

Press Release

Health, Education and Environment sectors call for immediate intervention: CM Oommen Chandy

Thiruvananthapuram, Aug 28: Despite tremendous strides in the areas of health, education and environment, the expectations of people in all these sectors are huge and there is an imperative need for an immediate and effective intervention to ensure that benefits of development reach the common man, Chief Minister Shri Oommen Chandy said here today.

The chief minister made this observation at a function where he inaugurated the Citizens India Foundation (CIF) initiative and also launched a nationwide campaign for Voluntary Blood Donation (VBD).

“With such an initiative, the government hopes for a better tomorrow,” he said.

The CIF initiative, a high-profile not-for-profit trust formed by a socially committed group of people, has been launched with the objectives of creating awareness among Indian population of all age groups on healthcare, education and environment. VBD campaign is the first initiative of CIF in healthcare organised in partnership with HLL Lifecare Limited (HLL).

Coinciding with the inauguration, Finance Minister Shri K M Mani launched the website of CIF. “The focus should be on the issues of health and education affecting the poor and the marginalized,” he said, adding: “CIF is a trustee that could help the government in dealing with the issues of the common man.”

Health Minister Shri V S Sivakumar said the CIF initiative is a positive indicator for the people to become socially committed.

Shri TKA Nair, Managing Trustee of CIF and the guiding spirit behind the initiative, said CIF would offer a host of services in Kerala’s economically and socially backward areas for their upliftment.

Industries Minister Shri P K Kunhalikutty lamented that though the country has hospitals of international standards, quality health care can be afforded by only the privileged sections of the society. “The challenge we face today is how to ensure quality health care at reasonable rates to everyone,” he noted.

At the inaugural function, Health Minister Shri Sivakumar released a brochure on the voluntary blood donation while Shri Kunhalikutty presented the ‘Liquid Love’ award to the highest blood donors.

Shri Sashi Tharoor, who represents Thiruvananthapuram in the Lok Sabha, expressed the hope that CIF would “act as a booster for the government” in areas of health.

HLL Chairman & Managing Director Dr M Ayyappan, who was present on the occasion, said the company has partnered with the CIF initiative with an aim to work for the benefit of the common man.

Former Education Minister Shri M A Baby said the initiative would motivate the people of India, especially the youths, to address various issues relating to health, environment and sustainable practices, in an effective manner.

On the occasion, messages from President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee and former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh were read.

Shri Luv Varma, Secretary, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Thiruvananthapuram Mayor Adv K Chandrika also spoke on the occasion.