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Mata Amritanandamayi Math
Amritapuri
Kollam

Press Release

Humanitarian Projects Launched 27th Sept. 2004 – Kollam

On the occasion of the 51st Birthday Celebration of Satguru Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma) at Amritapuri, Kerala, Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly, Mr T.Ramakrishnan handed over symbolic keys of 5000 free homes constructed under the Amrita Kuteeram Scheme of the Mata Amritanandamayi Math built for the destitutes and homeless in the States of West Bengal, Maharashtra, U.P., Karnataka and Kerala.

At the function the Chief Minister of Kerala Shri Oommen Chandy inaugurated the Amrita Ayurveda College and Research Centre at Amritapuri, Kollam. The college consists of 250-bed hospital with 8 departments including OP, Gynaecology and 2 Operation Theatres.

At a well-attended celebration at Amritapuri, Kerala, the Chief Minister said that Amma's life has been a glorious model of combining principles of spirituality and selfless service. He said that Amma's tireless efforts through the innumerable institutions of the M.A.Math, and her ceaseless personal involvement across the world through darshans, talks, blessings, bhajans was indeed second to none.

Another highlight was the launch of the Amrita Charitable Hospital at Kalpetta, Wynad for the benefit of tribals and poor. This hospital will be first of its kind in Kerala, when it will be linked to the Telemedicine Facility of the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences at Kochi.

The major highlight of the function was the community marriage of 35 impoverished couples who cannot afford a traditional wedding. The wedding was conducted by Amma.

Earlier in the morning Amma addressed a huge gathering of devotees and disciples from India and abroad. Amma said that, the root cause of all destruction is the ego. There are two kinds of egos that create suffering in the world. One is the ego of power and wealth. The second is the ego that believes, "My opinion alone is right. Everyone else is wrong. I will not tolerate anything else. My religion alone is true. The rest are all false. They are not needed here." Unless these two types of egos are eradicated, there will be no peace in life. To listen patiently to others, to be eager to understand other people, to be expansive

enough to accept even those who do not agree with us—all these are the signs of true culture. What the world needs today is such a culture.

Earlier Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri , performed the padapuja of Amma amongst chanting of mantras by the large congregation, most of whom were visibly moved by the solemnity of the occasion.

The Chief Minister gave away the Amrita Keerti Puraskar to Mahakavi Akkittam renowned Malayalam poet and scholar . Accepting the award he said that this day in the presence of Amma was the best Muhurtham in his life .The ultimate goal of life is moksha, and he said that he had got it in the form of Amma's blessings

In addition to free food to fifty thousand, Amma has distributed over 5000 saris to poor women from various districts of Kerala.

Enclosure to press release: **“Humanitarian Projects Launched”**

Partnering couples for joy & happiness

Srinath and Lakshmi (*names changed*) could never have dreamt of this day—the most memorable day in their lives. On Sept 27, they, a very poor couple, got married at Amritapuri Ashram with the blessings of Amma and in Her presence Too poor to get married ,their hearts knew no bounds when they realised that they were among the 30 couples who were tying the knot, thanks to to the benevolence and love of Amma .The M.A.Math had sponsored the expenses of the wedding including ornaments and clothes.

A roof for the roofless poor

September 27, 2004 was a very special day for Kalidasi Paul from W.Bengal. Hailing from the poorest of the poor from our country, a meal was a daily struggle .In fact on most days.she would had to do with just a handful of puffed rice and lots of water to make up for the hunger. Impoverished and shelterless , Kalidasi had given up all hope – and owning a house was a mirage . And that is when her family was identified by the Mata Amritanandamayi Math for a free home under the Amrita Kuteeram Housing Project for the Homeless. On the 51st birthday of Amma, she could not hold her tears back when she became the recipient of the keys of a dwelling which she could now call her own home .

In fact Kalidasi is not alone .On that solemn day, over 5000 destitute families have been assigned homes in 5 States—Maharashtra,West Bengal,U.P.,Karnataka and Kerala . Actually,Amma launched the project many years ago ; and nearly 30,000 such homes have been given free across the country .The largest beneficiaries were the devastated

villagers of Bhuj ,where the Math undertook a house reconstruction project after the devastating Gujarat earthquake Some of the Bhuj beneficiaries were present at the birthday celebrations at Amritapuri—they had come all the way to express their gratitude to the Mother who lifted them from the jaws of death—and gave them a reason to live. And this amalgam of those who had enjoyed the depths of Amma’s love years ago, and the new group of beneficiaries was a sight to behold—testimony to the ever-flowing spring of Amma’s benediction.

Representatives of all the 5 States were present to receive the keys of the Amrita Kuteeram Homes . They were were given away by the Speaker of the Kerala Assembly,Shri Therambil Ramakrishnan,; Minister of Health & Family Welfare ,Kerala M Ramachandran Master; Principal Health Secretary ,Shri Ramamurthy,IAS ; Mr B.Srinivas ,IAS,District Collector ;and Panchayat President, Mr Ibrahim Kutty

Healing the impoverished through telemedicine

Losing a child since the doctor was not at hand ;or suffering constantly since the diagnosis was faulty ;or getting handicapped for want of timely medicines is now going to be a thing of the past for many residents of Kalpetta,Wyanad .As part of the 51st Birthday Celebrations of Amma, today hailed as one of the foremost humanitarian leaders, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare for Kerala ,Mr Ramachandran Master inaugurated a Primary Health Centre at Kalpetta.Speaking on the occasion the Minister said that service to humankind was service to God –and this was embodied in the life and teachings of Amma What makes this 10-bed health care centre unique is that it will be Kerala’s first hospital to benefit from the Telemedicine link when connected with Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences(AIMS) ,Kochi. Though AIMS is linked via ISRO Satellite with 82 hospitals and clinics in India,it is the first time that a Kerala hospital will become a beneficiary --and that too a centre which will be accessible by the poor. One more humanitarian gesture by the ever-giving Amma.

Restoring the lost glory of Ayurveda

A well-kept secret is the fact that the western ghats is one among the 21 rich biodiversity centres in the world. Ayurveda has been accepted as a system of medicine suitable for a sustainable health system On Sept.27th, the Chief Minister of Kerala,Mr Oommen Chandy inaugurated the Amrita Ayurveda Hospital and Research Centre at Amritapuri,Kollam .The CM said that Ayurveda College will have a great future since it is a system without side-effects.The new institution will offer 8 disciplines and run a 250-bedded Hospital ,with OP, 8 departments including Gyaenecology and two Operation Theatres, spread over a 25-acre campus .For a long time, Amma has been advocating the use of modern scientific methods in the field of ayurveda for standardisation of the formulations to boost the acceptance of our ayurvedic drugs across the world. While India’s export of plant-based medicine is only to the tune of Rs 400 crores, China’s exports are above Rs 2000 crores.