

## **Launch of the Swasthya Suraksha Block**

At a glittering function organized by Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018 in the Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies Auditorium of the Institute, the Hon'ble Union Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan, formally launched four major initiatives of the Institute - the Swasthya Suraksha Block under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, the Combinational Devices Block, the Regional Technical Resource Centre for Health Technology Assessment and the Data Centre. The support of the Ministry of Science and Technology, through DST, and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, have helped, in no small measure, in carrying these projects from the realm of desire to the realm of reality. Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan, provided a snapshot of the healthcare scenario in the country, with reference to the burden of disease and the status of the medical devices sector, and drew attention to the importance of these major initiatives of the Institute in the contemporary Indian context. The Hon'ble Minister congratulated the Institute on its commendable achievements in the domains of high quality patient care, biomedical technology and Public Health.

Welcoming the Hon'ble Minister and other dignitaries, Prof Asha Kishore, Director of the Institute, spoke of the remarkable transformation of the organisation from its humble beginnings to its present stature and outlined the contours of the Institute's future trajectory. She voiced the organization's profound gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan, and the Central and State Governments for constant support that has catalysed the Institute's journey into the future. Shri. Kadakampally Surendran, Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation, Tourism and Devaswom, Government of Kerala, Shri. Joy Abraham, Member of Parliament Smt. PK Sreemathy Teacher, Member of Parliament, Shri. O Rajagopal, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Shri KM Chandrasekhar, Hon'ble President of the Institute and Prof. MS Valiathan, National Research Professor were the other distinguished speakers who addressed the august gathering. The meeting commenced at 10.30 AM and concluded at 12.30 PM. Dr Harikrishna Varma, Head of the Biomedical Technology Wing of the Institute, thanked all the distinguished guests of the day, including Princess Pooyam Thirunal Gouri Parvati Bayi and Princess Aswathi Thirunal Gouri Lakshmi Bayi, who were witness to the historic event.























































