

Celebration

Editor-in-Chief of *The Hindu* N. Ravi will give away the Arsha-Kula Sresthah and Vaidya-Kula Sresthah Awards at the 24th anniversary celebration of Arsha Vidya Gurukulam at 9 a.m. on Sunday

Programme

More than 110 associations are joined by industrialist N. Mahalingam at the Memorial Hall, NPTC-MCET ca

Rehabilitation centre for DMD patients inaugurate

The centre will provide free treatment, says director

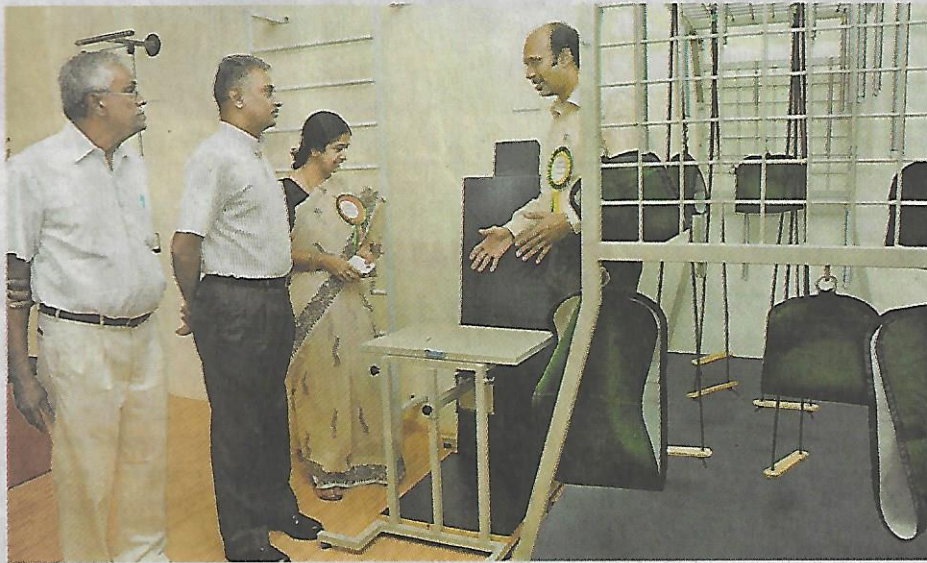
Staff Reporter

COIMBATORE: The first model rehabilitation centre in Tamil Nadu for patients of 'Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD),' a rare incurable genetic disorder that fatally affects children as young as three years, was inaugurated in the city on Saturday. The centre will be run by Molecular Diagnostics, Counseling, Care and Research Centre (MDCRC) and is located at Kurunji Hospital.

According to the Centre's Director B.R. Lakshmi, it will begin providing free treatment. It had also arranged a vehicle that had been customised to transport children with DMD along with their attenders as well.

She emphasised the need for integrated rehabilitation services for the children affected with DMD, based on Ayurveda, yoga and physiotherapy.

Police Commissioner A.K. Viswanathan, K. Ramaswamy, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil



Dr. Noorul Amin Shaid (right), Consultant Physiatrist, explains to Police Commissioner A.K. Viswanathan (second left), the working of an equipment at the model rehabilitation centre for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy patients, which was inaugurated in Coimbatore on Saturday. Kurunji Hospital Chairman K.C. Ramaswami (left) and Centre Director B.R. Lakshmi (third left) are in the picture. — PHOTO: S. SIVA SARAVANAN

Nadu Agricultural University wami, Chairman of Kurunji Hospital, Chandarsekar, District Disabled Rehabilitation Officer, and Noorul Amin

Shahid, Consultant Physiatrist, MDCRC, took part. They also interacted with children after the function.

The DMD was a degenerative disease that sets in around three to five years and slowly results in the child losing the ability to walk by 15 years and finally, resulting in loss of life due to respiratory illness by 18 to 20 years.

Study

In a study commissioned by the National Rural Health Mission and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the MDCRC found the prevalence of DMD to be at least 2.3 times higher than the average of 1:3,500 in Western districts.

The study, which covered nearly 14 lakh households in Coimbatore, Tirupur, Erode, Rapuram, Salem and Erode, found the prevalence rate to be 1:1,400.

A subsequent survey in Nilgiris, Karur and Namakkal also found similar prevalence rates,