

THE TAMIL NADU DR.M.G.R MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

VICE – CHANCELLOR’S ADDRESS

IN THE 21ST CONVOCATION

Your Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of the
Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University

Esteemed Chief Guest, the Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Hon’ble Minister for Health, Government of Tamil Nadu and Pro-
Chancellor of the University

The Recipients of D.Sc. (Honoris Causa),

Former Vice Chancellors of the University,

Respected members of the Governing Council, Senate, Standing
Academic Board, Boards of Studies and Faculties,

Respected Deans/Principals and Professors of the affiliated colleges of
the University, Officers of the University, Distinguished invitees, Graduates,
Parents, Students,

I consider it a great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to this august
gathering on the occasion of the Twenty First Convocation 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, who has been evincing keen interest in the development of Medical Education. He has been leading this University in striving for academic excellence. On this memorable day, I warmly welcome His Excellency to this academic gathering and to preside over the Convocation.

To-day, we find in our midst, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who has extended his consent to be the Chief Guest in this occasion. The name of Stalin goes with the synonym in Russian Language "The Man of Steel". But in his heart he is gentle as a flower, in his concern for the welfare of the downtrodden. I find the goal of our Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister in his website - "Let the youth dedicate themselves for creating an Egalitarian Society". A society characterized by equal political, economical, social and civil rights for all people. As he walks in the path of Politics and Governance in realization of this goal, let the new graduates who are to be conferred with their Degrees in this Convocation and the exalted audience gathered here show up the momentum in the path of the profession they have chosen to establish an Egalitarian Society. Sir, your presence illumines the Convocation with enormity of thought and adds fervor to the new Graduates to reach greater heights in the years to come.

I welcome the Honorable Minister of Health and the Pro-Chancellor of the Medical University who has been the source of support and has been extending all possible assistance to the activities of this University

I welcome the recipients of the Degree of Doctor of Science D.Sc (Honoris Causa), considering their exceptional contributions in the chosen field. They are Dr. V. Nagarajan, Dr. P. B. Sivaraman, Dr. A. V. Srinivasan, Dr. S. Viswakumar, Dr. V. Mohan, Dr. P. Gopal and Dr. R. Sabaratanavel.

I also welcome the other distinguished guests, dignitaries, students, Faculty, Press and Media.

It is proud moment of this University. 5136 students are being conferred with their degrees. Of these 1633 Under Graduates; 161 Post Graduate Degree and Diploma students are being conferred with their degree in person today. 10 Candidates are being conferred with Ph.D 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. It has been a time of transformations. The transformation has focused on academics, administration, finance and information technology.

For the benefit of all students, it has been decided to conduct two Convocation's every year – one in the month of January and another in the month of June so as to considerably minimize the waiting time for getting the Degree certificates from the University. This will enable them to pursue their career nationally and internationally without delay.

Everything has changed in the past 2 decades except the Medical Curriculum. The search for a need based curriculum is not new. It has been felt for ages. Therefore it has been decided to introduce competence based curriculum in all the four fields of Medicine, Dentistry, Indian Medicine and Allied Health Sciences. Expert Committees' have been constituted to revamp the syllabus and content to keep pace with the modern developments. To increase the standards of medicare, the marks for theory, practical and viva are being standardized to 100 or 50 with a 50% minimum required for pass separately in all sections. This will encourage the students of health care to work harder to achieve greater heights.

The University has introduced Compulsory Skill Training to the MBBS interns to fine tune their knowledge to the optimum level in the health care delivery system. The University is also introducing one year Speciality Fellowship Programmes in Dentistry on the lines of Fellowship in Medicine. Prof. John Dent, University of Dundee, was invited to conduct a workshop to Train the Teachers in Objective Structured Clinical Examination. This new evaluation methodology is being introduced to the Medical Under Graduates and Post Graduates from February 2011 examinations.

The Medical University has sanctioned scale of pay to the ministerial staff on par with the University of Madras from which, this University was

carved out in 1987. This issue was pending for more than a decade and the stakeholders are extremely happy for their elevation in stature economically and socially.

In the field of accounting and finance developments, online payments gateway has been introduced. The other milestone is the introduction of RTGS / NEFT system whereby all the institutions will pay their dues to the University through electronic fund transfer faster and efficiently. A reputed Chartered Accountancy firm has been entrusted with the job of introduction of Accrual Based Accounting for the University from the present system of Cash Based Accounting. All the Assets and Liabilities of the University will be brought into the books with a distinction between Revenue Expenditure and Capital Expenditure. This will bring in financial transparency and accountability. Our University is the first in the whole of India where we have asked the Department of Local Fund Audit for concurrent audit by the auditing team. This will enable us to walk the path of accounting without deviation during the current financial year.

The University has initiated the following measures for reforming the examination system.

- Launched Online Registration of students admitted in the affiliated Colleges.
- Online entry of Internal Assessment marks and Attendance for all the students in all courses.
- Online submission of Exam Applications.

- Online issue of Hall tickets.
- Online spot entry of oral and practical marks.
- Online spot entry of theory marks by the examiners themselves immediately after the valuation is over.

I am very happy to mention here that for the first time in the history of this University, Senior Teachers from the field of Medicine were honored with Life Time Achievement Awards on the University Day in September 2010. We are continuing the tradition in this Convocation also, to inculcate in the minds of the younger generation, the tradition of honoring our teachers who have been the leading light in our professional lives. It also was decided to celebrate Doctors's Day, Dentist's Day, Ayush Day, Pharmacy Day, Nurses Day, and Physiotherapy Day to highlight the dedication and professionalism of the health care providers.

The University proposes to issue ID Cards for the Faculties and Students of all affiliated institutions for identity purpose. Steps have already been initiated to get the ISO 9001 Certification for this University. ISO 9001 is a worldwide standard administered by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), based in Switzerland. This will improve the level of quality in all aspects of the entire University.

The Professional organization Nielson Survey Specialists have been asked to objectively evaluate the affiliated institutes to give them star ratings. Very soon all colleges will have 5 star and 4 star ratings etc. This will help to

improve the standard of affiliated institutes in a healthy competitive manner. The students will also have a choice of studying in 5 star or 4 star hospitals and colleges.

The University Sports Council has been created to extend financial assistance to the students of the affiliated institutions to participate in the Inter-collegiate or Inter University sports events at State or National level.

It gives me immense pleasure to announce that Medical University Alumni Association has been formed with a view to unite the students of this University both past and present under one umbrella. In future all the 50,000 students of this University will identify themselves with the University and not with the College, as is the situation in Universities like Oxford, Harvard etc. A University Souvenir Centre is being started to create T-shirts, ties, caps etc with University logo to create a sense of oneness among the students.

The University has entered into MOU with the Govt. General Hospital and Govt. Stanley Hospital for Research programmes for utilizing the clinical cases in the hospitals. The Department of Transfusion Medicine and Immunology are being shifted to the respective departments in the Govt. hospitals as a pilot project.

Before concluding, I once again extend my heartiest congratulations to the young graduates and to call upon to realize the responsibilities bestowed on you and to serve the nation especially rural population for the betterment of their health care system.

To quote from the Upanishad,

Asato Ma Sadgamaya

Tamaso Ma Jyotir Gamaya

Mrityorma Amritam Gamaya

Om Shanti Shanti Shantihi which means

Take us from the false to the truth; from darkness to light; from poison to nectar.

May I now request the Chancellor to declare open the Twenty first Convocation of the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University.

THANK YOU

.....