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Mata Amritanandamayi launches edu schemes on b'day

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Mata Amritanandamayi embraces Sheikh Ali N' dew, president of International Sufi School, during her 58th birthday celebrations at Amritapuri on Tuesday — DC

Major schemes for home nurse training and online tuition for college students were launched at Amritapuri, some 35 km from here, on Tuesday, marking Amma's 58th birthday celebrations.

In her birthday message, Amma said, "liquor, lust and love for money make Kerallites need Any of these elements was enough to sap one's mind of compassion, selflessness and sacrifice. Lakhs of devotees from all over the world listened to Amma's words and her hymns.

Maharashtra Governor K. Sankaranarayanan inaugurated the Amrita Swatantram Hom Nursing Training Programme for setting up a 10,000-strong home nurse cadre in Kerala. would have the professional backing of Amrita medical institutions at Kochi.

He said the cadre of nurses would be a boon to the old and sick, neglected by their children. "It's been a trend of this generation to avoid their parents. That is why Kerala has a good number of old age homes".

Mr Vilasrao Deshmukh, the Union Minister for Science and Technology, inaugurated the Free Online Tuition Program for College Students, saying the Centre would support institutions that catered to the underprivileged. The free online tuition project is supported by the Union Ministry of Human Resources Development.

The Union Minister of State for Power, Mr K.C. Venugopal, distributed the LIC-backed Amritasree Suraksha cheques to help self-help groups.

The Multi authorities also announced the extension of Vidyamatham Scholarships from 5,000 students to 32,000 students of Kerala Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Amrita Nidhi pension Scheme extended from 10,000 widows to 1 lakh.

Mr M.P. Veerendra Kumar received Amritakerti Puraskar for his book titled,

"Haimavetabhoovil".

Sheik Ali N' daw, president of the International Sufi School, the Mar Thoma Metropolitan, Phillipose Mar Chrysostom, Swami Prakashananda, head of Sivagiri Ashram and Swami Pranavananda Teerthapada, head of Panmana Ashram, were among those present.

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