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## Slew of initiatives rolled out on Amma's birthday

By Express News Service | Published: 10th October 2017 01:38 AM |

Last Updated: 10th October 2017 07:37 AM | A+ A A- | 

KOLLAM: A number of charitable initiatives were launched during the 64th birthday celebrations of Mata Amritanandamayi at Amritapuri near here on Monday. First to be rolled out was the Mata Amritanandamayi Math's ambitious project to take care of the entire potable water needs of Pandari village in Jammu and Kashmir. The math has set up a system of pipes, overhead water tanks and pumps to ensure water supply to the remote village. Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson P J Kurien launched the scheme in the presence of Amritanandamayi.

Nine out of the 101 villages adopted by the Amirtanandamayi Math were declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. Representatives from the villages in Bihar, UP, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala were presented with certificates by Kurien. The Centre for Research in Advanced Technologies for Education (CREATE), an educational technology initiative pioneered by Amrita University, had imparted basic computer training to tribal youths. As many as 50 digital literacy graduates were handed over certificates by Union Ministers Jual Oram, Y S Chowdary and BJP national vice-president Syam Jaju.

The event saw the roll out of e-cylces for use in villages without electricity.