Inaugural Address of Hon'ble Lt. Governor Shri K. Kailashnathan at the Third International Health & Research Convention (IHRC) 2025 Venue: Auditorium, SBV Campus, Pillayarkuppam. Date: 05-02-2025

Greetings to the august gathering!!!

I feel extremely happy to inaugurate the 3rd International Health & Research Convention 2025, a collaborative endeavour of Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth and University of Leeds, UK.

I understand that this Convention represents a congregation comprising Researchers, Educators, Health Care Professionals, Women Leaders and experts from the industry-academia domain – focussing on the broad theme "Advancing Global Health through innovation & collaboration". I perceive that this endeavour is unique, holistic and all set to deliberate on the recent advances and current innovation strategies in Health Care, Research, Academics and Leadership.

It is heartening to note that nodal themes such as Bioinformatics, Artificial Intelligence, Cardiac Care, Health Professions, Education, and Women in leadership are being featured in the four-day convention. The landscape of global health is evolving rapidly. The world is continuously facing new healthcare challenges from pandemics and chronic diseases to emerging threats posed by climate change and antimicrobial resistance. The need for innovation has never been greater.

Innovation in healthcare cannot be just about ground-breaking discoveries in medicine or state-of-the-art technology; it is all about transforming the way we deliver healthcare, making it more accessible, affordable and effective for all i.e., ensuring health solutions reach every citizen efficiently even for remote communities. The innovation must drive the future of health care.

But, innovation alone is not enough. To ensure that scientific progress translates into tangible benefits for people across all regions and socio-economic backgrounds, we must prioritize collaboration. Collaboration is the key to overcoming the most pressing global health challenges. No single institution, country, or discipline can address these challenges alone. It requires a multi-disciplinary, crosssectorial approach that brings together policymakers, healthcare providers, researchers, and industry leaders. We have witnessed how global collaboration has led to incredible achievements. The fight against COVID-19 demonstrated the power of partnerships among governments, pharmaceutical companies, research institutions, and healthcare workers worldwide. These alliances enabled the rapid development, approval, and distribution of vaccines, saving millions of lives across the world.

The COVID epidemic has changed the way of medical care and medical treatment, and given new dimensions to it. *Lead from the front* was the message given to the top medical professionals. The people themselves started changing their lifestyles to see that the prevention of diseases especially lifestyle diseases. They have become more conscious about their health.

Most of the people are now aware of the lifestyle diseases like Diabetes and Blood Pressure. Large scale screening is necessary covering the entire population. Usually we think that more attention is to be paid in the rural areas, but the lifestyle diseases are also a common thing among the urban population. What is necessary is to make the best use of the huge number of field staff available in the medical governance to be trained so that they can do the regular tests at the field level. Always prevention is better than cure.

Access to quality healthcare and life-saving treatments remains a challenge in many low- and middle-income countries. Collaboration must be strengthened to bridge these gaps, ensuring that health innovations benefit everyone, regardless of geography or economic status.

As we move forward, it is imperative that we align our efforts towards a future where healthcare is equitable, inclusive and sustainable. Here, I would recollect the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his efforts to ensure affordable and accessible healthcare through several health schemes as Health is the backbone of a prosperous nation.

Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) provides free health coverage to economically weaker sections. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) offers accident insurance, while **Mission Indradhanush** ensures immunization for children. Additionally, National Health Mission (NHM) strengthens rural and urban healthcare infrastructure, and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is revolutionizing digital health records.

Our country needs the support of Allied Health Science professionals equipped with the updated knowledge, skills and attitude to assist in the early diagnosis and management of common diseases in the peripheral communities. I am happy to note that this IHRC - 2025 also has focussed on empowering Nursing and Allied Health Professionals to perform the process of Cardiac assessment and monitoring in the field settings.

Health Professions, Educators have a pivotal role in shaping the future of Health Care Education nationally and globally. By organizing such health and research conventions, we create awareness about these initiatives, bridge gaps in healthcare delivery, and pave the way for a healthier World.

Globally, Women need empowerment in leadership roles and Indian women have the formidable role as catalysts to drive the nation towards *Viksit Bharat @ 2047*. Also, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal(SDG) strives to depict Gender Equality and Women Empowerment. I deeply appreciate the excellent choice of 'Woman in Leadership Conference' as part of this convention.

I hope that this Convention shall provide a crucial platform for medical experts, researchers & policy makers to address the unprecedented healthcare challenges. Countries like India with its vast population and diverse health needs, benefits immensely from such gatherings.

It is heart-warming to note that a lot of brain-storming has happened behind the screen which has culminated in a convention of this magnitude. I take this opportunity to wish the very best to the meticulous Organizing committee members of Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth and the University of Leeds, widely acclaimed resource persons and delegates drawn from different parts of the world. Let us work together to drive innovation and ensure quality healthcare for all.

Wishing the convention a great success!!!

Jai Hind !!!