

**Address of Hon'ble Lt. Governor Shri K. Kailashnathan at the
11th Graduation Day of Sri Venkateswara Medical College,
Hospital & Research Centre, Ariyur, Puducherry.**

Venue : Sai Auditorium, College Block.

Date : 29-04-2025

Good morning everybody...

*On the outset, on behalf on everyone present here, I would like to wish the Chairman of Sri Venkateswara Group of Institutions Shri Ramachandran **"A HAPPY BIRTHDAY"** – that coincides with this Graduation Day. It is because of his vision this institution as far now has produced 17 batches of MBBS and PG Courses from 2012, in 20 disciplines, as approved by NMC.*

The hospital started in 2005 with 750 beds now has expanded with 1120 beds. I am very much pleased to know that healthcare services are provided to the society through 20 Speciality and 10 Super-speciality departments. It is a remarkable journey.

I congratulate and wish the chairman of SVGI and convey my warm regards for the success of his future endeavours like further expansion in the fields of Transplant Medicine, Medical Tourism and Advanced Health Care System.

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Respected Chairman Shri Ramachandiran, Founder SVGI Smt Radha Ramachandran, Managing Director Rajiv Krishna, Director of Sri Venkateswara Medical College, Hospital & Research Centre Dr. Ratnasamy, esteemed Faculty, honoured Guests, Proud Parents and most importantly **Beloved Students,**

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It is a distinct honour to be amidst you on this joyous occasion - the Graduation Day of MBBS and Postgraduate students of this esteemed institution. Today, we gather not just to celebrate a milestone in your academic journey but to mark the beginning of your noble mission as dedicated healers, scientists, and stewards of health and humanity.

First, let me convey my heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of you conferred with Degrees. This day is the culmination of years of tireless study, sleepless nights, and countless examinations. Graduation Day is a moment of transformation. As you take out your student's cloak and step into the world as medical professionals. You are not merely earning Degrees. But, you are accepting responsibilities. With your MBBS or Postgraduate Degree, you are now entering into a pledge of service.

You will now hold the power to heal. In your hands will rest not just scalpels and stethoscopes, but the hopes and lives of countless human beings who will come to you in moments of their greatest vulnerability. The white coat you wear is more than a uniform - it is a symbol of trust, discipline, and sacrifice. People will place their faith in you when they are in pain, confusion, or fear. Your words will carry the weight of reassurance. Your decisions can alter the course of lives.

I would like to take a moment to commend the faculty and academic leadership of this esteemed institution. Your efforts have shaped the minds and characters of these young professionals. To the parents and guardians gathered here - I feel your celebrations that is as much as of your Children's. You have supported them, believed in them and been the silent strength behind their success.

And to the Graduates, especially those receiving special awards and honours today - your hard work has paid off. But remember, Medicine is not just a profession. As physicians, your role in society extends far beyond hospitals and clinics. You are public health ambassadors, counsellors, educators, and sometimes even policy influencers.

We live in a world of both old and new challenges - infectious diseases that still take lives, non-communicable diseases that drain nations of their productivity, mental health struggles, lifestyle-related disorders and global threats like pandemics and climate-related health crises. Your work will not only relieve suffering but also play a critical role in building healthier communities and strengthening the nation's healthcare infrastructure.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has tested our healthcare systems around the world. But it has also revealed the extraordinary bravery of healthcare workers. Many of you have perhaps served or trained in the midst of that crisis. You have seen first-hand what it means to practice medicine under pressure. You have learned not only the science of diseases but the art of human courage. Let those remind you that in the face of adversity, doctors become more than clinicians - they become leaders, warriors, and symbols of hope.

We are on the brink of a medical revolution. Artificial Intelligence, genomics, telemedicine, robotic surgery etc., are transforming how we understand, diagnose, and treat disease. We understand that Medicine today is no longer confined to the four walls of a hospital. As young medical professionals, you must embrace innovation without losing touch with the human soul of medicine.

No machine can replicate the empathy in a doctor's touch or the comfort in a compassionate conversation. Combine the precision of science with the warmth of humanity.

Our country still faces deep inequalities in healthcare access despite of active working of both Central and State Governments on Healthcare Infrastructure through National Health Programmes including the much received Ayushman Bharat. Rural areas lack specialists. Remote regions face critical shortages of infrastructure. Many communities suffer from preventable diseases due to lack of awareness.

Let me earnestly appeal to you: serve where the need is greatest. Consider giving a part of your career, to serve in rural health centres, tribal clinics, or public health missions. There is no greater satisfaction than bringing relief to those who suffer from a severe shortage. Graduation is only the beginning. Continue your reading, research, and practice. Stay curious. Stay updated. And most importantly, stay humble.

To our Postgraduate students - your achievement is a significant one. You have specialized, often after years of intense study and clinical exposure. As you go forward, remember that expertise comes with a greater responsibility to lead and to inspire. Become mentors to the next generation. Use your specialization to raise the standard of care, not just for individual patients, but for your field as a whole.

Our nation has embarked on an ambitious journey towards universal healthcare, health insurance for all, increased infrastructure investment, and medical education reform. You are going to be the soldiers and generals of this transformation.

We envision a country where every citizen has access to quality medical care and qualified medical professionals, where public health is a national priority. Join the mission to realise this dream.

Your contributions will shape the future of India's health landscape. The world needs your skills. Your country needs your service. And humanity needs your compassion. Let your names not only appear on prescriptions but be remembered in the blessings of those you heal, the respect of your peers, and the annals of medical service.

I once again extend my deepest congratulations to all Graduating students and my best wishes for your careers ahead. May you bring honour to your institution, your profession and your nation.

Thank you. Jai Hind.