

Dr. G. Venkataswamy Retreat Centre opened

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great: R. Pararajasegaram, consultant ophthalmologist, Geneva, inaugurating the “Dr. G. Venkataswamy Retreat Centre” at Veerapanjan near Madurai on Sunday. — Photo: S. James

: Dr. G. Venkataswamy Retreat Centre, ‘Nithyata,’ a memorial that “celebrates the life and work of the founder of Aravind Eye Care System” was inaugurated at Veerapanchan near here by R. Pararajasegaram, World Health Organisation consultant, on Sunday.

Explaining how the principles of Mahatma Gandhi were found in practice in the life of Dr. Venkataswamy, Dr. Pararajasekagaram stressed that there was a need to create a data repository at the national level to share information between government and private organisations.

He elaborated on how Dr. Venkataswamy went about his mission with a kindness of heart tempered with humility.

Vijay Poddar of Sri Aurobindo Society recalled how Dr. Venkataswamy adopted a spiritual approach to whatever he did.

Though spirituality, in the Indian context, was identified with renunciation, in the institution built up by Dr. Venkataswamy spirituality led to greater perfection.

He demonstrated how the highest quality could be made cost-effective and created a model in which everything was directed at the soul and spirituality.

Not just sight

"Dr. Venkataswamy did not give just sight to people, but vision."

William B. Stewart, Medical Director, Institute for Health and Healing, California Pacific Medical Centre, in his address, described how Dr. Venkataswamy fought against needless blindness, like Arjuna, both internally and externally.

His vision and mission were greater in magnitude as he had a transformative vision that valued the truth of science and spirit together.

P. Namperumalsamy, chairman emeritus, Aravind Eye Care System, said that the centre, which combined in itself 'netrata, satyata and nityata,' could be utilised for spiritual and management retreats. R. Krishnadas, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind Eye Hospital, in his talk on the impact made by Dr. Venkataswamy on medical professionals, spoke about how service to man got transformed into service to god in the founder of the Aravind Eye Care System. R. D. Ravindran, chairman, Aravind Eye Care System, welcomed the gathering.