

28 - 02 - 2013 Thursday

## Need for occupational therapy services in rural areas stressed

Special Correspondent

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** The All India Occupational Therapists' Association (AIOTA) has appealed to the government to ensure that there are adequate posts of occupational therapists (OTs) in all hospitals in the State as occupational therapy is a crucial part of the healthcare sector.

Speaking at the 50th annual national conference of AIOTA here on Wednesday, AIOTA president Anil K. Srivastava said that even though a significant number of persons with disabilities lived in rural areas, the services of OTs were confined to urban areas and select institutions. About 80 per cent of the rehabilitation needs of the disabled could be met in the community itself whereas all OT services were concentrated in cities. The government should support the profession more so that they could reach out to the rural areas, he said.

He also suggested that a course in occupational therapy be started in the government sector and that a State Council of Occupational

### Chief Minister Oommen Chandy promises services of occupational therapists across the State.

Therapy be set up to guide the profession.

Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, who inaugurated the conference, promised that the government would take urgent measures to ensure that the services of occupational therapists were available across the State.

He said it was sad that despite its achievements in the health sector, Kerala still did not have any professional courses in occupational therapy. But this would be rectified, he added.

### Proposal for course

Finance Minister K.M. Mani, who released a souvenir of the conference, said that occupational therapy was an important allied science of modern medicine, which helped in the training and rehabilitation of people with

disabilities and that the government would render all support to develop it as a major speciality.

He asked the Kerala branch of AIOTA to submit a proposal on starting a course in OT, which the government would fully endorse and support.

Social Welfare Minister M. K. Muneer, who released a booklet on occupational therapy, pointed out that even the few who got themselves trained as occupational therapists in the State were leaving for greener pastures as the State offered little opportunities for the growth of this profession. He pointed out that the Department of Social Justice was coming out with a lot of initiatives, in which occupational therapists had a huge role to play.

Delegates from various parts of India and abroad are participating in the three-day conference, which will discuss the latest interventions in occupational therapy, various research prospects and its applications.

Mons Joseph, MLA, and senior leaders of AIOTA were present at the inaugural function.



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# State to Soon Get Colleges Teaching Occupational Therapy

The 50th golden jubilee conference of the All-India Occupational Therapists' Association began in the city on Wednesday

## Express News Service

**T'Puram:** Colleges will be started in the state for teaching occupational therapy, Chief Minister Oommen Chandy said here on Wednesday.

Chandy was addressing the 50th golden jubilee conference - 'OTICON 2013' - of the All-India Occupational Therapists' Association (AIOTA) here. Finance Minister KM Mani

released a souvenir on the occasion. Panchayat Minister M K Muneer released the booklet, 'Occupational therapy, a creative profession.'

Anil K Srivastava, who presided over the function, said that it was a sad fact that God's own country, that boasts the highest literacy rate in the country, was yet to have a college for occupational therapies.

Zarine D Ferzandi, vice-president, AIOTA, said that people across the lifespan should participate in the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities.

The programme commenced with a seminar on occupational therapy. Occupational therapists from the US, England, New Zealand and Germany were present at the function.



# മലയാള മനോരമ

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## 28-2-13 Thursday

### ഒക്കുപ്പേഷനൽ തെരപ്പിയെ മുൻനിരയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ ശ്രമിക്കും: മുഖ്യമന്ത്രി

തിരുവനന്തപുരം • സംസ്ഥാനത്ത് ഒക്കുപ്പേഷനൽ തെരപ്പി മുൻനിരയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ ശ്രമം നടത്തുമെന്നു മുഖ്യമന്ത്രി ഉമ്മൻ ചാണ്ടി. ഒക്കുപ്പേഷനൽ തെരപ്പിസ്റ്റു അസോസിയേഷൻ ദേശീയ സുവർണജൂബിലി സമ്മേളനം ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്യുകയായിരുന്നു അദ്ദേഹം. മന്ത്രി കെ.എം. മാണി സുവനീർ പ്രകാശിപ്പിച്ചു. ഒക്കുപ്പേഷനൽ തെരപ്പി, എ ക്രിയേറ്റീവ് പ്രഫഷൻ എന്ന പുസ്തകത്തിന്റെ പ്രകാശനം മന്ത്രി എം.കെ. മു

നീർ നിർവഹിച്ചു. ഇന്നു സമാപന സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ അമേരിക്ക, ഇംഗ്ലണ്ട്, ന്യൂസീലൻഡ്, ജർമ്മനി തുടങ്ങിയ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നു വിദഗ്ധർ പങ്കെടുക്കും. മന്ത്രിമാരായ കെ.എം. മാണി, ഡോ. എം.കെ. മുനീർ, മോൻസ് ജോസഫ് എം.എൽ.എ, ഓർഗനൈസിങ് സെക്രട്ടറി ജോസഫ് സണ്ണി, പ്രസിഡന്റ് അനിൽ കെ. ശ്രീവാസ്തവ്, ഡീൻ ജ്യോതിക ബിജിലാനി, കോ-ഓർഡിനേറ്റർ ഫിനോജ് ഏബ്രഹാം തുടങ്ങിയവർ പ്രസംഗിച്ചു.



ഒക്കുപ്പേഷനൽ തെരപ്പി സുവർണ ജൂബിലി ദേശീയ സമ്മേളനം തിരുവനന്തപുരത്ത് മുഖ്യമന്ത്രി ഉമ്മൻ ചാണ്ടി ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്യുന്നു. മന്ത്രിമാരായ എം.കെ. മുനീർ, കെ.എം. മാണി, ഡോ. അനിൽ കെ. ശ്രീവാസ്തവ, ഡോ. സണ്ണി ജോസഫ്, മോൻസ് ജോസഫ് എം.എൽ.എ തുടങ്ങിയവർ സമീപം.