



**SPEECH**  
**OF**  
**MADAM SMT ANUPAMA SINGH,**  
**FIRST LADY OF THE STATE,**  
**ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

**ON**  
**THE OCCASION OF**  
**INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF**  
**CAPPING CEREMONY OF**  
**22<sup>ND</sup> BATCH OF GNM TRAINEES**  
**OF R K MISSION HOSPITAL**

**ON**  
**7<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 08 AT 1700 HRS**

**AT**  
**VIVEKANANDA HALL,**  
**ITANAGAR**

- Respected Swami Prabhanandaji Maharaj, General Secretary, Ramakrishna Math and Mission
- Commissioner, Health – Shri Anshu Prakash
- Swami Suviranandaji Maharaj,
- Swami Vishwatmanandaji Maharaj,
- Other respected Swamiji's
- Respected members on the dais
- Distinguished Ladies & Gentlemen
- and my trainee sisters present here for Capping Ceremony

It is matter of great privilege for me to be invited as the Chief Guest for this Capping Ceremony of the 22<sup>nd</sup> batch of the GNM Trainees of the Ramakrishna Mission School of Nursing, Itanagar. I understand that this School of Nursing is the only training Institution in the State for conducting General Nursing Midwifery Course. This gives me a feeling of getting a unique opportunity to associate with the event. As you know the nursing profession, comprising of nurses and nursing assistants constitutes the largest working group in the health care sector.

As you all know my husband is this former Army Chief. Perhaps for this reason, on getting the invitation, the first thing that came to my mind was the passing out parade of the defense academy cadets of the IMA. That parade remains a function to be seen and appreciated. On passing out, cadets join the defense services pledging their life for the country. A great glorious and challenging assignment at that. It is a highly responsible and noble profession.

The capping ceremony being held here today is your first step in becoming a nurse. Nursing is much more than a job. To become a nurse is to make a commitment to provide care for your patients and their families on a daily basis. It is the nurse who actually looks after the patient, cheering him through to a quick recovery from his illness. If it is the physician's medicine that works, it is due to the care and sympathy, with which it is administered to them, by the nurse which truly helps them to recover. You all need to be good and compassionate human being. The job of a nurse is a very challenging one. She has to be selfless and devoted to her profession. The profession is also tasking as split second decisions have to be taken and could mean the difference between life and death. The nurses also have to be strong willed, giving hope and courage to family members of patients in the face of tragedy. There is nothing more amazing than standing beside a new mother who gives birth and holds her newborn for the first time. In joy and in tragedy it is the nurse who stands beside the family members giving them care and sympathy.

In your profession you must try and emulate the best traditions exemplified by Florence Nightingale. Born into a wealthy family in Florence in 1820 she was expected to make a good marriage and live a conventional upper class woman's life. In 1837 Nightingale had a vision that God wanted her to do some work but she was unsure of the work. In 1951 much against her parents wishes she went to Germany for nursing training. It was in the Crimean war in 1854 where she earned the name of the "Lady with the Lamp" & with her team of nurses she nursed wounded British soldiers.

In India from ancient days Nursing has been viewed as a holy vocation. Sages like Charaka, Bagabhatta had written extensively about the code of conduct and qualities that one should acquire and possess to be an ideal nurse. According to Charaka, purity, efficiency, and having the knowledge of the art along with devotion to the physician are the four cardinal qualities that a good nurse should possess. He further wrote that the nurse must be strong, fore-bearing and forgiving, desirous of doing good to others, efficient, polite and well behaved. This is what modern medical ethics also says. Swami Vivekananda, the greatest synthesizer of past and present values and ethics had in his unique message to humanity said **"Service to Man is Service to God"**. This message, as we can reason out has absolute relevance to the ethics of nursing not to speak of medical service as a whole. In fact, it hardly needs mention that the message has the widest social relevance, for, it is beyond the reaches of any religious prejudices, frenzies and passions. We know that the Ramakrishna Mission has set this message as its eternal motto. We hope the capped trainees would keep this in their heart. We understand, guided by this motto, the Ramakrishna Mission initiated its health care services activities in Arunachal Pradesh way back in 1979, the outcome of which is this hospital. Now it is nearly thirty years that the hospital has been rendering valuable service to the people in this remote corner of our country. We are fortunate that eventually the hospital started its **School of Nursing from 1985 for training of local girls**. This school has filled a real vacuum in the health care sector of the State offering a three and half years certificate course in General Nursing and Midwifery recognized by the India Nursing Council as well as Assam Nurses' Midwives & Health Visitors Council.

Nursing today is a challenging career option. There is a great demand for nurses in countries like the USA and UK. During my husband's tenure as Army Chief he opened an Army Nursing College in Guwahati for the first time.

My dear sisters ready for capping here today, you must already be aware about much of what I have said. The cap you would put on your head today will be symbolic of your induction to this noble profession of nursing. We pray to God that when you move out to your work-field, you would remember these

ideals that you learnt have put them in practice and thus protect and contribute to this esteemed profession.

Mahatma Gandhi wrote in his autobiography:-

My aptitude of nursing gradually developed into a passion so much so that I engaged not only my wife but the whole house hold in such service. Such service has no meaning unless one takes pleasure in it. When it is done for show or fear of public opinion it turns the man and crushes his spirit. Service which is rendered without joy helps neither the servant nor the served. But all other pleasures and possessions pale into nothingness before service which is rendered in a spirit of joy.

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