

**Convocation of
PUSHPAGIRI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES & RESEARCH CENTRE,
TIRUVALLA, KERALA (28th November, 2011)**

**Convocation Address by
Professor Ramesh C. Deka, Director, AIIMS, New Delhi**

Honourable Patron and Trustees from the Church, the Chairman and CE, the Principal of PIMS, the Registrar of the College, Members of the Faculty, Staff and Students, Distinguished Guests, Parents, Ladies and Gentlemen!



I am delighted to be present here at Tiruvalla, Kerala on the occasion of the annual Convocation of the Pushpagiri Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Centre (PIMS), Tiruvallatoday. I thank you for inviting me to address the convocation.

Firstly, I congratulate you all on your successful completion of studies and getting a university degree. It's a great feeling. In a person's academic life this is a historic moment. Generally speaking, a university degree is believed to open up the career prospect in one's life. It helps you achieve your dreams. Of course having dreams and setting goals are individual choices. You are lucky that you are getting the degrees from this rural based institute, at Tiruvalla. Out of the college and university, you begin a long journey. I wish you all the best in your next goal.

As you all know, the PIMS has been successful in producing a large number of medical and paramedical graduates including nursing graduates and this is the 4th batch of MBBS students. I understand that including this batch 373 MBBS graduates would have qualified from this institute. More than 1200 nursing graduates have passed out of this institute which is a creditable achievement.

The PIMS has been able to achieve its commitment, keeping in mind its vision of rendering service to the community and providing its students a high quality education in a rural enabling environment and making them able to serve the society with a purpose and adding values to their knowledge with a high degree of integrity and efficiency.

Dear Young Friends! I am sure, you would prove worthy of being an alumni of this prestigious institute (PIMS) from Kerala.

I understand, the institute is imparting studies in MBBS and also in postgraduate courses, leading to MD/MS degrees in few branches of medicine since last year. The hospital has a legacy of several decades and has been serving the people and community around Tiruvalla and its neighbouring rural areas successfully through its committed doctors, nurses and other staff. I wish to commend you for your such work in a rural setup.

Our country and more so this region, needs trained manpower in all these areas. Trained manpower is the real asset of any nation. As future leaders in your respective fields, you are required not only to realize your own dreams but also to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of millions who are not as privileged as you.

Friends, ladies and gentlemen! we need to have faith in the young generation. This generation is immensely exposed to the advances in science and technology. They are better equipped to create a knowledge based and technology -driven society. Over and above the economic progress, it is important to have a peaceful and happy society. From the experience in the advanced countries, it has been seen that wealth is no guarantee to buy happiness. In this context, I believe, the college imparts such Christian values of serving the ailing with utmost care and compassion and it is you who will now play a significant role to improve the quality of life of many people through your knowledge and skills in health care sciences. You have also to learn in the community to build a new career in this field in due course of time. You need to gain experience in dealing with all sections of population for providing quality and standard care with safe practice of medicine.

The strength of a nation is judged from the education and health of its citizens. Education and health are complimentary to each other. As you know, the old saying goes that health is the real wealth of an individual. The same can be said about the society and the nation at large. An important parameter of progress is the quality of our health-care system. We need to work for improving our health sector in terms of producing competent workforce, delivering affordable, quality health care for all. We need to take measures to prevent and control diseases with a holistic approach. In this connection I urge the college and hospital which has shown, remarkable leadership in the area of health education in this region, to take up larger projects like building more postgraduate courses including superspeciality areas of medicine like cardiology, cardiac surgery, neurology, neurosurgery, endocrinology, urology and also organ transplant surgery to name few and to produce quality health care workforce in this region. I would like to urge you and the institute to make provision of advance laboratories and infrastructures in the hospital for the students and the faculty to undertake research and innovative work and produce significant works in the medical sector.

The Indian economy has improved significantly and the Government's emphasis to improve the base and quality of education and health-care systems is clear from the massive national programmes like universal Right to Education and National Rural Health Mission. Since our Prime Minister launched the NRHM in 2005, the central government has allocated a huge amount of money to the states for this purpose. We have also now enough funds from different agencies (ICMR, DST, DBT, CSIR etc.) for research and it is you young fiends, You need to take advantage of that and apply for research grants to conduct research.

We are aware that our country is still passing through a very crucial phase of development due to rapid increase in population. Our leaders are faced with the challenges to reconcile between poverty and plenty, development and corruption, tradition and modernism and most importantly for the urban and rural divide. The rural health sector in India is in a very bad shape. Access to healthcare for basic and primary diseases such as diarrhoea and respiratory infections is not available for a large section of our rural population. Kerala has however done better than other states in India, especially with regard to reduced infant and maternal mortality rates. It is the responsibility of all of us medical professionals to ensure that every Indian has access to primary health care, including safe conduct of delivery and care of women's health. Commercial interests should be set aside when we consider right to health.

This institute is growing out of a Church organization. Christian health care institutions, including their medical colleges have set remarkably high standards in care and compassion. I look forward to this institution and its products witnessing this tradition and making a name for itself in the lines of its predecessors.

Ladies and gentlemen, Young friends, You can play a very important role for development and to improve quality of life of Indian citizen through sincere and dedicated work. There are ofcourse many challenges before you and accept these challenges and convert them into opportunities and build your career with confidence and serve the nation with commitment to professional ethics. Now it is time to catch up with the development. The central government has allocated funds but the development would happen only with the local initiatives and the involvement of the local people. I am confident, you can do it and you will.

Needles to say that the economy of our country is linked to globalization. There are apprehensions about this model but the fact is that each one of us today is connected, thanks to the technology, to the global village. To catch up with the developments in science, technology and medicine we need partnership with the developed countries. We need to collaborate with other institutions within India and also abroad to achieve that goal.

The PIMS may be a young medical institute but, I am sure, it will grow in no time as one of the largest best centres of learning for health sciences in the southern region. I believe, under the leadership of the eminent doctors, educationists and with the commitment of the young generation, the PIMS can attract attention of advanced centres for collaborations.

I am happy to note that 103 graduates are receiving degrees today. I congratulate each one of you one again on your success and wish you all the best.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, the faculty, students and esteemed friends, I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to you all for your kind indulgence. I also thank the institute authorities profusely for inviting me on this occasion.

Last but not the least, I wish the people of Kerala prosperity, health and happiness.

Jai Hind.

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