ADDRESS BY THE HON'BLE PRESIDENT OF INDIA
SMT DROUPADI MURMU
AT THE VALEDICTORY CEREMONY OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF VAIDYARATNAM AYURVEDA COLLEGE, THRISSUR

THRISSUR: NOVEMBER 27, 2026

My humble Pranaam to the main deity of Vadakkunnathan temple, Bhagwan Shiva.

I am delighted to be here with all of you today. Thrissur is an important centre of India's vibrant Ayurvedic tradition. I congratulate all whose committed efforts have made this year-long celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Vaidyaratnam Ayurvedic College a success.

Thrissur holds a special place in preserving Indian cultural heritage and knowledge tradition. This contribution got special recognition when it earned a place in the "Global Network of Learning Cities" of UNESCO in 2022.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Keralam's contribution goes beyond enhancing international reputation of Ayurveda. It has nurtured a rich and living tradition of classical Ayurvedic learning. It has also enriched the medical knowledge passed down through generations of Vaidya families. Its traditions of preparing authentic Ayurvedic medicines have continued to flourish unabated.

The Ashtvaidyas of Keralam have gone much beyond Ayurvedic practice. They have proved to be erudite scholars and able teachers. I am told that the Vaidyaratnam group carries forward this legacy with commitment.

A remarkable feature of Ayurveda is that its authentic literature has never been limited to Sanskrit. In Keralam, a lot of original work and commentaries have been produced in Malayalam and Manipravalam

also. Original works like Chikitsa-Manjari, Aalattur Mani-pravalam, Sahasra-Yogam have been produced by able Keralam Vaidyas.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The makers of our constitution were particularly concerned about the development of Ayurveda and other Indian traditional medicine systems. The constituent Assembly witnessed informed debates on the need to provide a systematic framework of practice and education for these streams, including Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy. Shri H.V. Kamath specifically raised the issue of research in Ayurveda. He said, “The State should actively promote and foster research, on a scientific basis, into the ancient Indian system of Ayurveda.” Shri R.V. Dhulekar and Seth Govind Das also shared their thoughts on these issues on different occasions. Representing the undivided province of Madras, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya also spoke on a related topic.

It is heartening to note that the builders of our constitution were raising similar issues that are being debated on various national and international fora now. This is a testimony of their superb foresight.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am told that the Ashtavaidya families of this region have developed a rich tradition of studying, interpreting and practising the teachings of the Ashtanga Hridayam and classical Ayurveda. Systematically documenting the texts, manuscripts, treatment methods and practical knowledge preserved in this tradition is a task of national importance.

I am told that the Vaidyas of this region have preserved traditions of Agada-Tantra (Toxicology), Kaumara-bhritya (Paediatrics) and Marm-Chikitsa. The use of medicinal plants by different communities is another valuable aspect of this heritage.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have been informed that many initiatives like “One Herb, One Standard” of the Ministry of Ayush and its premier research councils are underway to give a modern scientific base to the rich traditional medicine systems of the country. The WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Jamnagar is working with the objective of serving as a global knowledge hub for traditional medicine, using modern science, data, and technology. Joint research projects in collaboration with such governmental and reputed international agencies can be undertaken by the Ayurvedic colleges across Keralam.

Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita and Ashtanga Hridayam, describe in detail how local soil, water, seasons and geographical conditions influence the quality of medicinal plants. By studying these factors jointly, the colleges can sharpen their own capabilities. This would also help in developing a comprehensive knowledge database for Ayurveda.

I have been told that a recent authentic study about the service sector of Ayush indicates that Keralam can become an international reference point for authentic and scientifically evaluated Panchakarma. The state should also strive to become a leader in Evidence-based Panchakarma research. Various government and private institutions, including colleges like yours, should work together for such goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Every Ayurvedic College should serve the community with authentic and effective Ayurveda. It should also impart topical Ayurvedic education. If an instituion is serving these two purposes, it starts producing capable Vaidyas and researchers. Such experts have the wisdom to effectively respond to the health challenges of the present and future generations. I am told that the work ethos of your instituion is aligned with this dictum.

Ayurvedic institutions like yours are making their contribution for achieving the goal of a healthy and developed India by 2047. If the accumulated wisdom of all worthy Ayurvedic colleges of the state

consciously evolve a model of dynamic collaboration, it can help achieve the national target sooner.

Dear Students,

I have been informed that the Ayurvedic tradition in Keralam has a distinctive feature. It combines Ayurvedic professional practices with philanthropy quite well. You must have witnessed this during your learning process. When you enter the next phase of professional life, never forget to demonstrate that the traditional knowledge based enterprise and the service to the less privileged can progress together.

I have also been informed that several intellectual and field activities have been undertaken during the Golden Jubilee celebrations. Sustaining the vigour of all-round professional delivery for fifty years is praise worthy. Also appreciable is the determination to refine one's efforts to remain contemporary and responding effectively to the upcoming challenges of the time. I am told, this institution has done both.

I convey my best wishes to the members of Vaidyaratnam Ayurvedic College fraternity. Let your future shine with ever enhancing capabilities of Ayurveda to serve the humanity, particularly, the under privileged sections of our society.

Thank you!
Jai Hind!
Jai Bharat!