

## Mission Day

### Editorial

The month of July carries immense significance for Aravind Eye Hospital as it commemorates its Mission Day on 7th July, in remembrance of its founder, the late Dr. V. Venkateswamy, affectionately called as Dr. V., along with the birth anniversary of G. Srinivasan, one of the founding members. The hospital has dedicated itself to the noble cause of eliminating needless blindness, upholding Dr. V.'s vision. Therefore, the Mission Day revitalises his spirit of unwavering commitment, inspiring the Aravind team to pursue the fulfilment of his noble vision.

Throughout this eventful month, various activities have been organised, including several Continuing Medical Education (CME) programmes, training initiatives, and awareness campaigns, supplementing the hospital's routine clinical activities. These events have helped strengthen the team's skills and knowledge while combating the issue of needless blindness.

A fire accident that occurred at Aurolab recently, revealed the remarkable resilience of its staff members, who worked tirelessly to facilitate a swift comeback after the incident. Now, Aurolab is back in full swing, operating as usual.

This series features the highlights of these remarkable endeavours and many more.

**Note:** The events that happened between 15th June and 15th July are featured here.

### Accolades

**Oration Award at Prof. C.S. Baskaran Endowment Lecture & Visiting Faculty**  
 Dhbaneswar, 3-6 July

Dr. S.R. Krishnamurthy, Director-Fellowship and Physician Development Programme, Aravind Eye Care System, delivered an invited talk on *Family screening for early glaucoma detection: Chase the families*, at the Prof. C.S. Baskaran Endowment Lecture, which was organised by LV Prasad Eye Institute, Dhbaneswar.



**Film Festival Awards at 10th World Glaucoma Congress 2023**  
 Rome, Italy, 28 June-1 July

**Dr. Manju R. Pillai**, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Madurai  
**Winners:** 1<sup>st</sup> prize  
**Category:** Educational/Public Health  
**Film title:** *This Too Shall Pass*

**Dr. S. Kavitha**, Chief, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Pondicherry  
**Winners:** 2<sup>nd</sup> prize  
**Category:** Surgical/Diagnostic  
**Film title:** *Gateway to Safe GATT*

**Film Festival Award at Indian Intraocular Implant & Refractive Surgery Convention**  
 IIRSI Chennai, 8-9 July

**Dr. Naveen Nischal**, Medical Consultant, IOL and Cataract Services, Aravind-Pondicherry  
**Winner:** Grand prize  
**Video title:** *Flanges: A Journey of Ophthalmology*

### Aravind Events

#### CME on Uveitis - Matching the Trend with the Basic Principles

**Aravind-Trunelveli, 9th July**

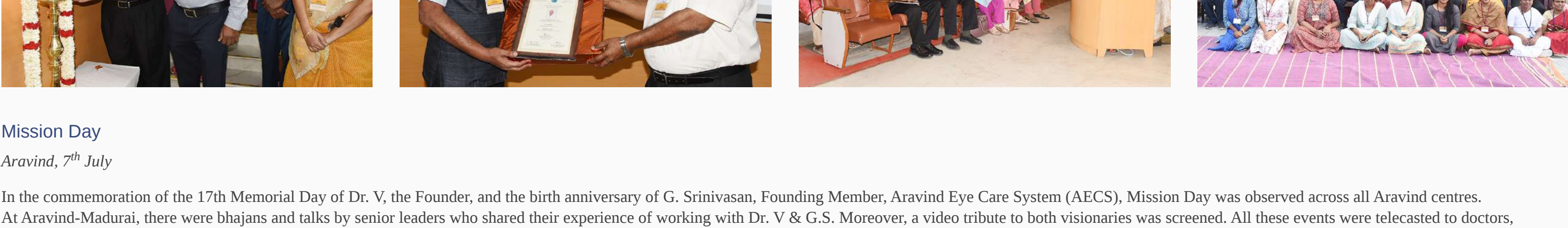
A one-day CME was organised by Aravind-Trunelveli to familiarise the participants with the revolutionary changes and updates in the field of Uvea. A panel of national-level faculty was invited to discuss the recent trends and advancements in Uveitis at length.

The inaugural function included a prayer song, lighting of Kuthuvilakku, and a welcome address by Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Advisor & Senior Glaucoma Consultant, Aravind-Trunelveli. Dr. S. Balaraman, Chief, UVEA Services, Aravind-Pondicherry proposed the vote of thanks.

A quiz competition on Uveitis was conducted, and Dr. Jonathan, Fellow, UVEA, Aravind-Madurai, won the first prize, while Jayakrishna MLOP, a supervisor in the Uvea clinic, won the first prize in the Uveitis photograph competition. A total of 96 participants, including 82 delegates comprising ophthalmologists from Tamil Nadu, and fellows postgraduate, attended the CME.

The invited faculty gave talks on the following topics:

- Dr. S.R. Rathiannam - *Uveitis in uveitis* (Panel Discussion)
- Leptospiral Uveitis, and My recent findings that changed my practice*
- Algorithmic approach to uveitis* (Chairperson)
- Dr. Radhika - *Choroiditis* (Chairperson)
- Dr. Nethanayali - *Retinal Vasculitis & Video presentation: Surgery in uveitic choroid*
- Dr. Anjana - *Imaging correlations made simple in uveitis-Bicus* (Chairperson)
- Dr. Jonathan - *Parauveitis*



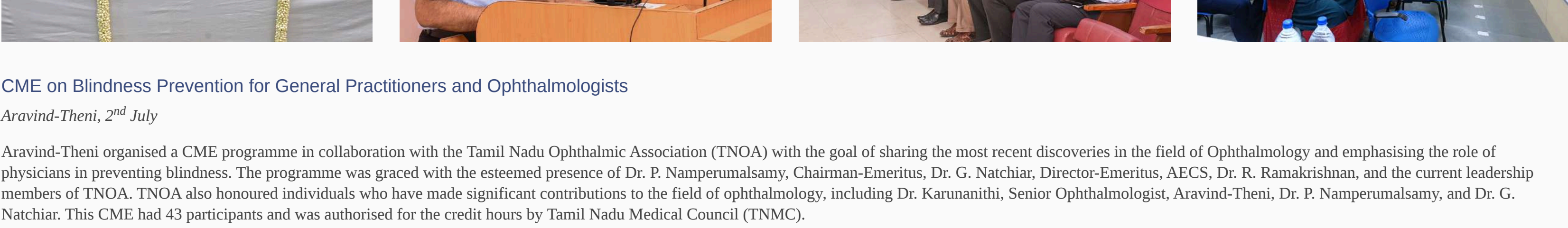
#### Mission Day

**Aravind, 7th July**

In the commemoration of the 17th Memorial Day of Dr. V. the Founder, and the birth anniversary of G. Srinivasan, Founding Member, Aravind Eye Care System (AECS), Mission Day was observed across all Aravind centres. At Aravind-Madurai, there were bhajans and talks by senior leaders who shared their experience of working with Dr. V. & G.S. Moreover, a video tribute to both visionaries was screened. All these events were telecasted to doctors, administrative staff, and senior MLOPs of all Aravind centres.

During the event at Aravind-Trunelveli, a special prayer meeting including bhajans, and reading a few chapters from the Vzhivivila Book was arranged in the morning for the newly recruited MLOPs. Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, V. Arumugam, Nursing Superintendent, and R. Lakshmi, Manager-HR, spoke about the significance of Mission Day, encouraged everyone to work towards achieving the founder's mission of eliminating needless blindness. A special flower arrangement in the meditation room added grace to the event.

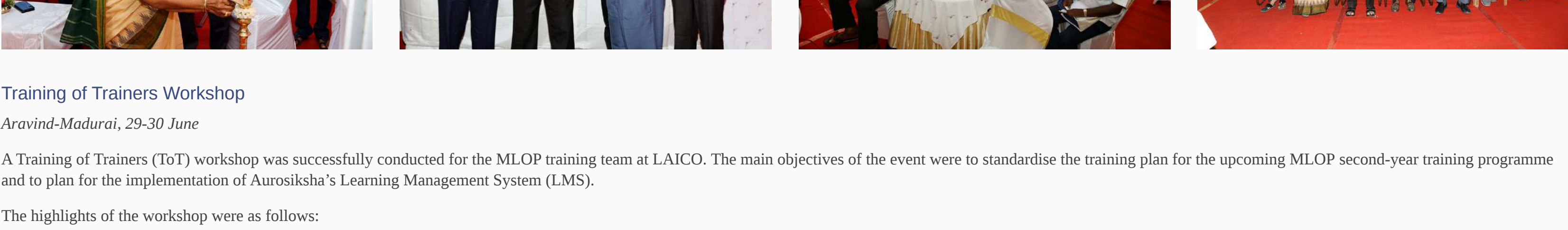
Aurolab celebrated Mission Day in a pleasant manner. During the special occasion, Krishnakumar, Senior Regulatory Manager, Aurolab, shared his memories of being with the two great leaders, Dr. V and G.S.



#### CME on Blindness Prevention for General Practitioners and Ophthalmologists

**Aravind-Theni, 2nd July**

Aravind-Theni organised a CME programme in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Ophthalmic Association (TNOA) with the goal of sharing the most recent discoveries in the field of Ophthalmology and emphasising the role of physicians in preventing blindness. The programme was graced with the esteemed presence of Dr. P. Nampumalsamy, Chairman-Emeritus, Dr. G. Nachiar, Director-Emeritus, Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, and the current leadership members of TNOA. TNOA also honoured individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of ophthalmology, including Dr. Karanathi, Senior Ophthalmologist, Aravind-Theni, Dr. P. Nampumalsamy, and Dr. G. Nachiar. This CME had 43 participants and was authorised for the credit hours by Tamil Nadu Medical Council (TNMC).



#### Training of Trainers Workshop

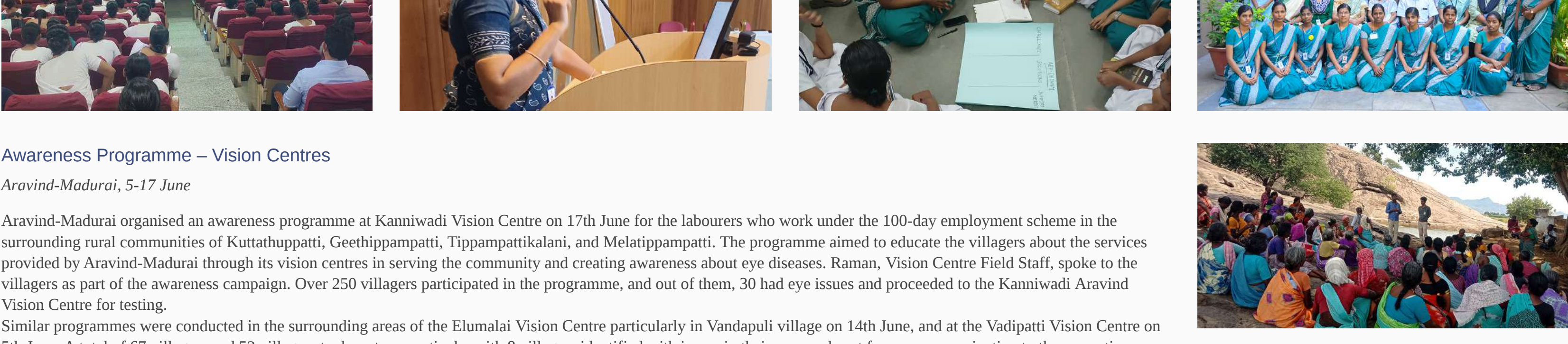
**Aravind-Madurai, 29-30 June**

A Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop was successfully conducted for the MLOP training team at LAICO. The main objectives of the event were to standardise the training plan for the upcoming MLOP second-year training programme and to plan for the implementation of Ausimika's Learning Management System (LMS).

The highlights of the workshop were as follows:

- Sharing of best training practices by each hospital
- Development of a standardised schedule for the second-year training across six MLOP departments
- Formation of a standardised skill assessment plan for both trainees and employees
- Hands-on practice on Ausimika's LMS, including tasks such as taking attendance, teacher rating, accessing teaching resources, and generating reports
- Sessions on learner-centred teaching, flipped classrooms, and effective feedback were also included.

The workshop was attended by 106 participants from eight Aravind centres, including MLOPs, in-charge doctors, tutors, ophthalmists, and training coordinators. This ToT will be followed up with monthly meetings among tutors from all Aravind centres to ensure that training delivery is on-track.

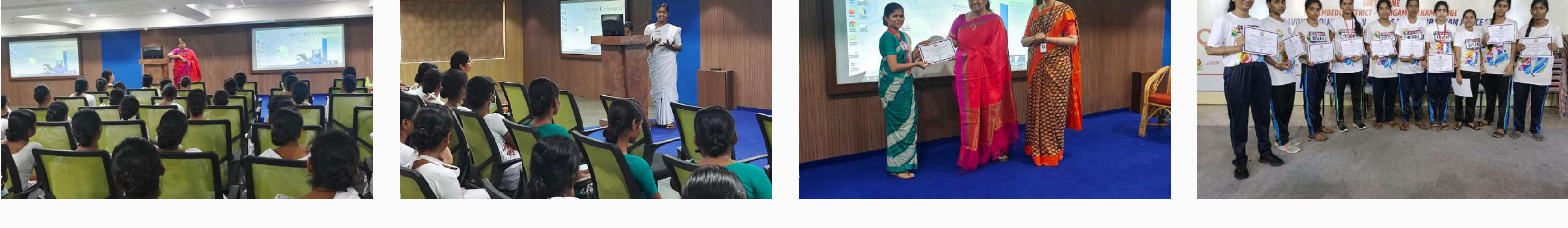


#### Awareness Programme - Vision Centres

**Aravind-Madurai, 5-17 June**

Aravind-Madurai organised an awareness programme at Kannivadi Vision Centre on 17th June for the labourers who work under the 100-day employment scheme in the surrounding rural communities of Kannathappatti, Coethipparappatti, Tippampattilalai, and Madatippampatti. The programme aimed to educate the villagers about the services provided by Aravind-Madurai through its vision centres in serving the community and creating awareness about eye diseases. Raman, Vision Centre Field Staff, spoke to the villagers as part of the awareness campaign. Over 250 villagers participated in the programme, and out of them, 30 had eye issues and proceeded to the Kannivadi Aravind Vision Centre for testing.

Similar programmes were conducted in the surrounding areas of the Elumalai Vision Centre particularly in Vandapuli village on 14th June, and at the Vadipatti Vision Centre on 5th June. A total of 67 villages and 52 villages took part, respectively, with 8 villages identified with issues in their eyes and sent for an eye examination to the respective centres.

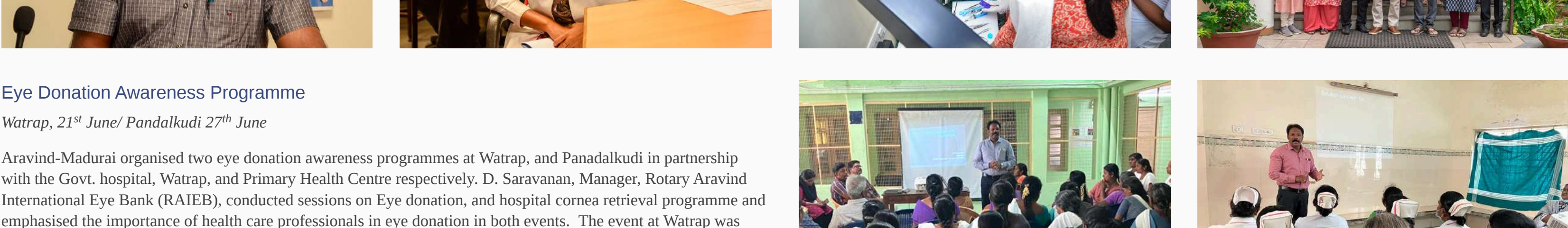


#### 9th Readers Club Meeting

**Aravind-Chennai, 23rd June**

The 9th Readers Club meeting was conducted by Aravind-Chennai as a part of the "My Life My Pride" Programme. The aim of the event was to raise awareness about the role of book reading in the growth of the younger generation. The special guest for the event was Madu Selvam, the President of Tamil Sangam, and an Industrial entrepreneur. In her inspiring speech, she shared her own journey from a small village near Erode to her current position, attributing her success to the knowledge gained through books and education. She stressed the importance of cultivating daily reading habits and encouraged the young MLOPs to manage work pressure by developing reading habits.

The entire programme was coordinated by the young MLOPs in charge of the Library Club, who shared their own experiences in book reading and recited poems they had written. The Programme concluded with the distribution of certificates to MLOPs who participated in the Marathon event organised by the Chennai Maharastra Police station on 18th June, aimed at improving the physical well-being of the public. Nine MLOPs participated in the event, and the team received a shield & medal for being the best team, awarded by an IPS officer. Seemavathy won 4th place and Pavithra won 5th place.



#### Secondary IOL Workshop

**Aravind-Madurai, 17-18 June**

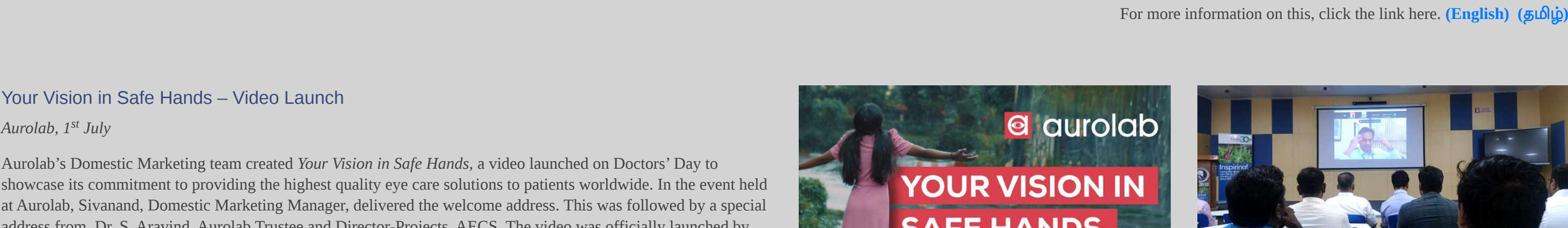
The Department of Cataract Services, Aravind-Madurai organised the workshop on Secondary IOL, which comprised classroom lectures, video sessions, and hands-on practice using goats' eyes. These sessions were skillfully moderated by the surgical faculty members from Aravind Eye Hospitals. A total of 20 participants from various Aravind Eye Hospitals took part, and the workshop was well received by all attendees.



#### Eye Donation Awareness Programme

**Watrap, 21st June/ Pandalkudi 27th June**

Aravind-Madurai organised two eye donation awareness programmes at Watrap, and Pandalkudi in partnership with the Govt. hospital, Watrap, and Primary Health Centre respectively. D. Saravanan, Manager, Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank (RAIEB), conducted sessions on Eye donation, and hospital cornea retrieval programme and emphasised the importance of health care professionals in eye donation in both events. The event at Watrap was attended by a total of 20 individuals, including doctors and nurses, while the programme at Pandalkudi saw participation from 95 individuals, including doctors, nurses, and village health nurses.



### Aurolab

## in the face of fire

### The extraordinary tale of Aravind's staff unity

**Aurolab, 5th July**

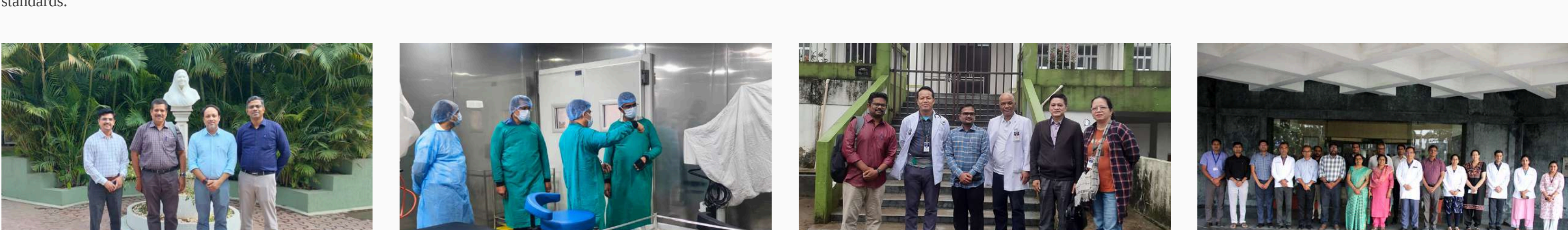
A fire accident occurred at Aurolab when an inflammable solvent accidentally caught fire, affecting the polishing unit. However, thanks to the quick and determined efforts of the staff and leadership team, the situation was brought under control in a short time. Aurolab promptly resumed work after the incident. Despite the magnitude of the incident, the dedication of Aravind's staff has truly stood out.

For more information on this, click the link here. [\(English\)](#) [\(தமிழ்\)](#)

#### Your Vision in Safe Hands - Video Launch

**Aurolab, 1st July**

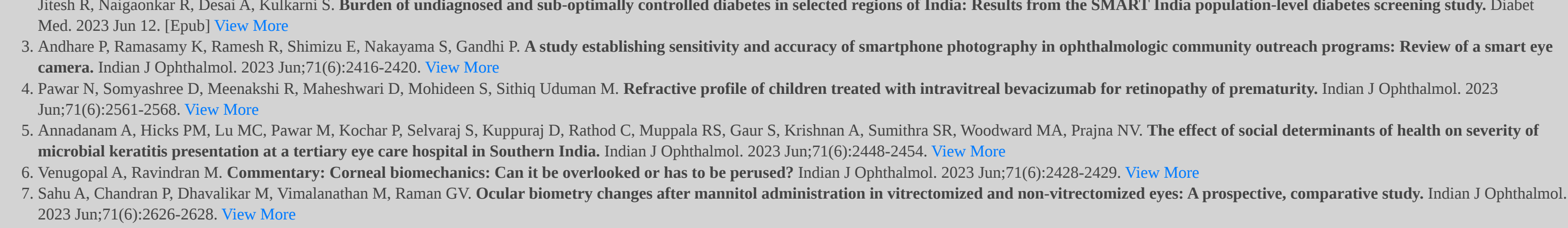
Aravind's Domestic Marketing team created *Your Vision in Safe Hands*, a video launched on Doctors' Day to showcase its commitment to providing the highest quality eye care solutions to patients worldwide. In the event held at Aurolab, Sivagnanam, Domestic Marketing Manager, delivered the address. This was followed by a special address from Dr. S. Aravind, Aurolab Trustee and Director-Projects, AECS. The video was officially launched by Sriram, Aravind Director-Operations.



#### Himachal Pradesh Ophthalmic Society Conference

**Watrap, 10-11 June**

Aravind's Domestic Marketing staff, participated in the conference, promoting and showcasing products such as Aurovue Vivid, i-Nova, Omniglo, Hawk, Aurovue EV Toric IOL, and Hummingbird IOL.

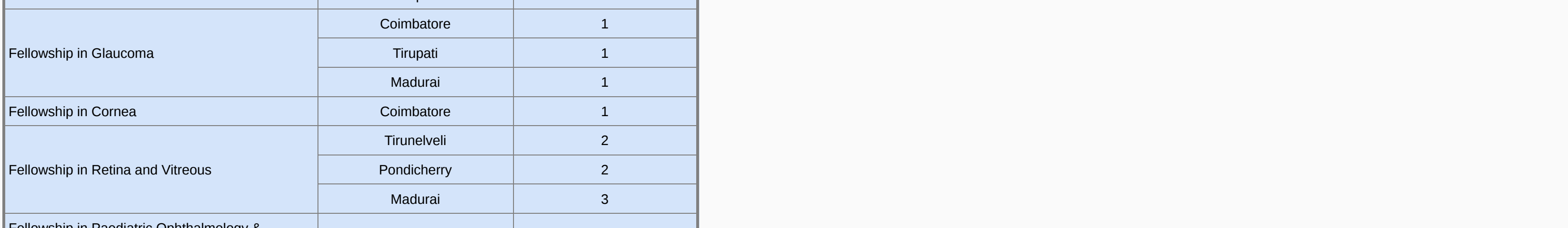


### LAICO

#### Health education refresher course for Novartis Arogya Parivar Team

**LAICO, 27th June**

As part of the collaborative activities between Aravind-Madurai and Novartis Arogyaparivar at 20 Aravind Vision Centres across AECS, an observation team consisting of Jerome, Research Associate, Biostatistics, Jhansi Sunitha, Manager, Vision Centre, and Mohammed Gowth, Senior Faculty, LAICO, visited two villages to assess the impact of health education given by the Vision Centres. They observed variations in knowledge regarding eye conditions and noticed differences in the delivery of health education among the staff. These variations have a refresher course in a reduced impact of health education and referral cards within the community. To address this issue, a refresher course was organised for the Arogya Parivar team members at LAICO. Field workers from the REACH project and Vision Centre participated in the Programme. The sessions were handled by Dr. A. Kowshika, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Madurai, Udaya Kumar, Senior Faculty, LAICO and Mohammed Gowth, Dr. Lalitha Prajva, Chief, Microbiologist, and Jhansi interacted with the participants.



#### Needs Assessment Visits

**Raipur/Durlang Jalang, 14-21 June**

Dr. Balaramanandajayal, Medical officer, Aravind-Pondicherry and B. Ganesh Babu, Senior Manager, Operations, AECS, visited Kantal Neralaya in Jalgon, Maharashtra, from 18-21 June. The purpose of the visit was to assess the facility, systems, and processes in place, identify challenges faced, and explore opportunities for growth and expansion. The team visited the base hospital, attended an outreach programme, and visited a primary eye care centre in Chhapda. They met with the team of doctors and administrative members to discuss their findings and opportunities, as well as to explain the collaboration exercise. Moreover, the team has been invited to a vision building workshop at LAICO.

Similarly, Yesuvasan, Senior Faculty, LAICO, and Dr. Umakant, Medical Officer, Aravind-Truntpati, conducted a visit to Synod Hospital in Durlang, Mizoram, from 14-16 June. Syed Ali, Senior Faculty, LAICO, and Dr. Preethi Mohanty, Chief-IOL, Aravind-Truntpati, from 8-10 June, visited MGM Eye Institute, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, to assess the infrastructure and functioning of the hospitals and to suggest recommendations for improving compliance with NABH standards.



### Publications

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- Rajalakshmi R, Vasconcelos JC, Prevost AT, Sivagnanam S, Mohan D, Raman R, Ramasamy K, Arjuna RM, Conroy D, Das T, Hanil W, Mohan V, Collaborators TSMARTIS, Biondi P, Sanyal J, Ramakrishnan R, Roy R, Das S, Manayath G, Prabhakaran VT, Anantharaman G, Gopalakrishnan M, Natarajam S, Krishnan R, Hanj SL, Agarwal M, Rani PK, Behera U, Bhattacharjee H, Barmat M, Chawla G, Sen A, Saxena M, Sill AK, Chakrabarty S, Chatter T, Jitendra R, Naigankar R, Desai A, Kulkarni S. **Burden of undiagnosed and sub-optimally controlled diabetes in selected regions of India: Results from the SMART India population-level diabetes screening study.** *Diabet Med.* 2023 Jun 12. [Epub] [View More](#)
- Anubhav P, Ramasamy K, Ramesh B, Shimla E, Nakayama S, Ganesh P. **A study establishing sensitivity and accuracy of smartphone photography in ophthalmologic community outreach programs: Review of a smart eye camera.** *Indian J Ophthalmol.* 2023 Jun;71(6):2416-2420. [View More](#)
- Pawar N, Somayajire D, Meenakshi R, Maheshwari D, Mohideen S, Sithya Udhan M, Ruppala RS, Gaur S, Krishnan A, Sumithra SR, Woodward MA, Prajva NV. **The effect of social determinants of health on severity of meibomian gland dysfunction at a tertiary eye care hospital in Southern India.** *Indian J Ophthalmol.* 2023 Jun;71(6):2428-2429. [View More](#)
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- Arborelia A, Prajva NV, Lalitha P, Srinivasan M, Rajaraman R, Krishnan T, Mousa HM, Feghali J, Acharya NR, Lietman TM, Perez VL, Rose-Nussbaumer J. **Validation of the C-DU(KE) Calculator as a Predictor of Outcomes in Patients Enrolled in Aravind Eye Care Hospital and Myxotic Ulcer Treatment Trials.** 2023 Jun 19. [Epub] [View More](#)
- Subbannan GB, Gupta S, Ravilla RD, Ravilla TD, Merrett H, Weber C, Bose SV, van Merode E. **Impact of practicing internal benchmarking on continuous improvement of cataract surgery outcomes: a retrospective observational study at Aravind Eye Hospitals, India.** *BMJ Open.* 2023;13:e071860. [View More](#)
- Vyas A, Raman S, Sen S, Ramasamy K, Rajalakshmi R, Mohan V, Raman R. **Machine Learning-Based Diagnosis and Ranking of Risk Factors for Diabetic Retinopathy in Population-Based Studies from South India.** *Diagnostics (Basel).* 2023 Jun 16;13(12):2064. [View More](#)

### Training

Enrolments for July 2023			
Course title	Training Centre	No. of enrolments	
<b>Long Term Fellowship Programmes - For Ophthalmologists</b>			
Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery	Coimbatore	1	
	Trunelveli	2	
	Coimbatore	1	
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Trunelveli	1	
	Madurai	1	
Fellowship in Cornea	Coimbatore	1	
Fellowship in Retina and Vitreous	Trunelveli	2	
	Pondicherry	2	
Fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus	Chennai	1	
	Chennai	1	
Fellowship in Orbital & Oculoplasty	Madurai	1	
Fellowship in General Ophthalmology	Coimbatore	1	
<b>Short Term Fellowship Programs - For International Ophthalmologists</b>			
Short term Fellowship in Orbital & Oculoplasty	Madurai	1	
<b>Short Term Training Programmes - For Ophthalmologists</b>			
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	1	
	Trunelveli	2	
	Trunelveli	2	
	Coimbatore	2	
	Madurai	2	
	Trunelveli	2	
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Pondicherry	1	
	Coimbatore	2	
<b>Short Term Training Program - For Paramedicals</b>			
Training for Orthoptist	Madurai	1	
<b>Eye Bank Courses - Non Clinical Courses</b>			
Training in Eye Bank Techniques	LAICO	1	
<b>Management Courses</b>			
Excellence - Excellence in Eye Care Training	LAICO	15	

### Statistics

Patient Statistics - June 2023															
Hospitals	Total	Madurai	Trunelveli	Theni	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Trunelveli	Dindigul	Salem	Tuticorin	Udumalpet	CoCC	Chennai	Trunelveli	Kovilpatti
<b>Hospital Out-patient Visits</b>															
Paying (New & Review)	273,693	63,677	32,106	9,982	37,296	28,217	5,249	9,062	13,156	7,551	5,235	4,802	38,270	15,894	3,296
Free: Direct walk-in (New & Review)	106,174	25,428	8,284	3,121	13,984	12,027	2,247	1,619	6,640	1,752	2,336	-	10,237	15,877	1,022
<b>Outreach Out-patients</b>															
Comprehensive Eye Camps	33,379	8,042	3,961	1,146	5,271	7,288	371	-	1,448	402	73	-	3,188	2,189	-
Diabetic Retinopathy Camps	2,030	825	-	237	759	209	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucoma Camps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	340	-	-
Refraction Camp	4,981	1,758	846	480	1,003	494	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mobile Refraction Unit	1,375	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,375	-	-	-	-	-
School Screening	1,851	-	-	-	1,851	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paediatric Eye screening camps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ROP Screening	1,788	376	272	143	686	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	178	45	-
Vision Centres	83,047	25,535	15,147	6,501	6,477	16,433	1,751	-	4,473	-	2,223	-	2,507	-	-
Community / City Centres	17,304	9,354	2,663	2,614	-	2,663	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total OP Examinations	522,622	134,905	63,279	24,224	66,967	67,409	9,818	10,681	26,992	9,705	9,867	4,802	56,720	34,005	4,318
Total number of camps	163	33	20	7	26	27	2	-	11	4	1	-	19	13	-
<b>Surgeries</b>															
Cataract	44,631	11,370	4,239	1,091	5,905	6,566	727	875	2,598	675	1,132	269	4,699	4,037	398
*Other Surgeries	23,994	7,087	3,122	425	4,678	2,710	128	92	707	71	68	160	3,225	1,462	50
Total Surgeries	68,625	18,457	7,361	1,516	10,633	9,276	855	967	3,305	746	1,200	429	7,924	5,499	457

\*Cataract includes major surgeries, minor surgeries, intacs, phakic IOL & other refractive and laser procedures.