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## Quote

The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.

- Confucius

## Editorial

Years seem to fly by. Thirty eight years have passed since the first Aravind centre at Madurai was established. From just an eleven bed clinic at Madurai, today Aravind's eye care services are spread across 65 centres in different parts of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. It was a moment of joy as well as a time to contemplate when Aravind – Madurai celebrated its 38th annual day.

Aravind always plays a key role in increasing awareness and encouraging socially responsible attitude amongst its staff and employees. As part of Residents Social Responsibility programme, the current batch undertook the initiative of promoting products made by visually challenged people. The craftsmen were brought to Aravind and it was truly captivating watching them making their products right in front of our eyes. The products were kept on sale and the response was quite overwhelming.

Facilities in the specialty clinics were upgraded to provide a unique patient-centered care. Recently, Aravind – Tirunelveli introduced advanced Femto laser vision correction centre for doing bladeless cataract and lasik surgeries.

It is common that Aravind receives international patients mainly from Arab and African countries. Last month, Aravind had the opportunity of attending to the eye care needs of an elderly lady who came all the way from Washington DC.

*News about these and many more feature in this issue.*

*Aravind News Team.*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

### Frost & Sullivan Lifetime Achievement Award 2014 for Dr. P. Namperumalsamy

Mumbai, September 19



Chairman Emeritus Dr. P. Namperumalsamy was honoured with the Frost & Sullivan Lifetime Achievement Award 2014, by Frost & Sullivan, the Global Growth Consulting Company, headquartered in California towards his great contribution in the field of Ophthalmology in Asian sub-continent. The award was presented at Mumbai during the 6th Annual - India Healthcare Excellence Awards 2014.

### R.D. Thulasiraj Mentioned in 30 most Influential People in Public Health

Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj was selected one among the 30 most Influential People in Public Health by the Master's in Public Health Degrees, premier online resource guide for exploring and choosing from the highest quality Master of Public Health (MPH) degree programmes. [More](#)



## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Inauguration of 49th Vision Centre

Thiruchuli, September 4



Aravind opened its 49th Vision centre at Tiruchuli and the centre was inaugurated by Dr. Pamona George. Mrs. Indra, Chairperson Thiruchuli Municipality, Mr. Kannan, Block Development Officer, Mr. Baskaran, President-Tiruchuli, Mr. Ranganathan, Thasildar, Mrs. Fathima Begam, Head Mistress, Sethupathy Hr. Sec. School attended the inauguration. Dr. Namratha, Incharge medical officer was also present. A total of 99 patients were screened on the inaugural day.



### MLOP Freshers Day

Aravind – Coimbatore, September 5



Newly joined MLOPs celebrated their Freshers' Day in the first week of September. Dr. Kalpana Narendaran was the chief guest for the function. Different cultural programmes were organized.



### Kannae Nalamaa 2014 – Eye Care Awareness Exhibition

Aravind – Salem, September 5-6



Kannae Nalamaa, the eye care exhibition was organized to create awareness amongst the public about common eye diseases. The exhibition was inaugurated by Honorable. A. Amalraj IPS, Commissioner of Police, Salem City. A total of 2120 participants visited the exhibition.



### Dr. P. Namperumalsamy as Guest Speaker at the International Conference on Transforming Healthcare with Information Technology

Calcutta, September 5-6

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus participated as guest faculty at the 5th edition of the International Conference on Transforming Healthcare with Information Technology at Calcutta and he spoke on Information technology in eye care.



### Moments of Relaxation

Aravind – Tirunelveli, September 7



As a part of employee welfare activity, 4th year MLOPs of Aravind – Tirunelveli were taken on a one day tour to Valliyoor Murugan temple, Kanyakumari, Susindram and Nellaippar temple.

On September 14, another team was taken on a one day tour to Tiruchendur where visited Alwar Thirunagiri, Srivaikundam Temple, Then Thirupperai, Vana Thirupathi, Tiruchendur, Kulasekarapatnam and Manapad.



### Bike Rally to Create Awareness on Eye Donation

Aravind – Madurai, September 8



As part of eye donation fortnight celebrations, a bike rally was organized by Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank, Madurai. The rally was flagged off by Sri. Samant Rohan Rajendra IPS, Commissioner of Police, Madurai, Starting from the Madurai Railway Junction, the rally covered important places including Sethupathy School, Government Rajaji Hospital etc. Close to fifty staff from Aravind and Aurolab participated.



### Eye Donation Fortnight Celebrations

August 25 – September 8



National Eye Donation Fortnight was celebrated across the Aravind Eye Hospitals with a variety of programmes. The programmes mainly aimed to create awareness amongst the public about the importance of supporting the cause of eye donation. These included putting up posters/banners, live interaction with public on popular television/radio channels, awareness talks and rallies as well as distribution of pamphlets.



### RADNET 2014

Radhatri Netralaya, Chennai, September 14

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy delivered the Dr. T.N.C. Vedantham Memorial Oration on the topic, Diabetic Retinopathy: Community Based Management at the CME on Retinal Vascular Disorders organized by Radhatri Netralaya at Chennai.





## OPTIMEET

Aravind – Madurai, September 14



Optimeet was more like a continuing professional education programme for the staff of Aravind Opticals across the centres. Simple but rarely discussed and extremely relevant points for optical dispensing were discussed. About 15 staff members attended the programme.



## Training Programme for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Teachers

Aravind – Coimbatore, September 19



Aravind Eye Hospital, Coimbatore conducted a training programme for teachers of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to identify eye problems among school children. Ms. Malika, Chief Educational Officer, SSA was the chief guest and she inaugurated the programme. Dr. Sandra welcomed the gathering. Common paediatric eye diseases, refractive error in children and low vision in children were the topics covered. At the end of the training programme, practical demonstration on vision screening in children was also done. In total, 97 teachers from Coimbatore and Tirupur attended this training programme.



## Hospital Day Celebrations

Aravind – Madurai, September 20



Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai celebrated its 38th annual day with a variety of programmes. Mr. Ponraj, Technical Advisor to the erstwhile President of India Honorable Dr APJ Abdul Kalam was the chief guest for the function. Service awards were distributed to staff members. Dr. G. Venkataswamy Endowment Gold Medal was given to the top scorers of MS and DO examinations. The inaugural Prof. Dr. VR Muthukkaruppan Endowment Award was presented during the ceremony. The cultural programmes organized truly captivated the minds and hearts of the audience.



## Residents Social Responsibility Programme

Aravind – Madurai, September 20

Every year Aravind's residents involve in social responsibility programmes with a view to uplift the lesser privileged in the society. This programme is designed to celebrate the memory of Mr. R.S. Ramasamy and also to make the residents understand the value of helping the downtrodden in the society. This time the residents arranged for an

exhibition of handicrafts made by blind people. There was also a live demonstration by the blind people making these crafts.



### Inauguration of Femtosecond Laser Center

Aravind – Tirunelveli, September 26

Aravind – Tirunelveli introduced advanced Femto laser vision correction centre for doing bladeless cataract and lasik surgeries. The equipment eliminates the need for manual toric marking and provides centration and alignment guidance for inserting the advance IOL. The laser is automated to perform the surgery in a blade-free way. In Lasik surgery, this is the latest technology to create flap in the cornea, hundred percent blade free. The centre was inaugurated by Dr. M. Karunakaran IAS, District Collector – Tirunelveli.



### Inauguration of Eye Donation Centre at Kumbakonam

September 29



In collaboration with Lions Club, Aravind – Madurai opened eye donation centre at Kumbakonam in the last week of September. Ln. K. Prem, District Governor opened the centre. The holy lamp was lit by Mr. Suyampoo, Superintendent of Police, in the presence of Dr. M. Srinivasan, Director Emeritus - AECS.



### Navratri Celebrations

Aravind, September 25 – 30



Aravind Eye Hospitals celebrated Navratri festival with a wide variety of programmes. Special prayers were performed on the occasion of Saraswathi Pooja. Traditional cultural programmes were arranged for the staff to enjoy and celebrate. An attractive golu was also kept on display. Aravind – Coimbatore displayed a special golu meant to create eye care awareness among children. The three step golu created awareness about common paediatric eye diseases broke myths regarding squints and wearing glasses, safety precautions and stressed the importance of eating fruits, vegetables and healthy diets. The patients who visited the hospital truly benefitted as was evident

from the various comments received.



### FEAT 5000

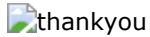
28th August – 29th September



During 28th August – 29th September, Cataract department at Aravind – Madurai was presented with a challenging task of performing 5000 surgeries a month, focusing solely on patients brought in from outreach eye camps. With the excellent support from clinical staff as well as various departments like opticals, housekeeping, catering and so on, the department succeeded performing 5055 surgeries within 30 days on patients brought in from 45 camps. It's not about the number of surgeries. More satisfactory was that the number of lives touched, one at a time and the team work behind each of their smiles!



### Thank You from Washington DC.



Kin P Yeung (52) is a US national who was diagnosed with premature cataract. Cataract is not a major cause of concern for us Indians. But it is not the same with US people. Deeply concerned about her blurred vision, Kin decided to have her treatment done at Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai. With no roots in India, she took the bold decision to come down to Madurai for surgery. More important was the fact that the travel expenses were more than the cost of the surgery.

[Click here to see her letters to Aravind.](#)



### Innovation from Instruments Maintenance Department

Aravind – Salem



Ms. M. Bhavani, Instruments Maintenance Department, Aravind – Salem developed an immersion prager shell – probe holding screw. While the supplier charges Rs.788 for this small spare part, the cost of the product developed indigenously is just Rs.30. This locally manufactured screw is also found to be exactly similar to the original one manufactured by the company.



### CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

#### Conference on Applying Next-Generation Sequencing

Bangalore, September 11



Dr. P. Sundaresan

- *Recent findings from NGS studies in eye diseases*



#### Dr. S. Aravind at the Advisory Board Meeting of the International Vision Academy

Singapore, September 19



Dr. S. Aravind attended the Board of Advisors meeting as well as the launch of The International Vision Academy, an Essilor initiative.



#### Talk on Aravind Model at the London Conference



London, September 6-7



Dr. R. Venkatesh gave a talk on Spirituality in Business - The Aravind Model at the conference organized by Conscious Lab at London. The talk was well-received and around 20 business leaders in London attended the same.



### The Eye Network Conference

Rotterdam, The Netherlands, September 23-27



Dr. Haripriya  
 - *The Story of Aravind*  
 - *Cataract Pathway at Aravind*



## LAICO HAPPENINGS

### Universal Coverage Project: Volunteers Meeting

LAICO, August 23

Universal coverage project is being implemented in fifteen vision centres at Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai. The aim of the project is to strengthen the services of vision centres particularly in the realm of specialty eye care, promote eye donation and increase follow up rate. To support this initiative, more than 150 volunteers from the service areas were identified. To orient them about eye diseases and treatment, a meeting was arranged in which fifty volunteers from ten vision centres participated.



### Lavelle Capacity Building Workshop

LAICO, September 13-20



As part of capacity building of 35 eye hospitals in the Indian sub-continent, a project supported by the Lavelle Fund, the first in the series of workshops was held in the second week of September for 5 hospitals in India and Bangladesh. A total of 21 participants attended the workshop.



## TRAINING PROGRAMMES

### Training Programmes Enrollments for October 2014 at Aravind Eye Care System

Course title	Training	Enrollments	Total number
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	Centre	for October 2014	trained till September 2014
<b>Residency Programmes</b>			
<b>DNB</b>	<b>Theni</b>	2	15
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	4	49
<b>Long Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists</b>			
<b>Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	1	181
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	1	
<b>Fellowship in Cornea</b>	<b>Pondicherry</b>	1	103
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	1	
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	1	
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	1	
	<b>Madurai</b>	1	
<b>Fellowship in Glaucoma</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	2	98
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	1	
<b>Fellowship in General Ophthalmology</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	1	43
<b>Fellowship in Retina - Vitreous</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	1	164
<b>Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists</b>			
<b>Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy</b>	<b>Coimbatore</b>	1	616
<b>ECCE / IOL Microsurgery</b>	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	1	1,249
<b>Small Incision Cataract Surgery</b>	<b>Pondicherry</b>	1	513
	<b>Madurai</b>	3	
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	1	
<b>Phacomulsification</b>	<b>Coimbatore</b>	2	460
<b>Orientation to Paediatric Ocular Anesthesia for Anaesthetist</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	1	16
<b>Neuro Ophthalmology</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	1	6
<b>Short Term Course in OT Techniques</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	1	36
<b>Training for Ocularist</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	1	36
<b>Management Courses Non - Clinical Courses</b>			
<b>Instrument Maintenance - For Technicians</b>	<b>LAICO</b>	2	482
<b>Research Methodology</b>	<b>LAICO</b>	40	223



## PUBLICATIONS

- Parag K Shah, Minu R, Bani S, Sandeep B, Narendran V, Kalpana N.  
- Long term refractive and structural outcome following lasertreatment for zone 1 aggressive posterior retinopathy of prematurity  
Oman J Ophthalmol. 2014;7(3):116-119. [Article View](#)
- Murugeswari P, Shukla D, Kim R, Namperumalsamy P, Stitt AW, Muthukkaruppan VR.  
- Angiogenic potential of vitreous from proliferative diabetic retinopathy and eales' disease patients.  
PLoS One. 2014 Oct;9(10):e107551 [Article View](#)
- Sundaresan P, Simpson DA, Sambare C, Duffy S, Lechner J, Dastane A, Dervan EW, Vallabh N, Chelerkar V, Deshpande M, O'Brien C, McKnight AJ, Willoughby CE.  
- Whole-mitochondrial genome sequencing in primary open-angle glaucoma using massively parallel sequencing identifies novel and known pathogenic variants.  
Genet Med. 2014;Sep 18. [Epub] [Article View](#)





## AUROLAB NEWS

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### Transition Meeting

Aurolab, September 1



Mr. R.D. Sriram, Director of Operations, has been promoted to the newly created post of Joint Managing Director. In this new position, in addition to his current responsibilities, he will be assisting the Managing Director in achieving Aurolab's aspirations to touch 10 million lives and achieve 1,000 crore turnover annually by 2020.



### Inauguration of Playground

Aurolab, September 15



The Auro Play ground was inaugurated in Aurofarm by Mr. Rajesh – Physical Training Instructor of Mahatma School, Madurai. Various games were also arranged as part of the occasion.



### Excursion for staff

Aurolab, August 23 - 24



The production staff were taken on a tour in two batches to Courtrallam, Papanasam, Manimuthu river, etc.



## MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

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### September - 2014

Hospitals    Madurai    Theni    Tirunelveli    Coimbatore    Pondicherry    Dindigul    Tirupur    Salem    Udumalpet    Total

#### HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS

	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Tirupur	Salem	Udumalpet	Total
Paying (New & Review)	46,390	6,937	22,537	30,865	22,514	5,746	3,718	9,351	2,669	150,727

Free (Direct walk-in)	14,865	1,908	6,966	9,683	7,751	9	469	176	959	42,786
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**OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS**

Regular Camps	Eye	10,468	1,463	3,050	5,570	7,786	-	624	669	-	29,630
Diabetic Retinopathy camps		175	258	230	1,709	996	-	-	-	-	3,368
Refraction Camps		280	-	543	1,142	1,966	-	-	-	-	3,931
Mobile Refraction Unit		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,201	-	1,201
School Screening camps		1,542	764	96	-	5,482	-	-	-	-	7,884
Paediatric Camps		-	-	-	-	218	-	-	-	-	218
Vision Centres		13,285	4,842	7,306	2,381	3,706	-	754	-	941	33,215
Community Eye Clinics		3,800	1,675	2,379	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,854
<b>Total OP Examinations</b>		<b>90,805</b>	<b>17,847</b>	<b>43,107</b>	<b>51,350</b>	<b>50,419</b>	<b>5,755</b>	<b>5,565</b>	<b>11,397</b>	<b>4,569</b>	<b>280,814</b>

**SURGERIES**

Paying		3,219	423	2,595	1,502	1,210	214	106	453	131	9,853
Free (Direct)		3,006	227	1,546	1,401	958	75	103	46	143	7,505
Camp		4,190	301	713	1,712	2,132	-	60	262	23	9,393
<b>Total Surgeries</b>		<b>10,415</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>4,854</b>	<b>4,615</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>26,751</b>

