sir for being here with us and having consented to deliver the convocation address.

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I have great pleasure in welcoming the Guest of Honour Prof. Kameswaran, a senior highly qualified ENT Surgeon. He was the past Director of the Institute of Oto-rhino-laryngology at Madras Medical College and the past Director of the P.G. Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, Taramani.

He has been the President of all the academic bodies in ENT and Speech and Hearing. A Padmashree awardee and B.C.Roy awardee he is an acclaimed ENT Surgeon of international repute. He was an Expert Committee Member which laid the foundation for this Medical University to be formed in the year 1987. His wife Late Dr.Lalitha Kameswaran was the first Vice-Chancellor of our Medical University. His son Dr.Mohan is a Padmashree awardee and world renown ENT Surgeon in the footsteps of his beloved father.

We have great pleasure in welcoming you Sir.

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I welcome the recipients of the Hon. Degree of Doctor of Science and the Life Time Achievement Awardees, considering their exceptional contributions in their chosen field. I also welcome the other distinguished guests, dignitaries, students, Faculty, Press and Media.

It is a proud moment for this University that 5215 students are being conferred with their degrees. Of these 2298 Under Graduates and Post Graduate students are being conferred with their degree in person today. 5 candidates are being conferred with Ph.D and 1 candidate with D.Sc. Research Degrees. My heartiest congratulations to all the students on their achievements.

Let me take this opportunity to briefly share with you some of the select achievements of the University in recent times.

25 years since its inception, The University is celebrating the Silver Jubilee Year in 2012. Special guest lecturers on currently relevant topics, International Seminars and Health Screening Camps are being conducted to make this celebration a memorable one. Simulation and OSCE Workshops have been organized to train the trainers.

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To train the post-graduates of Medicine and Surgery to do clinical and basic science research, the Med E-Journal has been brought out by the University. It has been made mandatory for them to publish a research article in this journal, before being allowed to take the post graduate exit examination. The slogan 'Publish or Perish' is being ingrained at this early stage itself.

It is also being made mandatory for the post-graduates to present a scientific paper in the State, Regional or National Conference during their period of study.

The examination methodology in the post-graduate exam has been changed for the first time in FOUR DECADES to make it innovative and contemporary to assess the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the post-graduates. This will enable them to compete in the international arena, anywhere in the world.

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The last decade has witnessed the IT Sector in India establishing itself to global standards. The next decade will see how India establishes itself as a medical super power in global quality health care at moderate and affordable cost, making India a powerful Medical Tourism Centre. Chennai will of course be leading and the forerunner towards achieving this goal.

The foundation of every State is the education of its youth. Medical Education is not completed at the Medical School. It has only begun. Having given the assurance to our Hon. Chief Minister in the last Convocation, that the University will make Chennai the Medical Capital of India, innumerable steps are being taken to raise the standard of education on par with global standards in this Silver Jubilee Year.

Chennai being the Capital of Tamil Nadu and the preferred health care destination of the world we need to equip our young graduates to rise up to the occasion and give quality healthcare. The University has approached the respective councils to enhance the standard of education. It was a shot in the arm for the University which received the approval from the Dental Council of India to prescribe higher standards than the Regulation framed by Dental Council of India.

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For the first time in India even before the Medical Council of India could begin such a program, our Medical University is proud to have introduced Sub-speciality Fellowships in Medicine and Surgery. Medical Post-graduates were earlier leaving the country to get trained in their chosen field of sub specialization to get their Fellowship. This trend has changed now. Medically, India is very well advanced on par with western countries and it is able to train Fellows as subspecialists in the speciality.

It is a proud moment to see that the first batch of students receiving their Post Doctoral Fellowship from the Medical University. Trail blazing in the field of medicine, new Fellowship programmes in Sleep Medicine, Palliative Medicine, Computer Assisted Surgery and Robotic Surgery are being introduced by our University.

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Finally to conclude – It is an exciting moment for those who are here to receive their degrees. **Graduation** is a major **academic milestone** in an individual's life. It is formal recognition that you are ready to move a step forward towards acquiring yet more knowledge in the area of your choice. Never in the past have there been so much hope and expectation about the **future of India** than at present. For the young graduates, the **road ahead is long**, but the **journey promises to be exciting**.

I quote **Dr.Abdul Kalam** our former President of India “**We are all born with a divine fire within us. Our efforts should be to give wings to this fire and fill the world with the glow of its goodness**”.