

## Editorial

2019 is coming to an end and here goes the last newsletter for the year. Forty years have gone by since the publishing of Aravind's first newsletter. Over the years, the newsletter has undergone tremendous changes in content, form and style catering to audience's demand and interest. Each newsletter is the result of a co-ordinated efforts by a team of individuals across the Aravind centres. We thank each one of them for their continued support. To revive memories, the upcoming editions of the newsletter will have interesting snippets from the past issues.

The month of November was marked with many special days observed to create awareness on many diseases and condition; to name a few, World Diabetes Day, World Prematurity Day, International Pathology Day, Children's Day and so on. Aravind centres organised elaborate programmes on these occasions to get the message across.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

## Accolades

### Dr. M.K. Mehra Oration Award for Dr. Usha Kim

*Lucknow, November 16*

Dr. Usha Kim, Chief, Orbit, Oculoplasty, Ocular Oncology and Ocular Prosthetics Services, Aravind-Madurai delivered the Dr. M.K. Mehra Oration Award on the topic, *My Journey in the field – Evolution of the Department of Orbit, Oculoplasty & Ocular oncology*.



### Awards at Comprehensive Cataract Conference 2019

*Kolkatta, November 29 – December 01*

The International Society of Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgeons (ISMSICS) honored Mr. Thulasiraj Ravilla, Director-Operations, Aravind Eye Care System & Executive Director-LAICO with ***Institution Builder Award*** in recognition of his exemplary contributions towards building Aravind Eye Care System at Comprehensive Cataract Conference 2019.



HelpMeSee honoured Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman, Aravind Eye Care System with Albert Lee Ueltschi Award in recognition of his Outstanding Contribution in Ophthalmology at Comprehensive Cataract Conference 2019.



Dr. Madhu Shekhar, Chief, Cataract Services, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai won second prize for the video titled ***Iridodialysis Repair- Simplified Approach***

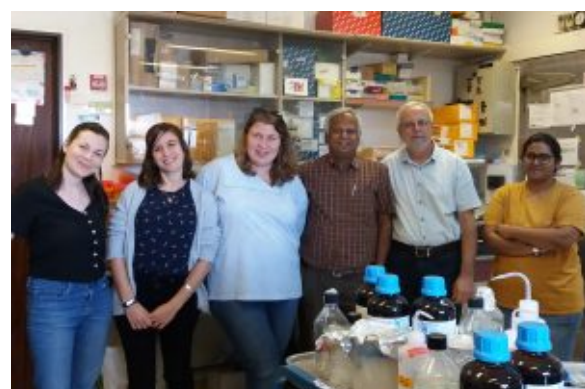


## AMRF

### INSA – IAS Bilateral Exchange programme

*Jerusalem, Israel; November 4-17*

Dr. P.Sundaresan has been awarded visiting fellowship by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and the Israel Academy of Sciences (IAS) under the International Collaboration/Exchange programme 2019. As part of this, he visited department of Ophthalmology, Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center, Jerusalem, Israel from 4th November to 17 th November , 2019. He delivered a guest lecture on Discovery of Genes causing Blindness and met with senior members (Dr. Eyal Banin , Dr. Dror Sharon and Dr. Anat Blumenfeld) of the Department of Ophthalmology at Hadassah Medical center, Jerusalem. He interacted with the faculty there and discussed the prospects of future collaboration. He also attended several talks at the institute. Dr. Sundaresan also visited Technion-Israel Institute of Technology Haifa, Israel and met Prof. Tamar Ben-Yosef ,Rappaport Faculty of Medicine who is working on genetics of Inherited retinal diseases.





## Aravind Events

### Observing World Diabetes Day

Aravind, November 14

Diabetic Retinopathy remains one of the leading causes of blindness. World Diabetes Day is the global awareness campaign focusing on Diabetes Mellitus and is observed on 14th November of every year. The theme for the year's celebration was designated as *Protect your Family* by the International Diabetes Federation. Aravind Hospital observed the day with elaborate programmes. Several competitions were arranged. Free blood sugar test, diabetes screening including family screening camps were organised. Rally was organised in a few centres to create awareness about diabetes and its consequences. Retina specialists gave informative talks about the disease.



### Observing World Prematurity Day

Aravind, November 18-23

World Prematurity Day was observed worldwide on November 17 with the theme, *Born too soon: Providing the right care, at the right time, in the right place*. Aravind centres too observed the same on various dates. Aravind-Tirunelveli arranged an awareness talk to the parents of preterm babies. The purpose was to create awareness on Retinopathy of Prematurity (RoP) and also the need for long term follow up in myopia and strabismus. Around 30 parents attended the meeting.

Aravind-Coimbatore observed the day with an awareness talk and exhibition. About 215 people visited the exhibition throughout the week. At Aravind-Madurai, in addition to the awareness exhibition, a press meet was arranged where Retina specialists – Dr.Kim, Dr.Renu P. Rajan, Dr.Prerana Shah interacted with journalists to spread the word about this condition.



### Observing World Pathology Day

Aravind-Madurai, November 29



Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai observed World Pathology Day with an awareness exhibition for general public and staff in the hospital premises. Dr. G. Natchiar, Director Emeritus, AECS inaugurated the same. The exhibition aimed to showcase role of pathology in eye care and how the department evolved at Aravind over the years.

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Eye is the window for mind as well as general wellbeing. In some diseases, eyes show first signs before they are manifested in other parts of the body. Creating awareness about this and understanding such changes help us identify many diseases in the initial stage itself. The exhibition had many posters, models and charts with relevant information for the public. The exhibition was well received both by the patients as well staff. The entire event was the result of a collective effort put in by the staff of Ocular Pathology, Orbit, Ocular Oncology and Laboratory services.



## CME on Infectious Keratitis

*Aravind-Tirunelveli, November 3*

The field of Cornea and refractive error surgeries have undergone revolutionary changes. The CME aimed to update participants on the latest developments. A total of 102 persons which included ophthalmologists and post graduates participated.



## CME on Retinopathy of Prematurity

*Ramnad, November 22*

As part of observing World Prematurity Day, Retina team at Aravind-Madurai conducted the CME for Village Health Nurses of Ramanathapuram district to create awareness on RoP at the grass root level Organised with support from District Blindness Control Society, the CME was presided over by Dr.Kumaragurubaran, Deputy Director of Health Services and Dr.Subashankari, Deputy Project Manager of DBCS, Ramnathapuram. A total of 90 enthusiastic Village Health Nurses and 30 Supervisors attended the CME. IEC materials about RoP were distributed to all.





## ReLOAD Workshop

*Aravind-Chennai, November 4-5*

Organised by Alcon, **Review Learning on Advancement and Development (ReLOAD)** workshop covered advancements in phacoemulsification including complication management. Eleven external ophthalmologists and six Aravind doctors participated. Along with lectures and interactive sessions, the workshop included a live surgery sessions. During the hands on wetlab session, participants performed anterior vitrectomy, practiced insertion of iris hooks and capsular tension ring.



## Phaco Development Workshop

*Aravind-Madurai, November 15*

The workshop was arranged for junior medical consultants and IOL fellows with support of Alcon Laboratories. Dr. Madhu Shekhar, Chief and Dr. Dhanya, Medical Consultant, Cataract Services, Aravind-Madurai handled the sessions along with faculty from Alcon. A total of 8 doctors participated.



## DSAEK Pre Cut Training Course

*Aravind-Madurai, November 21-23*



Descemet Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSAEK) Precut training course was jointly organized by Sight Life, USA and Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank (RAIEB), Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai. Mr. JT Soley, Sight life, USA trained 4 eye bank technicians; Two each from RAIEB, Madurai and Lions Eye Bank, Bangalore.

Accolades AMRF Aravind Events Aurolab Conferences attended LAICO Publications Statistics Training ARAVIND



### Surgical Skill Transfer Course

*Aravind-Pondicherry, November 24*

The course was organised for post graduate students in ophthalmology. About 40 participated. Aravind doctors handled sessions on various surgical procedures like trabeculectomy, phacoemulsification, penetrating keratoplasty, anterior vitrectomy, and manual small incision cataract surgery. Dry lab sessions were organised. Different methods of OT sterilization were also discussed.



### Workshop for the staff of Central Sterile Services Department

*LAICO, November 15-16*

The two-day workshop was arranged for the staff of Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD) across the Aravind centres. A total of 45 participants attended the same. Dr.R.D Ravindran, Chairman, Aravind Eye Care System and Dr. Lalitha Prajna, Microbiologist, Aravind-Madurai led the workshop.



### Hospital Day Celebration

*Aravind-Salem, November 30*



Aravind-Salem has completed eight years of service in providing sight. At the annual day celebration held in the last week of November, Dr.Rahul Muharji, Director of Medical Services, Salem Steel Plant, Salem; Dr.G.Natchiar, HR Director Emeritus, AECS; Mr. Arthanari, Camp sponsor from Kuppusamy Mudhaliar Samudhaya Arakkattalai, Tharamangalam, Salem & Mr.Chandran-President, Lions Club of Attur were the chief guests. Mr. Sakthivel, Manager – Finance welcomed the audience. Dr.Manohar Babu, Chief Medical Officer gave an update on the activities of the year. Dr.G. Natchiar and Dr.Rahul Muharji gave special address. People from the community who have been supporting the cause of eye donation were felicitated. Service awards were distributed to the staff members followed by cultural events. Dr. Anuja, Senior Medical Officer, Cornea Services delivered the vote of thanks.

## Children’s Day Celebration

*Aravind; November 14*

The Paediatric Ophthalmology clinics at Aravind, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Pondicherry celebrated Children’s Day by organizing several events for staff and patients. Awareness exhibition on common paediatric eye diseases and low vision rehabilitation devices was arranged. Competitions were organised for children and staff.



## Sri. Shankara Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal Visit Aravind

*Aravind-Tirunelveli, November 6*

Shri. Shankara Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal of Sri Jagadguru Kanchi Koti peetam, Kancheeparam visited Aravind-Tirunelveli and blessed the senior staff members. The Swamiji addressed the staff and appreciated the work done towards restoring sight to millions.



## Training on Basic Fire Safety and Mock Drill

*Aurolab; November 23*

The training programme was organised for the staff of Aurolab. Mr.Syed Rafi and his team from Usha Fire Safety Equipment handled the session. Staff was trained on how to keep ourselves safe during fire accidents, and how to use fire extinguishers. Participants felt the training very useful.



## Conferences attended

### Comprehensive Cataract Conference 2019

*Kolkatta, November 29 – December 01*

Dr. R D Ravindran

- Role of MSICS in enabling High Volume – Quality Cataract Surgery

Dr. Shivkumar Chandrashekharan

- Comparison of Astigmatism: Temporal vs Superior tunnel with sutures in Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery ( MSICS)

Dr. Madhu Shekhar

- Visual Outcomes Of Cataract Surgery Following Refractive Surgery Using Ascrs Average Method
- Video: Iridodialysis Repair- Simplified Approach.

Dr. Aravind Srinivasan

- Live Surgery : SICS/ Phaco

Mr Thulasiraj Ravilla

- Outgrowing your practice
- How to get a great team
- Summary: Essential mindsets

Mrs. Dhivya Ramasamy

- Patient loyalty

Mr Balasubramani R

- Getting rid of everyday fire-fighting

Dr. Aravind Srinivasan

- Profitability: fixing the leaks

Dr. Ravindran

- Be effective as a leader





## Update on Diabetic Retinopathy

JIPMER, Pondicherry, November 17

Dr. Naresh Babu

- *Surgical approach in Diabetic Retinopathy*

Dr. Renu P Rajan

- *Lasers in diabetic retinopathy*

Dr. Manavi Sindal

- *Approach to a patient with diabetic retinopathy – Clinical pearls*

Dr. Chittaranjan Mishra

- *Conducted quiz and a dry lab session for PGs on indirect ophthalmoscopy*

## Driving Innovation: Technology and India's Rise as a Global Power

North Carolina, USA, October 10

Mr. Thulasiraj Ravilla, Executive Director, LAICO participated in the panel discussion on Public Health/Technology organised as part of the conference, Driving innovation: Technology and India's rise as a global power organised at the University of North Carolina

## SEVA Synergy Series

California, USA, October 17

Mr. Thulasiraj Ravilla participated and shared inputs in the session, *Leadership: The engine for change*.

## SEVA Board Meeting

California, USA, October 18-19

Mr. Thulasiraj Ravilla and Ms. Dhivya Ramasamy participated.

## WHO SEARO Expert Group Meeting Meeting on "Preventing Glaucoma Blindness in S.E Asia

New Delhi, Nov 21-23

Mr. Thulasiraj Ravilla attended the meeting and shared inputs.

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### Annual Conference of American Academy of Ophthalmology

Dr. Rengaraj Venkatesh

- Manual ECCE Surgery: Indications and techniques – Instruction course
- Resolution of visual dysphotopsias following laser Iridotomy: 6 month follow-up (e-Poster)
- Routine fundus photography screening for posterior segment disease: A stepped-wedge, cluster-randomized trial in South India (e-Poster)

Dr. Rajesh.V

- 3D printing in Ophthalmology (Video)
- Resident's learning curve analysis for manual small incision cataract surgery using ICO-OSCAR tool

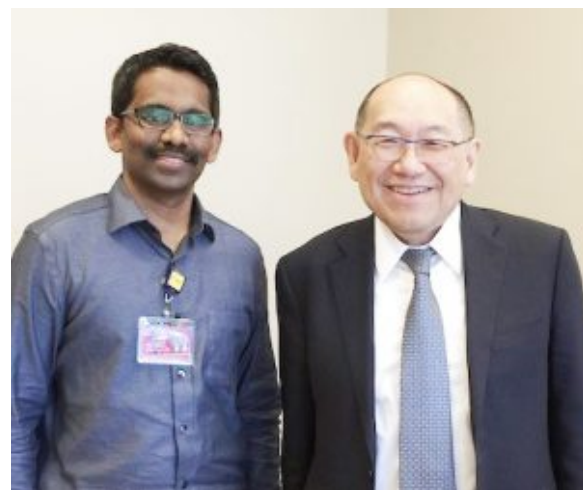
Dr. Purushothamma Rajkumar

- Innovations in wet Lab training (Video)

Dr. Lisa M Tom

- Prospective study of corneal endothelial cell density after laser peripheral iridotomy (e-Poster)

Mr. Thulasiraj Ravilla, Dr. R. Kim and Dr. Usha Kim and Ms. Dhivya Ramasamy attended the conference.



### Grand Rounds at California Pacific Medical Center

San Francisco, USA; October 11

Dr. Rengaraj Venkatesh made a presentation on *the “Environmental Sustainability and Eye Care – The Aravind Model”* at the CPMC Department of Ophthalmology Grand Rounds in Sutter Health California Pacific Medical Center, San Francisco, USA.





## Asia Pacific Vitreo-Retina Society (APVRS 2019)

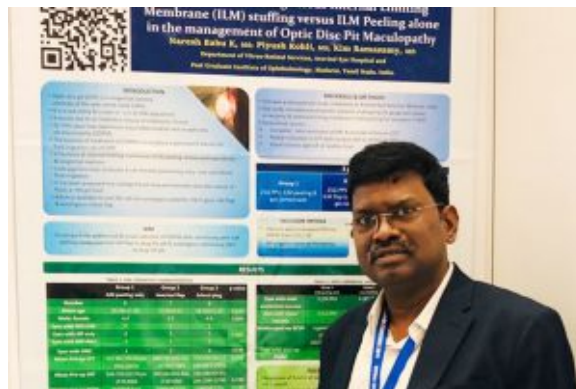
Shanghai, China; November 22 – 24

Dr. Naresh Babu

- *Scleral plug in Optic disc pit maculopathy*

Dr. Obuli Ramachandran

- *Dome shaped maculopathy-Retrospective analysis*



## Digital Health India Summit

Mumbai, November 16

Mr. Ganesh Babu

- Return on Investment on Tele-Ophthalmology: Aravind's experience



## Madurai Retina Forum 2019

Madurai, November 09

Dr. R. Kim – *Moderated several sessions*

Dr. T.P. Vignesh – *New frontiers in the management of retinal diseases*

Dr. Naresh Babu – *OCT biomarkers in the management of retinal diseases*

Dr. Karthik Kumar – *Choosing right therapy and right regimen in neovascular Age-related macular degeneration*

Dr. Renu P Rajan – *Presented a case report*

Dr. Aditya – *Presented a case report*



## LAICO

### Eyexcel Bangladesh 2019

Dhaka, Bangladesh, November 11-21

Following the successful conduct of *Eyexcel Global* for over a decade at Madurai, Eyexcel is being offered annually in Nepal by Seva Nepal and Latin America by Visualiza, Guatemala since 2016. For the first time Eyexcel was organised in Bangladesh exclusively for the benefit of eye care training institutions in Bangladesh. Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital hosted the course. Eight teams (around 25 participants) from 7 Institutions attended. LAICO faculty, Ms.Dhivya Ramasamy, Sanil Joseph led several sessions.





Consultancy visits

- Dr. V.R. Vivekananthan, Medical Officer, Aravind-Tirunelveli made follow up visit to Fitsum Birhan Specialized Eye Clinic, Mekelle, Ethiopia during November 3-11
- Dr. K. Tiruvengada Krishnan, Chief, Cornea Services, Aarvind-Chennai and Mr.Mohammed Gowth, Faculty, LAICO visited Innovation Eye Centre, Kisii, Kenya during November 5-13
- Mr. Calvin Clement,IT Department visited RNC Free Eye Hospital, Surat for IHMS Implementation in the first week of November.
- Mr. Sriharinath, IT Department visited Ravishankar Maharaj Eye Hospital, Ahmedabad for IHMS implementation.
- Dr. Rohan Anand Joseph, Medical Officer, Aravind-Coimbatore and Mr. Ganesh Babu, Senior Manager, IT Department made follow up visit to Eye Foundation Hospital, Lagos, Nigeria during November 23-28.

Publications

November 2019

1. Mees L, Swati Upadhyaya, Pavan Kumar, Kotawala S, Haran S, Shruthi R, Friedman DS, Venkatesh R. **Validation of a head mounted virtual reality visual field screening device.** J Glaucoma. 2019 Nov 26. [Epub] [Article View](#)
2. Pavithra S, Kavitha S, Odayappan A. **Steroid Induced Glaucoma in a Child with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia – An Overlooked Complication.** Pediatric Oncall. 2020 [Epub] [Article View](#)
3. Bharat Gurnani, Kunal Mandlik, Kirandeep Kaur, Shivananda N. **Penetrating ocular trauma from a pencil lead.** Trauma. 2019:1-2. [Epub] [Article View](#)
4. George J Manayath, Ratnesh Ranjan, Nagesha CK, Narendran V. **Non-proliferative type II macular telangiectasia variant with subfoveal detachment: role of anti-VEGF therapy.** Br J Ophthalmol. 2019 Dec 2. [Epub] [Article View](#)
5. Ung L, Acharya NR, Agarwal T, Alfonso EC, Bagga B, Bispo PJM, Burton MJ, Dart JKG, Doan T, Fleiszig SMJ, Garg P, Gilmore MS, Gritz DC, Hazlett LD, Iovieno A, Jhanji V, Kempen JH, Lee CS, Lietman TM, Margolis TP, McLeod SD, Mehta JS, Miller D, Pearlman E, Prajna L, Prajna NV, Seitzman GD, Shanbhag SS, Sharma N, Sharma S, Srinivasan M, Stapleton F, Tan DTH, Tandon R, Taylor Hr, Tu EY, Tuli SS, Vajpayee RB, Gelder RNV, Watson SL, Zegans ME, Chodosh J. **Infectious corneal ulceration: a proposal for neglected tropical disease status.** Bull World Health Organ. 2019 Dec;97:854-856. [Article View](#)
6. Naresh Babu, Girish Baliga, Hiruni KW, George V Puthuran. **Intermediate-term outcomes of pars plana tube insertion of Aurolab aqueous drainage implant for refractory glaucoma.** Br J Ophthalmol. 2019 Dec 3. [Epub] [Article View](#)
7. Menda SA, Das M, Panigrahi A, Prajna NV, Acharya NR, Lietman TM, McLeod SD, Keenan JD. **Association of Postfungal Keratitis Corneal Scar Features with Visual Acuity.** JAMA Ophthalmol. 2019 Dec 5. [Epub] [Article View](#)

Statistics

Patient Monthly Statistics

November – 2019															
Hospitals	Madurai	Tirunelveli	Theni	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Tirupur	Dindigul	Salem	Tuticorin	Udumalpet	CbeCC	Chennai	Tirupati	Kovilpatti	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS															

Paying (New & Review)	58,006	27,676	8,757	32,935	26,000	4,805	6,494	11,528	5,080	3,811	3,493	18,563	7,549	1,366	2,16,063
Free:Direct walk-in (New & Review)	15,271	6,777	2,233	12,801	8,811	1,585	—	1,891	819	1,764	—	4,792	2,971	247	59,962
OUTREACH OUT PATIENT															
Comprehensive Eye Camps	7,908	4,059	1,874	7,471	4,168	451	—	1,099	482	—	—	2,165	956	—	30,633
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	1,748	833	943	4,404	418	—	—	518	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,864
Glaucoma Camps	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Refraction Camps	992	842	—	1,325	548	—	—	185	485	—	—	991	—	—	5,368
Mobile Refraction Unit	—	—	—	706	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	972
School Screening camps	1,957	756	470	970	5,273	150	—	303	—	—	—	828	4,176	—	14,883
Paediatric Camps	—	—	245	530	251	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,026
RoP	248	135	171	415	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	41	—	—	1,045
Vision Centres	25,096	12,740	5,902	4,804	9,740	1,233	—	—	—	1,532	—	—	—	—	61,047
Community Centres / City Centres	9,489	2,714	1,961	—	2,631	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16,795
Total OP Examinations	1,20,715	56,532	22,556	66,361	57,875	8,224	6,494	15,524	6,866	7,107	3,493	27,380	15,652	1,613	4,16,392
Total Number of Camps	43	25	11	32	21	2	—	8	4	—	—	10	7	—	163
SURGERIES															
Service Proportion of Cataract Surgeries															
Paying	3,170	1,388	454	1,710	1,365	253	296	662	174	227	167	1,013	305	—	11,184
Free (Direct)	2,098	731	306	1,663	770	285	145	271	97	390	—	424	259	—	7,439
Camp	1,676	778	160	1,648	785	59	—	173	24	20	—	333	168	—	5,824
Total Cataract Surgeries	6,944	2,897	920	5,021	2,920	597	441	1,106	295	637	167	1,770	732	—	24,447



Note: NA – Not Applicable

Training

Enrolments for November 2019

# November – 2019

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Course title	Training Centre	No. of enrolments
<b>LONG TERM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES – FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS</b>		
<b>Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery</b>	Madurai	1
	Tirunelveli	1
	Coimbatore	1
	Pondicherry	1
	Chennai	1
<b>Fellowship in Cornea</b>	Madurai	1
<b>Fellowship in General Ophthalmology</b>	Coimbatore	2
	Theni	3
<b>Fellowship in Orbit and Oculoplasty</b>	Madurai	1
<b>Fellowship in Glaucoma</b>	Chennai	1
<b>SHORT TERM CLINICAL COURSES – FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS</b>		
<b>Clinical Observership Program In Diagnosis and Management Of Glaucoma</b>	Coimbatore	1
	Madurai	1
	Tirunelveli	1
	Pondicherry	1
<b>Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity and Paediatric Retinal Disorders</b>	Coimbatore	1
<b>Phacoemulsification</b>	Madurai	1
	Tirunelveli	1
<b>Small incision cataract surgery</b>	Tirunelveli	1
	Coimbatore	1
	Pondicherry	1
<b>Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy</b>	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	1
<b>PARAMEDICAL COURSES</b>		
<b>Training in Eye Bank Techniques</b>	Madurai	1
<b>Training for Ocularis</b>	Madurai	1
<b>MANAGEMENT COURSE</b>		
<b>Community Outreach and Social Marketing of Eye Care Servicese</b>	LAICO	4



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December 2019 ▼

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