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**22nd CONVOCATION OF THE TAMIL NADU DR. M.G.R. MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY**

VICE - CHANCELLOR's ADDRESS

Date: 3 – 11 – 2011

Day: Thursday

- His Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University,
- Most Esteemed Chief Guest and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,
- Hon'ble Minister for Health and Pro-Chancellor of the University,
- The Recipients of D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) and Life Time Achievement Awards, Faculty Members of the affiliated institutions, Distinguished invitees, Parents, Graduates and Students, Members from the Press and Media,

I have immense pleasure in extending a warm welcome to this august gathering on the occasion of the 22nd Convocation of the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University.

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I welcome His Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of the University. His Excellency, is a man of deep wisdom and vast experience. He has served as the Minister of Health and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. His Excellency has presented the Andhra Pradesh state Budget 16 times, including 7 times in a row, a record in the country.

His affection and admiration towards medical professionals is shown by his presence as Chief Guest on the World Heart Day function, giving Life Time Achievement Awards to eminent Cardiologists and Cardiac Surgeons soon after he assumed office as the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

Sir, We look forward to your support and guidance to achieve laurels.

Today, we are extremely happy to welcome our Hon'ble Chief Minister, who has graciously consented to be the Chief Guest inspite of her other commitments and priorities.

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A charismatic leader and dynamic administrator, our Chief Guest has excelled in academics from her earlier days and has always stressed upon the importance of good basic education for the citizens, especially the girl child. Her vision to take education of our State to the next level, has resulted in the launching of the Laptop Scheme for students.

Your presence here today, Madam has made us proud and delighted, as we recall your earlier visits as Chief Guest in the 2nd and the 12th Convocation. The present 22nd Convocation of this University assumes special significance on account of the conferment of ISO 9001 Certification on us by the International Organisation for Standardisation and laying the foundation for the Silver Jubilee University Guest House.

To match the growing demands of healthcare to society, our beloved Chief Minister has announced the setting up of Tamil Nadu Medical Recruitment Board which is first of its kind in India. To improve the tertiary healthcare facilities to the common man, the Govt. of Tamil Nadu under your dynamic leadership, has

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announced the establishment of a Multi Speciality Public Hospital in Chennai. On this memorable occasion, I would like to remind our Hon'ble Chief Minister that the present site in Guindy where the University Administrative Building stands was allotted by your good self in 1992. As a Silver Jubilee gift to us, I request you Madam, to sanction this Hospital and Medical College with funds, to be the University Speciality Hospital and Post Graduate Institute, the first of its kind in India.

As all of us are aware, New Delhi is the Political Capital of India, Bombay is the Financial Capital of India, Calcutta is the Cultural Capital of India and Bangalore is the IT Capital of India. It is our privilege to assure you Madam, that the Dr. M.G.R. Medical University will strive towards the goals set by you on Health and Medical Education, to make Chennai and Tamil Nadu, the Health Capital of India and bring pride to all.

I am sure that your Convocation Address will inspire our bright young medical graduates.

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I welcome the Hon'ble Minister for Health and the Pro-Chancellor of the Medical University. I am proud to note that we both have specialized in the same field of Orthopaedic Surgery. The Hon'ble Minister has shown his commitment to social health care by working in Vellore Govt. Gen. Hospital. As an Officer bearer, he has actively contributed to the welfare of Government Doctors. Sir, being a medical professional, with your insight and knowledge, we look forward to your support in steering the Medical University to greater heights - **To Serve and To Achieve.**

I welcome the recipients of the Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) considering their exceptional contribution in their speciality. I welcome the recipients of the Life Time Achievement Awards, who are Senior Teachers in various specialities. The University has started this concept of honouring distinguished Teachers, to inculcate in the minds of the younger health professional, our tradition of honouring Matha, Pitha, Guru and Deivam.

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I welcome the other Dignitaries, Faculty, Graduates, Students, Parents, Press and Media.

To day is a proud day for this University. About 7000 students are being conferred their degrees in Medical, Dental, Indian Medicine and Allied Health Courses. 2250 students are receiving their degrees in person. 161 Medal winners have been identified for their exceptional performance. 28 candidates are being conferred with Ph.D research degrees. My heartiest congratulations to all of them.

The 22nd Convocation is taking place at a time when the University is poised to make giant strides towards achieving excellence in diverse areas. I will briefly share with you, some select achievements of the University in recent times. It has been a time of transformation, both on academic and administrative front, not only for me leading the University, but also for all the staff of the University.

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The University has started affiliating Hospitals as Temples of Teaching and Training. Sub-specialization within the broader speciality has been made a formal University training. Fellowship Programs in Medical, Surgical & Dental Specialities have been introduced in Public and Private Tertiary Care Hospitals. Impressed with this concept, the Medical Council of India is in the process of introducing the Fellowship Programme all over India.

For the first time, a Post Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine Course through Distance Education has been initiated, to improve the skills of Primary Care Physicians.

Advancing Science and Technology has made the Medical Professional depend more on computers and sophisticated electronic equipment in offering their services to patients. The role of qualified Allied Health Professionals to augment the health care industry is imperative. Rising up to the occasion, the University has started 10 Diploma Courses for the 10th Standard students and 20 Degree Courses in Allied Health Sciences for +2 students. The

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socially and economically weaker sections of society will be great benefited by this programme.

In order to enhance the surgical skills of Post-graduates, it is ethically not possible to train them to do surgery on human beings. Hence, it is imperative to give them hands on training in Skills Lab., Bone Models, Cadaveric Lab., Mannequins and Virtual reality computerised workshops. We are now making it compulsory for house surgeons and Post graduates to undergo these programs as it is in other parts of the world, before they are permitted to take their examinations. A medical student completing his course must be a competent basic doctor knowing how to conduct a delivery or give first aid to a heart attack patient. Knowing theory and not being able to do it practically is a great disaster to society, which is the sad state of affairs, as of today.

Thus the core value of Medical Education and training is being transferred from knowledge based education to competency based education. Using book knowledge in problem solving clinical

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situations are taught, to meet the needs of society more effectively. This change over, is a difficult period for medical students.

Medical field is the only field where we train our students to face Failure and Death. The Medical or Nursing students have to be trained to face a situation when the patient they are treating dies unexpectedly during surgery, inspite of proper care. The student who is a future Doctor or Nurse cannot afford to be weak or faint.

They are also trained to face death with compassion, when they are treating terminally ill cancer patients. Preserving the Quality of Life and Maintaining the Dignity of Death are values which have to be imbibed by the Medical graduates realizing that the role of the medical professionals is to cure sometimes, relieve often but comfort always. Thus, we offer nothing but blood, sweat and tears to our students.

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The University has established the University Research Council for promoting research, University Electronic Medical Journal where PG's have to publish an article, University Sports Council for encouraging Sports, University Student Support Centre for professional counselling to students.

University Medals for excellence have been created, raising the Medals from 73 to 161 so that top students in every subject in all disciplines will be decorated with a medal. The University Souvenir Centre and University Alumni Association has been formed to enable students to identify themselves with the University and not with the college. With pride they will state that I am an old student of the Dr. M.G.R. Medical University all over the world, like what students of Oxford University or Harvard University identify themselves.

The University has undertaken a program of IT transformation to improve operational efficiency. The University Automation System has been introduced which has enabled us to apply online registration of students, attendance, internal assessment, practical

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mark entry, hall ticket issuing, question paper delivery, result processing etc., This has not only improved the efficiency but also made us transparent and accountable.

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.

Have a constructive attitude and think in terms of solutions, not in terms of problems. Take each challenge not with “why you can't” but “how you can” and do remember that great opportunities come to those who make the most of small ones. I wish you all success in your endeavors.

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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”**.

I would like to finish with a **Prayer** for Mankind and the **Universe**:

Sarveshaam Svastir Bhavatu - May Good Behall All.

Sarveshaam Shaantir Bhavatu - May there be Peace for All.

Sarveshaam Purnam Bhavatu - May all be fit for
Perfection.

Sarveshaam Mangalam Bhavatu – May all experience that
which is Auspicious.

May I now request the Chancellor to declare open the **22nd**
Convocation of the Tamil Nadu Dr.M.G.R. Medical University.

Thank You.