

[Back](#)

[Tamil Nadu - Coimbatore](#)

## 'Ayurveda a holistic science, not a tourism component'

Staff Reporter

— Photo: K. Ananthan.



***Felicitations:*** Former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations Shashi Tharoor (third left) presents a citation to the Managing Director of Arya Vaidya Pharmacy P.R.Krishnakumar (fourth right) at a function organised by the Rotary Clubs of Coimbatore and Thondamuthur to felicitate him on being conferred with the Padma Shri Award. Coimbatore Mayor R.Venkatachalam (third right) is in the picture.

Coimbatore: “Ayurveda faces the danger of being seen merely as a pleasure to tourists and not with the seriousness it deserves,” former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, Shashi Tharoor, said here on Thursday.

Mr. Tharoor was speaking at a function organised by the Rotary Clubs of Coimbatore and Thondamuthur to felicitate P.R. Krishnakumar, Managing Director, Arya Vaidya Pharmacy, Coimbatore, on his being conferred with Padma Shri. Mr. Kumar had saved ayurveda from the perception that it was confined to the pleasures of a tourist, Mr.Tharoor said.

He had made efforts to put the science on a par with western medicine and had approached it scientifically.

Though India had witnessed extraordinary scientific discoveries and given birth to geniuses, it had not been able to project them in a way the West would take note of. To some degree, it was the nation’s fault as it did not codify its work in a way that could be easily recognised by the West.

“Ayurveda is a holistic science and a part of what we are,” he said.

Mr. Krishnakumar’s had been a long and consistent struggle to put ayurveda on the world map. Through clinical trials and systematic documented evidence he had been telling the world why the traditional system of medicine needed to be understood and appreciated.

Though the recognition from the Indian Government had come late to Mr. Krishnakumar, Mr. Tharoor hoped that the wait would be a shorter one for Padma Bhushan.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Krishnakumar expressed surprise at the way a 5,000-year-old science such as ayurveda was treated as an alternative system of medicine and the craze of the Government to mainstream western medicine.

While the national budget allocated 80 per cent of its funds to western medicine, which catered only to a few people, only 20 per cent of it was kept aside for ayurveda. However, with continuous efforts to popularise ayurveda, the Government had become more supportive.

With the backing of voluntary organisations and the Government, ayurveda could be brought to the mainstream, he said.

Mayor R.Venkatachalam, Chief Executive, PSG Institutions, C.R. Swaminathan and Rotary past president, K.A.Kuriachan, spoke.

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