

THE



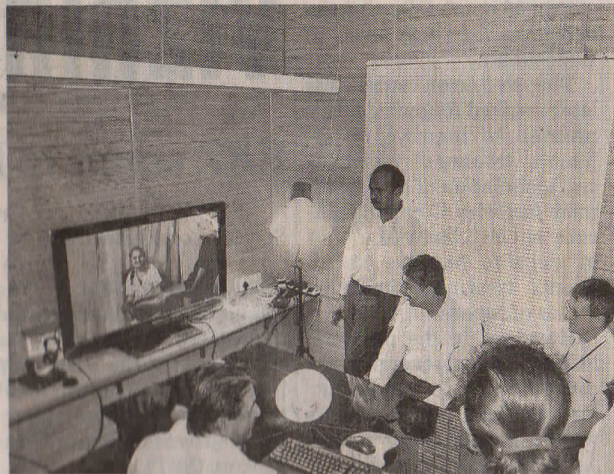
HINDU

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2010

Telemedicine unit opens in Kasaragod

Free treatment for poor filariasis patients in Alappuzha



CONNECTIVITY SCORES: *Integrated Applied Dermatology doctors consult a patient in Alappuzha through a telemedicine facility in Kasaragod on Tuesday.*

Staff Reporter

KASARAGOD: As part of a programme to provide free treatment to poor filariasis patients at Alappuzha in the State and Gulbarga in Karnataka, a telemedicine unit of the Integrated Applied Dermatology (IAD) was opened here on Tuesday.

Prof. Terence Ryan, dermatologist, Oxford Medical University, inaugurated the unit by examining a patient at Alappuzha through teleconferencing.

Experts of the IAD using the telemedicine system could suggest and monitor the treatment procedures at two sub-centres at Alappuzha and Gulbarga, the most endemic areas of the disease in

South India. The unit is connected to the National Ayurveda Research Institute for Vector Borne Diseases (NARIVBD), Vijayawada, which is the authorised monitoring agency of the programme, IAD sources said.

After the successful completion of the programme of treating 500 poor patients each at Gulbarga and Alappuzha, IAD plans to rollout to other endemic areas as well, IAD Director Dr. S.R. Narahari said.

Prof. Sairu Philip, Community Medicine Department, TD Medical College, Alappuzha; and dermatologists from the U.K. including Prof. Peter Mortiemer, Prof. Paul Matts and Dr. Clare Fuller were also present at the function.