



Editorial

Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai, the largest of all Aravind centres in terms of area was opened in 2017 and since then, the hospital has seen a steady growth in terms of patient volumes. As a major infrastructure development, the hospital expanded its out-patient services to the second floor opening four clinics dedicated exclusively to handle retina, glaucoma and paediatric cases. The hospital also opened an eye bank and ocular prosthesis unit. Technology and smartphones have made our lives much easier and their impact in our day-to-day life is truly enormous. Realising the great potential of smartphones in enhancing the quality of life of the visually impaired, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai in collaboration with NGOs distributed smartphones free of cost to the visually challenged students and youth. AuroTech, Aravind's IT department moved to a new and spacious office on the third floor of LAICO building. Aravind places on record its sincere thanks to Dr. Bradford Shingleton for his generous act of giving. The organisation deeply appreciates his support in its journey to eliminate needless blindness.

With Gratitude



*Dear Dr. Brad,
A big Thank You...
for your generous contribution and the sweet note
through which you took us down the memory lane. Your
email beautifully summarised the impact that Aravind as
an organisation has had on you. The note in addition to
sharing your feelings for Aravind serves as a sweet
reminder of all the good work that the staff at Aravind is
doing and makes everyone of them feel proud.*

[Click to see Dr.Brad's email](#)



Aravind in its journey over the past four and a half decades has been fortunate to get associated with stalwarts in ophthalmology. Such connections and the resultant exchange of knowledge and expertise have helped shape Aravind into what it is today. Many such associations go beyond the realm of a mere professional relationship to grow into an intense, personal connection. Dr. Bradford Shingleton is one such person with whom Aravind has a long-standing relationship.

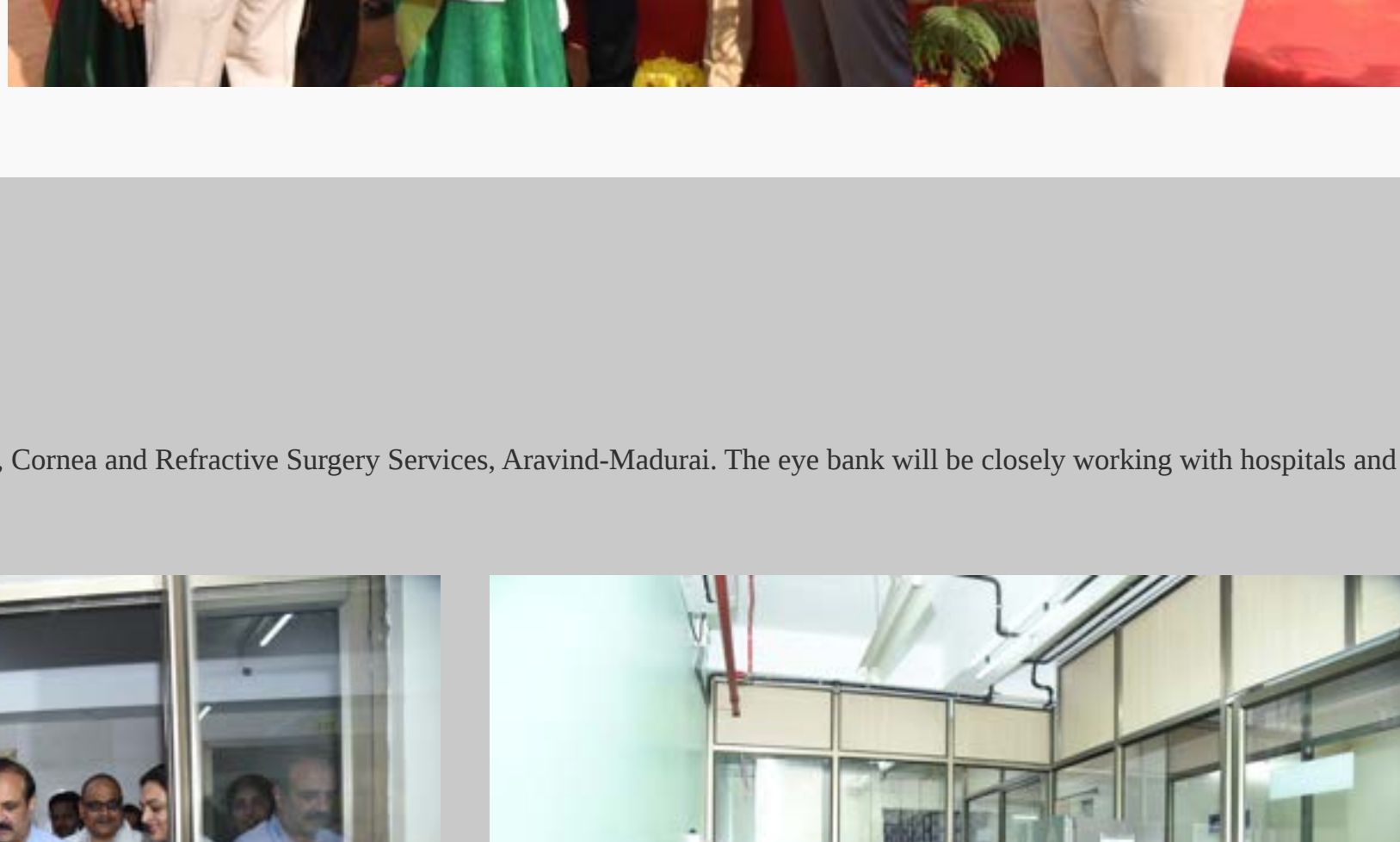
A senior consultant with the Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston in the United States, Dr. Shingleton is specialised in Cataract and Glaucoma care. He has always been a generous host to Aravind doctors visiting America, often sharing his rich knowledge and expertise in clinical care.

Accolades

Certificate of Appreciation

Tirunelveli, January 26

Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirunelveli received Certificate of Appreciation for exemplary performance under Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme. Dr.B. Muralidharan, Chief Medical Officer received the certificate from Mr.V.Vishnu, IAS honorable District Collector, Tirunelveli during the Republic Day Celebration.



Aravind Events

Eye Bank Opened at Aravind-Chennai

Aravind-Chennai, February 14

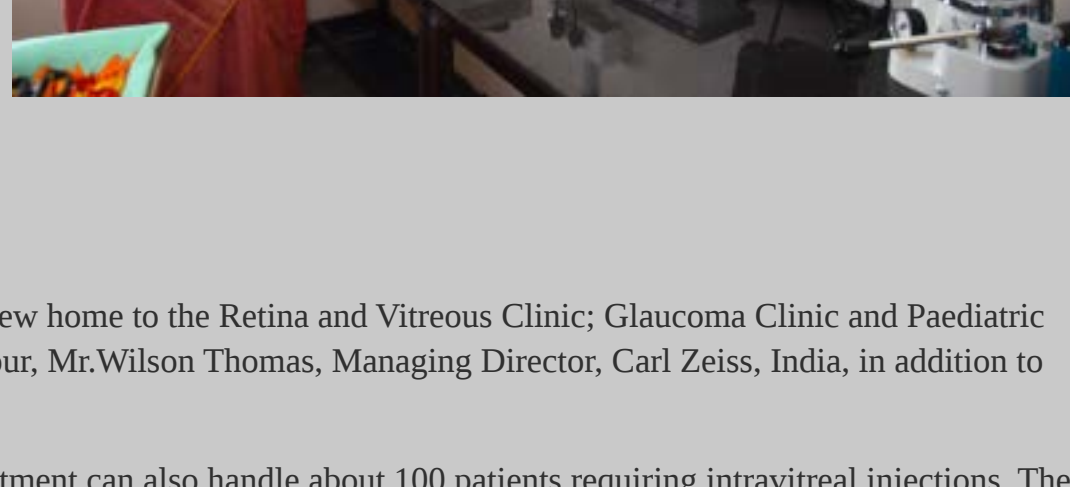
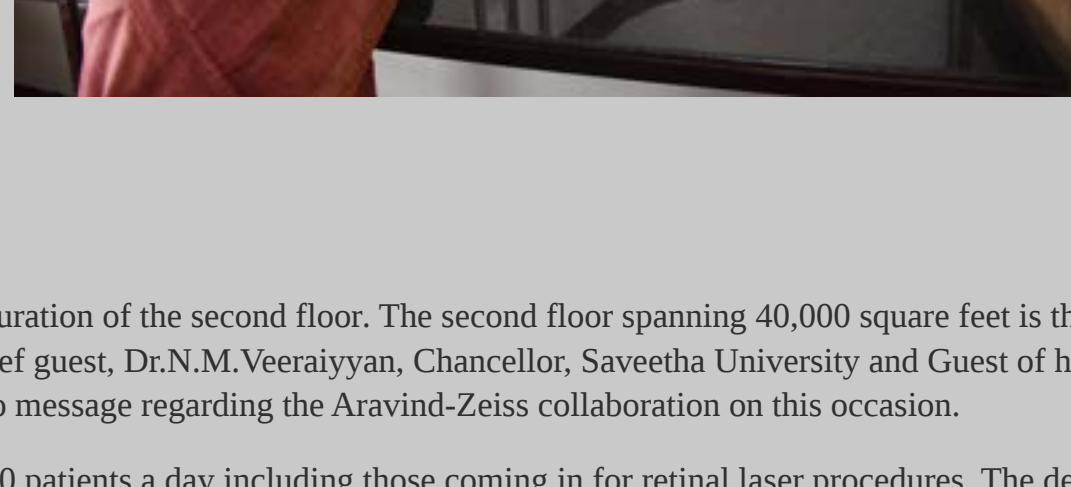
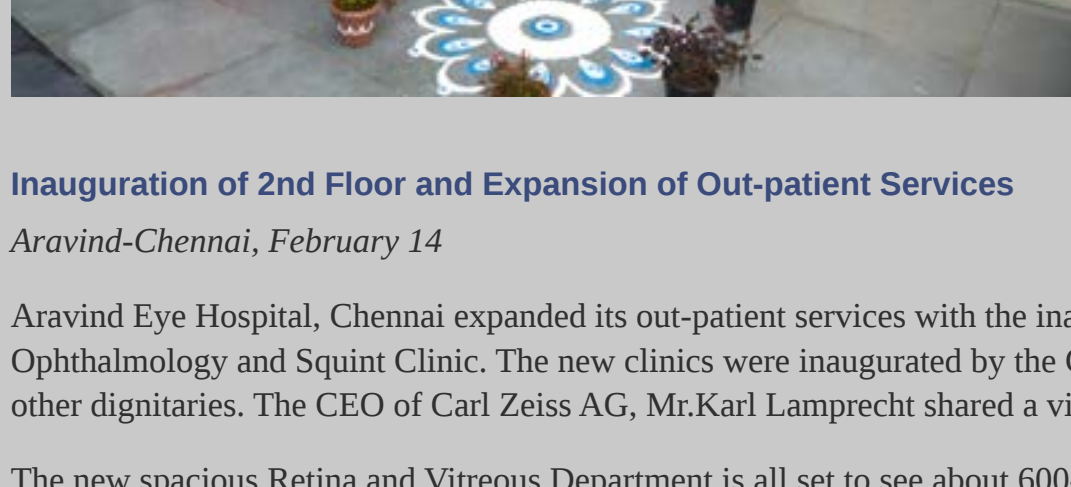
Aravind-Chennai opened a state-of-the-art eye bank and the new facility was inaugurated by Dr.Venkatesh Prajna, Chief, Cornea and Refractive Surgery Services, Aravind-Madurai. The eye bank will be closely working with hospitals and community volunteers for harvesting corneas.



Ocular Prosthesis Unit Inaugurated

Aravind-Chennai, February 14

Aravind-Chennai opened an Ocular Prosthesis Unit and the facility was inaugurated by Dr.Usha Kim, Chief, Orbit & Oculoplastic Services, Aravind-Madurai.



Inauguration of 2nd Floor and Expansion of Out-patient Services

Aravind-Chennai, February 14

Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai expanded its out-patient services with the inauguration of the second floor. The second floor spanning 40,000 square feet is the new home to the Retina and Vitreous Clinic; Glaucoma Clinic and Paediatric Ophthalmology and Squint Clinic. The new clinics were inaugurated by the Chief guest, Dr.N.M.Veerarajan, Chancellor, Sreevaitha University and Guest of honour, Mr.Wilson Thomas, Managing Director, Carl Zeiss, India, in addition to other dignitaries. The CEO of Carl Zeiss AG, Mr.Karl Lampeck shared a video message regarding the Aravind-Zeiss collaboration on this occasion.

The new Glaucoma Department can now see up to 300 patients including those coming in for glaucoma-related laser procedures. The new Paediatric Ophthalmology Department with its child-friendly ambience can cater to around 300 patients and patients with squint-related problems on a daily basis. The floor is self-sufficient with registration counters, pharmacy, optical shop and cafeteria. It is designed to save patient waiting times and increase work-efficiency of the hospital.



Fundus Camera Training for Vision Centre Staff

Aravind-Tirunelveli has embarked on a pilot project to assess the feasibility of artificial intelligence in identifying chronic eye diseases. The project is being implemented in ten vision centres of Aravind-Tirunelveli. New fundus cameras were procured as part of this and two training sessions were arranged for the staff of these centres to orient them on the usage of these, one on January 28 and the second one on February 10.



Workshop on Communication Skills

Aravind-Madurai, February 13

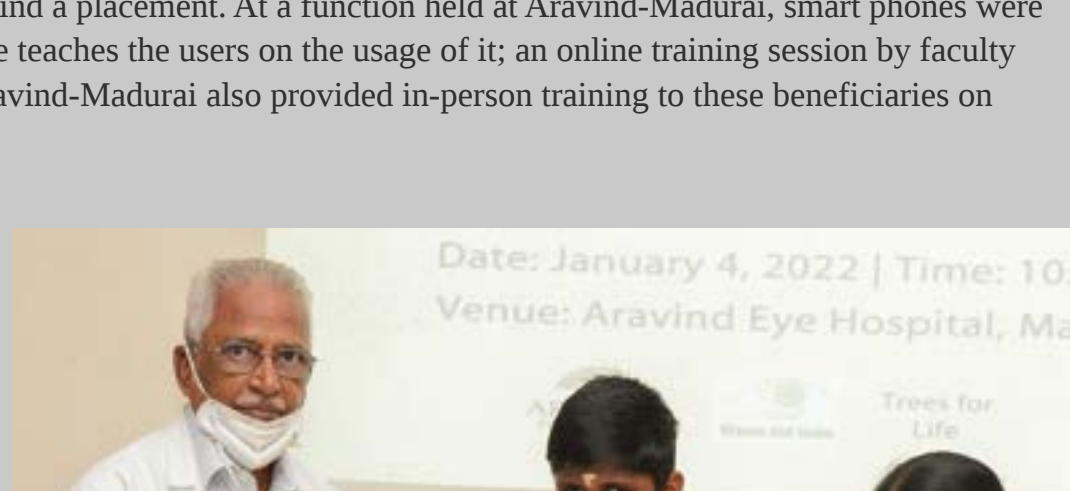
Staff from Zeiss Company conducted the workshop for the staff of Opticals Department of Aravind-Tirunelveli and the workshop was held at Hotel Apple Tree. It stressed on communication skills, importance of team work and ensuring patient satisfaction. Along with the staff of Opticals Department, Nursing Superintendents - Ms.V.Arungam and Ms.Shammuga Sundari took part in the workshop. The workshop had both theory and practical sessions.



Smartphones for the Visually Impaired

Aravind-Madurai, January 4

Today's smartphones are packed with many innovative apps that can totally transform the life of a blind or visually impaired user. Moreover, in this era of online education, smartphones are a basic necessity for any student. Realising these, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai in collaboration with the NGOs, VISION AID and Trees for Life has embarked on a project to distribute smart phones to visually impaired students and job-seekers from underprivileged communities. The smartphone will be beneficial for students to undergo their online classes and for job-seekers, it will help in better networking and easy correspondences to find a placement. At a function held at Aravind-Madurai, smart phones were distributed to ten beneficiaries. With the help of a special app, the beneficiaries were briefed on the usage of the smartphones. A special app installed in the phone teaches the users on the usage of it, an online training session by faculty from Hadley University was also arranged to familiarize them on the usage of smart phones. Apart from this, staff of the Low Vision Rehabilitation Centre at Aravind-Madurai also provided in-person training to these beneficiaries on smartphone usage. This is an ongoing training programme offered by at Aravind-Madurai.

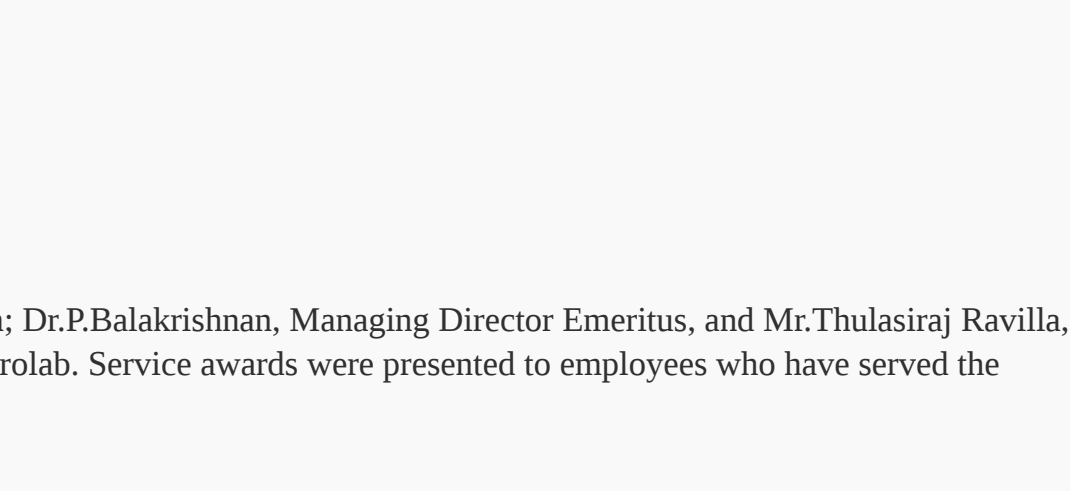
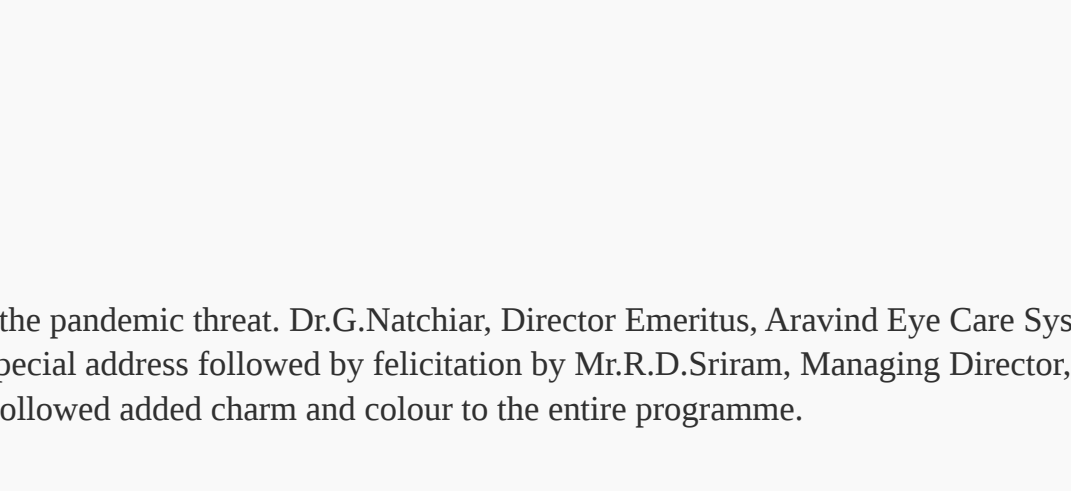
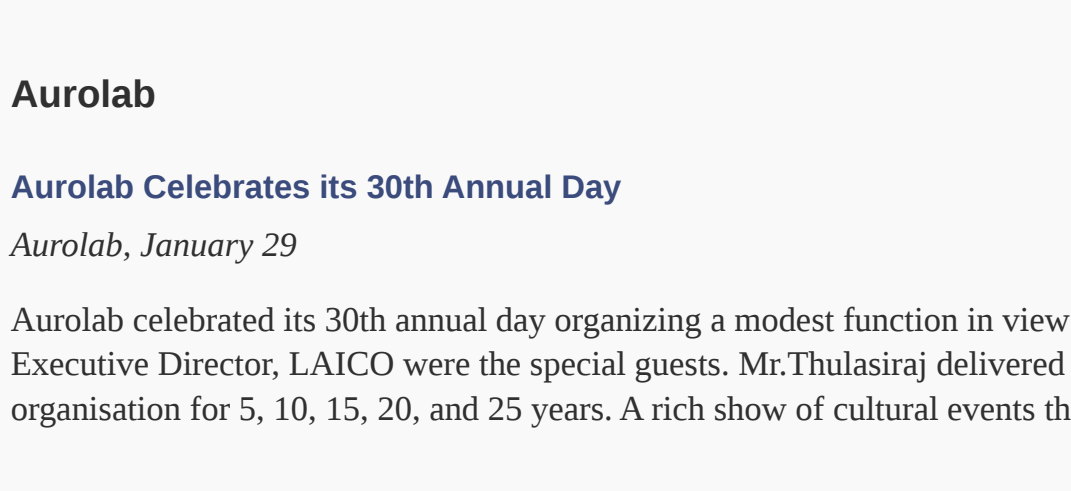


Aurolab

Aurolab Celebrates its 30th Annual Day

Aurolab, January 29

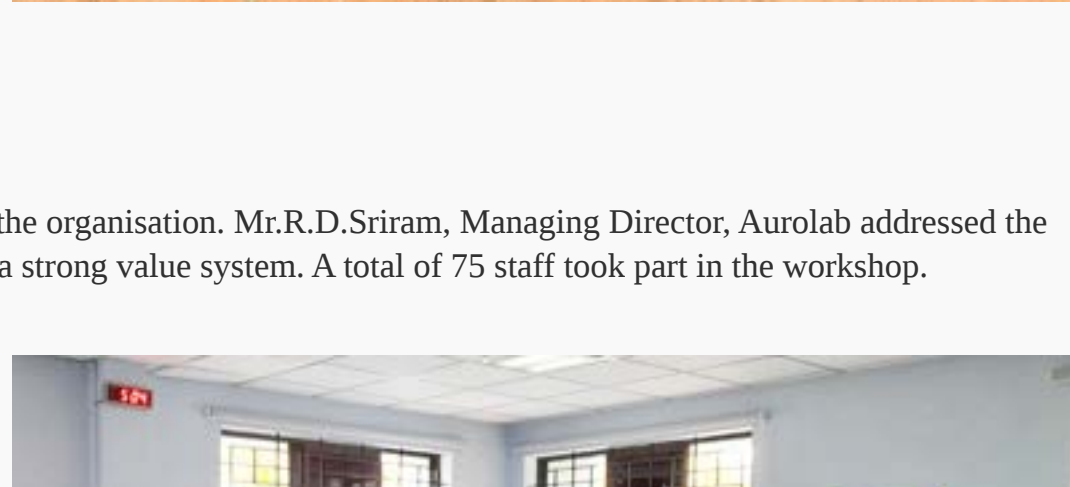
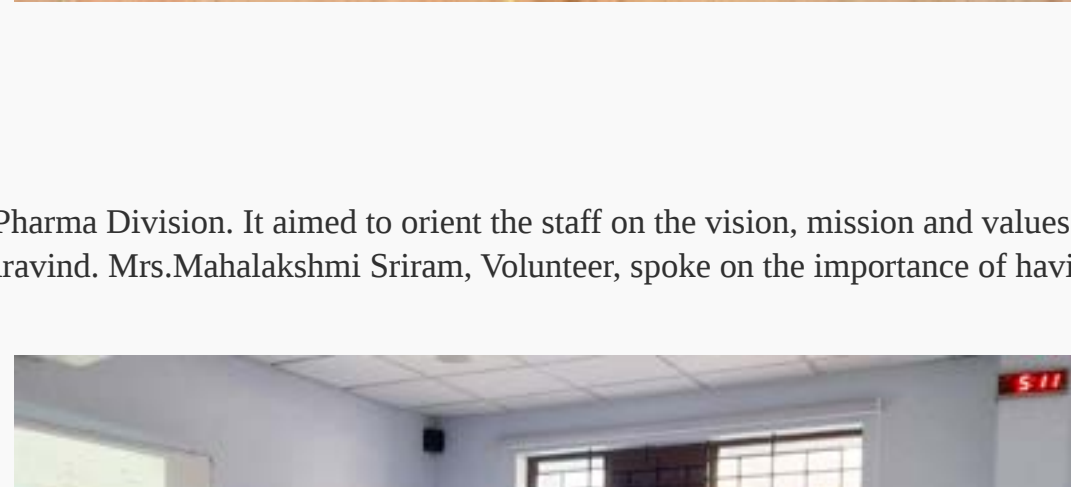
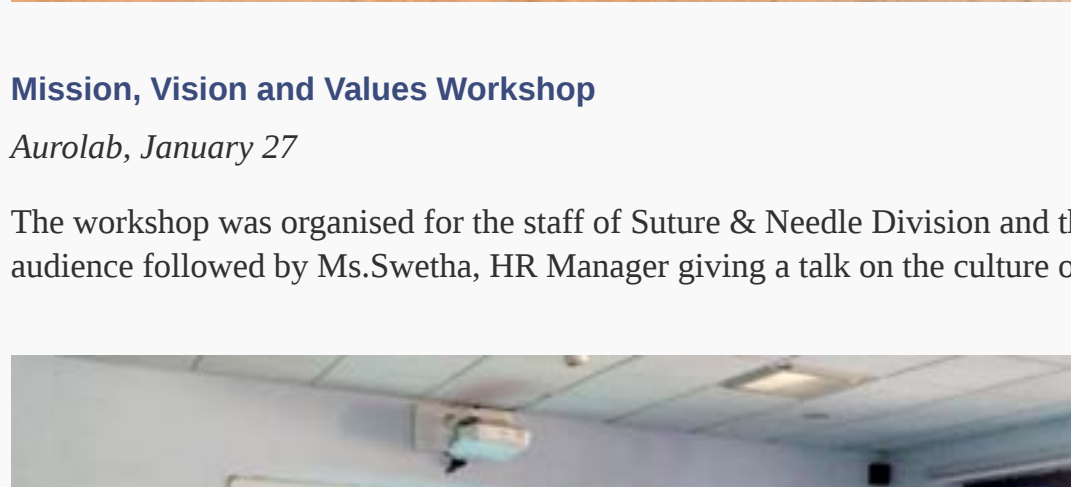
Aurolab celebrated its 30th annual day organizing a modest function in view of the pandemic threat. Dr.G.Nachias, Director Emeritus, Aravind Eye Care System; Dr.P.Balakrishnan, Managing Director Emeritus, and Mr.Thulasini Ravilla, Executive Director, LAICO were the special guests. Mr.Thulasini delivered a special address followed by felicitation by Mr.R.D.Sriram, Managing Director, AuroLab. Service awards were presented to employees who have served the organisation for 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years. A rich show of cultural events that followed added charm and colour to the entire programme.



Mission, Vision and Values Workshop

Aurolab, January 27

The workshop was organised for the staff of Surgery & Needle Division and the Aravind Division. It aimed to orient the staff on the vision, mission and values of the organisation. Mr.R.D.Sriram, Managing Director, Aurolab addressed the audience followed by Ms.Sweetha, HR Manager giving a talk on the culture of Aravind. Mrs.Mahalakshmi Sitam, Volunteer, spoke on the importance of having a strong value system. A total of 75 staff took part in the workshop.

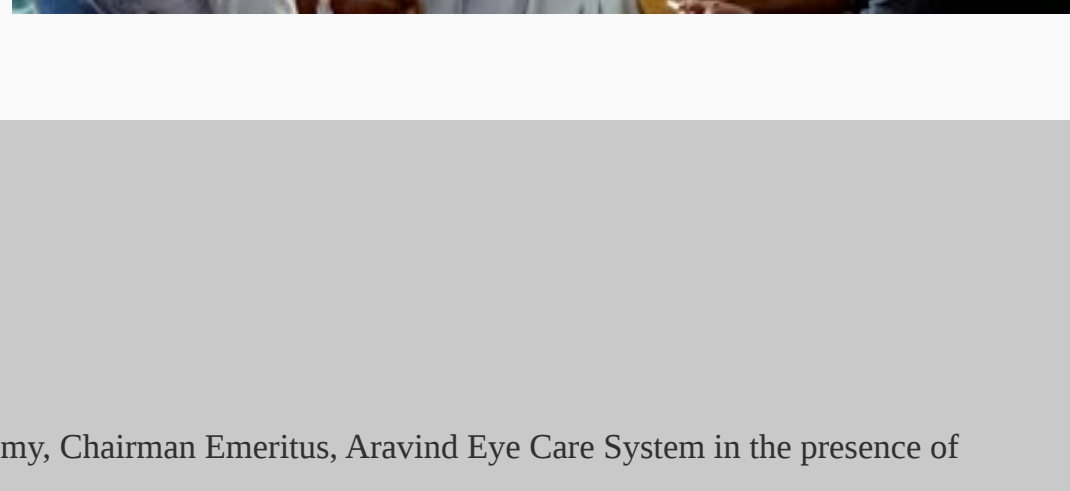
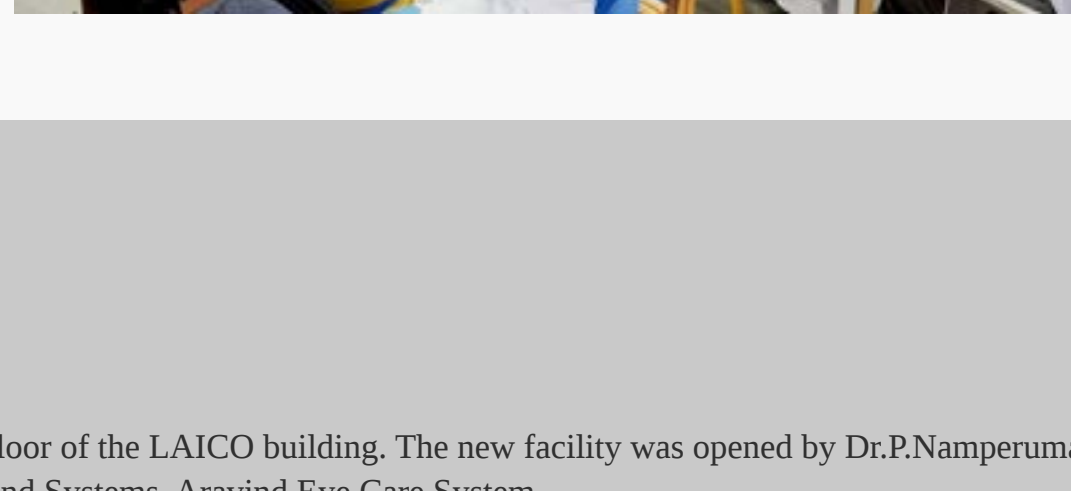
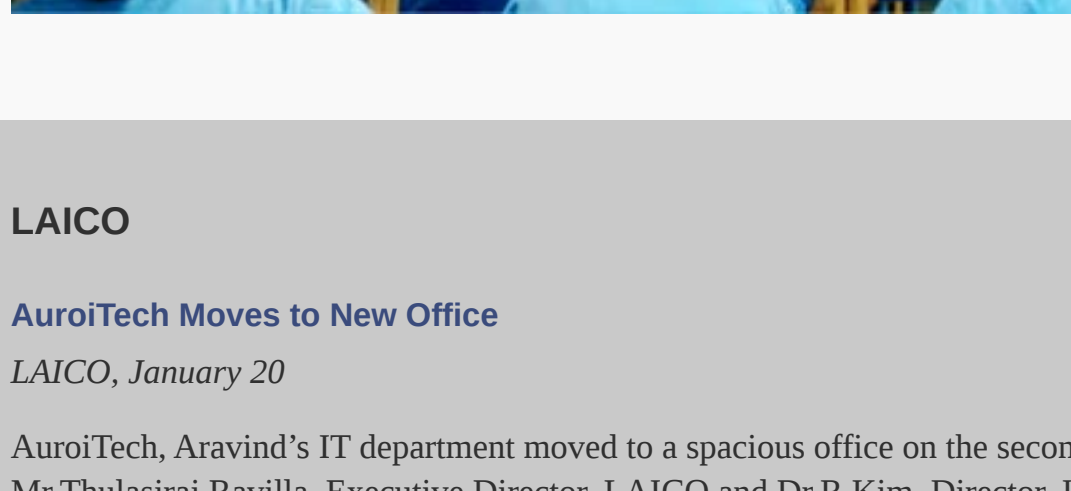


LAICO

AuroTech Moves to New Office

LAICO, January 20

AuroTech, Aravind's IT department moved to a spacious office on the second floor of the LAICO building. The new facility was opened by Dr.N.Panampalamsamy, Chairman Emeritus, Aravind Eye Care System in the presence of Mr.Thulasini Ravilla, Executive Director, LAICO and Dr.R.Kim, Director, IT and Systems, Aravind Eye Care System.



Conference Attended

Annual Meeting of The North American Neuro-ophthalmology Society (NANOS) 2022

Austin, Texas, USA, February 12-17

Department of Neuro-Ophthalmology, Aravind-Coincidence in collaboration with UIC (University of Illinois, Chicago), presented a poster titled, *Lamina Cribrosa thickness in an Indian population with non-arteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy*.

Publications

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Training

Enrolments for January 2022								
Course title	Training Centre	No. of enrolments						
Long Term Fellowship Programmes – For Ophthalmologists								
Fellowship in Anterior Segment & IOL Surgery	Madurai	1						
	Coimbatore	1						
Fellowship in Cornea	Chennai	1						
	Pondicherry	1						
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Madurai	2						
	Coimbatore	1						
Fellowship in Orbit & Oculoplasty	Pondicherry	1						
	Tirunelveli	1						
Fellowship in Medical Retina	Tirupati	1						
	Madurai	1						
Fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology	Tirunelveli	2						
	Madurai	1						
Research Fellowship	Madurai	2						
	Madurai	2						
Fellowship in Retina Vitreous	Pondicherry	2						
	Coimbatore	1						
Fellowship in Retina Vitreous	Chennai	1						
	Coimbatore	2						
Fellowship in General Ophthalmology	Chennai	1						
	Madurai	2						
Short Term Training Programmes – For Ophthalmologists								
Neuro Ophthalmology	Madurai	2						
	Coimbatore	1						
Phacemulsification	Madurai	2						
	Coimbatore	1						
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Pondicherry	1						
	Coimbatore	1						
Clinical Observership Program in Diagnosis and Management Of Glaucoma	Coimbatore	1						
Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity and Paediatric Retinal Disorders	Coimbatore	2						
Laser in DR	Coimbatore	1						
Short Term Training Programmes – For Paramedicals								
Oculist	Madurai	1						

Statistics										
Patient Statistics – January 2022										
Hospitals	Total	Madurai	Tirunelveli	There	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Tirupur	Dindigul	Salem	Tirunelveli
Hoping Out Patient Visits										
Paying (New & Review)	188,811	44,800	24,506	7,210	25,195	20,188	4,408	5,914	9,943	
Free Direct walk-in (New & Review)	61,671	16,723	5,765	2,407	8,104	6,965	1,589	–	3,281	
Outreach Out Patient										
Comprehensive Eye Camps	6,309	1,128	735	143	1,925	1,236	244	–	200	

Statistics

Patient Statistics – January 2022													
Hospitals	Total	Madurai	Tirunelveli	Thiruv	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Tirupati	Dindigul	Salem	Tuticorin	Udumalpet	CbeCC	Chennai
Paying (New & Review)	188,811	44,800	24,506	7,210	25,195	20,188	4,408	5,914	9,943	4,821	3,558	3,197	22,846
Free/Direct walk-in (New & Review)	61,671	16,733	5,755	2,407	8,104	6,965	1,589	–	3,281	837	1,689	–	7,013
Research Out Patient													
Comprehensive Eye Camps	6,309	1,128	735	143	1,925	1,236	244	–	200	–	82	–	270
Diabetic Retinopathy Camps	166	–	–	38	128	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Refraction Camps	579	–	–	–	579	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Mobile Refraction Unit	216	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	216	–	–	–	–
School Screening	1,312	–	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1,287
Rp Screening	1,490	252	339	177	571	59	–	–	–	–	–	77	15
Vision Centres	56,035	20,060	12,613	5,342	4,030	10,098	1,114	–	1,473	–	1,305	–	–
Community / City Centres	14,352	7,841	2,356	1,954	–	2,201	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total OP Examinations	330,941	90,814	48,304	17,271	40,567	40,747	7,355	5,914	15,113	5,658	6,604	3,197	30,206
Total number of camps	29	5	8	1	8	5	1	–	1	–	–	–	1
Surgeries													
Cataract	19,536	3,906	2,452	762	3,324	2,046	443	305	1,934	333	650	144	2,121
Surgeries	14,636	4,430	1,547	453	3,043	1,758	82	78	523	59	71	77	1,727
Total Surgeries	34,172	8,336	3,999	1,215	6,367	3,804	525	383	2,457	392	721	221	3,848

*Other surgeries include major surgeries, minor surgeries, strabismic, strabismic & other operations and laser procedures

Archives

Learn more about the happenings at Aravind

February 2022

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