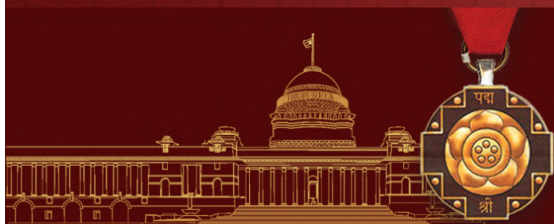




- news bulletin of Aravind Eye Care System

February 2024 | Volume 45 | Issue 12



Padma Shri Award

Dr. G. Natchiar, Director Emeritus, Aravind Eye Care System (AECS), was conferred with the Padma Shri Award 2024, one of India's highest civilian honours, by the Government of India, in recognition of her exceptional and compassionate patient care in the field of medicine spanning over 55 years.



Editorial

Accolades recognising the leaders implies recognition of the system they have built and nurtured over the years. Hence, the Padma Shri awards consistently conferred upon members of the Aravind family, starting from Dr. G. Venkataswamy in 1973, followed by Dr. P. Namperumalsamy in 2007, and now upon Dr. G. Natchiar in 2024, stands as a token of acknowledgement from the Government of India, honouring their individual and collective contributions to serving the community.

Dr. Natchiar, a visionary ophthalmologist and transformative leader, has made invaluable contributions by nurturing the paramedical programme and continuously monitoring and refining Aravind's innovative model for delivering eye care services to rural communities through vision centres and outreach initiatives. Moreover, she has wholeheartedly dedicated herself to instilling and upholding the values and culture that will sustain the organisation for years to come. All such contributions to society have earned her honour.

The inauguration of a new vision centre in Komaralingam, Tiruppur District, bringing the total count to 111, signifies progressive steps towards extending much-needed eye care services to those in need. Additionally, Aravind's non-clinical routine activities, such as symposiums, workshops, continuing professional education (CPE), and continuing medical education (CME) sessions, were held fostering fellowship among staff members, promoting knowledge exchange, and enhancing professional skills, all to serve the community.

This edition features news about these and much more.

Note: The events that happened between 15th January and 15th February are featured here.

Accolades

First prize at Farm Fest 2024

Pondicherry, 9-11 February

Aravind-Pondicherry won first prize at the institutional level in the Farm Fest 2024-cum-34th Flower, Vegetable, and Fruit Show organised by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of Puducherry.

Padma Shri Award

26th January

Dr. G. Natchiar, Director Emeritus, Aravind Eye Care System (AECS), was conferred with the Padma Shri Award 2024, one of India's highest civilian honours, by the Government of India, in recognition of her exceptional and compassionate patient care in the field of medicine spanning over 55 years.



Second Prize for LumiZoom

Pondicherry, 2nd February

At the CII Pondicherry Innovation Contest, a team comprising Dr. Kunal A Mandlik, Dr. Prabhu Krishna, and Dr. Nishant Vivekanand, DNB residents, Aravind-Pondicherry, and Dr. Kunjal, DNB resident, Aravind-Chennai, secured second place for their innovative device, LumiZoom.

PSG Vishwa Seva Rathna Award

Coimbatore, 25th January

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, AECS, was honoured with the PSG Vishwa Seva Rathna Award by PSG & Sons' Charities, Coimbatore, on the occasion of the 98th Founders' Day.



Dr. P. Namperumalsamy second from the left, holding the PSG Vishwa Seva Rathna Award during the 98th Founders' Day of PSG & Sons' Charities

FAICO Exam

Aravind-Madurai

Medical Consultants from Aravind-Madurai, Dr. Anchitha Meenu, Dr. Meri Debbarna, and Dr. Sivadarshan, and Retina Fellows, Dr. Ananya Goswami, Dr. Athul S. Puthlath, Dr. Avik Dey Sarkar, Dr. Kulsum Sayyad, Dr. Pragathi, Dr. Raghavendra, Dr. Reshma Dara, Dr. Saumya Jain, Dr. Shivani Srivatsava, Dr. Shradha Shah, and Dr. Toshit Varshney have successfully cleared the FAICO examination.

Prof. N.N. Sood Lecture Award

Delhi, 2-4 February

Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Advisor, Aravind-Tirunelveli, was conferred with the Prof. N.N. Sood Lecture award at the 57th Annual Foundation Day Celebrations of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS, Delhi.



Dr. R. Ramakrishnan delivering the Prof. N.N. Sood Lecture



Dr. R. Ramakrishnan receiving the award at the 57th Annual Foundation Day

Aravind Events

A Meet of the Electrical Maintenance Department

Aravind-Madurai, 3-4 February

Under the guidance of Dr. G. Natchiar, the first-ever meeting of the electrical maintenance staff was held at



Aravind-Madurai with the aim to foster fellowship, discuss recent parameter audits, share experiences and outcomes, review lessons learned from incidents, discuss energy and cost-saving practices, promote environmental sustainability, and outline future development activities.

During the meeting, Dr. S.R. Krishnadas, Senior Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services at Aravind-Madurai, delivered a special address emphasising the significance of the electrical department in healthcare systems. A technical learning session was conducted by a resource person from L&T, a major electrical equipment manufacturer.

As part of the programme, participants were taken to Aravind-Madurai facilities, Aurolab, Aurofarm, and Nithyatha, along with visits to Meenakshi Amman temple and Alagarkovil temple. The session concluded with a brief meeting with Dr. G. Natchiar.



Electrical Maintenance Staff at Aravind-Madurai engaging in a discussion with Dr. S.R. Krishnadas during the meet



Participants of the Electrical Maintenance Department Meet with Dr. G. Natchiar and Dr. S.R. Krishnadas at the centre

HR Retreat

Aravind-Madurai, 1-2 February

The Central Office of HR, Aravind-Madurai, organised an HR Retreat attended by Regional HR Directors from various zones, MLOP Doctor In-Charge-1, and MLOP Superintendent-1 from all hospitals. Facilitated by the HR Team's mentor, Cindy Harrison, Vice President, Human Resources, Henry Ford Health System, the retreat focused on strategic HR planning for 2024. The team's engagement with external HR consultants last year, studying the employees' perspectives, was presented as a report during the retreat.



Participants of HR Retreat with Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Dr. G. Natchiar, Cindy Harrison, and other senior members standing in the front row

Cataract Retreat

Aravind-Madurai, 12th February

The Department of Cataract and IOL Services at Aravind-Madurai hosted the Cataract Retreat. The retreat aimed to facilitate discussions on current practices and identify opportunities for standardisation amidst evolving trends in cataract surgery. The event featured multiple sessions and discussions, leading in the formulation of a roadmap for future initiatives. This gathering brought together HODs, SMOs, and MLOPs from the IOL Departments of various Aravind centres.



Participants of Cataract Retreat with Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Dr. Steve Arshinoff, R.D. Thulasiraj, and Dr. R. Venkatesh standing in the front row

Phacoexcel Workshop

Aravind-Madurai, 10-11 February

The Department of Cataract and IOL Services, Aravind-Madurai organised a CME Programme titled Phacoexcel 2024 under the theme "Explore the Excellence". The event included classroom lectures and video sessions focusing on case handlings in cataract surgery. Renowned international and national speakers, along with internal faculty members from Aravind, led the sessions. A total of 153 delegates participated in the event. Additionally, a pre-conference workshop, held the day before the main event, provided hands-on training in secondary IOL implantation and simulated phacoemulsification techniques, benefiting 29 participants.



Dr. Steve Arshinoff and Dr. G. Natchiar lighting the lamp



Welcome address by Dr. Madhu Shekhar



Participants at the Phacoexcel workshop



Hands-on training during the workshop

Workshop on the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People

Aravind-Madurai, 30-31 January

The Central HR Team organised the two-day workshop aimed at empowering participants with essential principles for personal and professional growth. Conducted by the certified trainer, Cindy Harrison, who was personally trained by Stephen Covey, the workshop included interactive sessions, group discussions, and practical exercises. These sessions helped attendees gain insights into each habit and apply them in their daily lives. Around 40 participants from the managerial cadre and a few doctors across Aravind Eye Hospitals attended.



Participants at the workshop on the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People



Cindy Harrison conducting the workshop



Participants of the workshop

Symposium on Diabetic Retinopathy

Aravind-Madurai, 27-28 January

Aravind-Madurai organised a two-day symposium on diabetic retinopathy led by Dr. R. Kim, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Madurai, Dr. Naresh Babu, Chief, Retina Vitreous Services, Aravind-Madurai, Dr. V. Muthukrishnan, Retina Consultant, Aravind-Madurai, and the organising committee. The programme commenced with the ceremonial lamp lighting by Dr. P. Nanperumalsamy, and Dr. G. Natchiar.

The event served as a platform for discussions on retinal damage due to diabetes and the latest advancements in treatment procedures. Renowned experts in the field of ophthalmology from America and Israel were involved in the discussion virtually. Sessions highlighted topics such as epidemiology, clinical pearls in diabetic macular edema (DME), investigative modalities, surgical modules, and the future of diabetic retinopathy (DR).

Prominent experts from various parts of the country, Dr. Shukla, Dr. Lowenstein, Dr. Rajiv Raman, Dr. Mahesh Shanmugam, and Dr. Mahesh Gopalakrishnan, actively engaged in this conference. The symposium garnered attendance from approximately 200 delegates across India.



Dr. G. Natchiar lighting the lamp



Dr. R. Kim at the Symposium on Diabetic Retinopathy



Participants attentively listening during the session



Faculty at the Symposium on Diabetic Retinopathy

Continuing Professional Education for Stores

Aravind-Madurai, 26-28 January

A three-day CPE programme was organised for the Stores team from all Aravind centres, focusing on enhancing clarity regarding inventory management practices, standardising store functions, defining roles and responsibilities of staff, and providing training on the Material management system (MMS).

The resource persons included Dr. Balaji, Dean, MBA Programme, Thiagarajar School of Management, who presented on *the Importance of achieving operational performance in stores*. Additionally, Sivaram, AGM, and Kannan, Senior Manager, TAFE, Madurai, facilitated an interactive session on *Supply chain reorganisation*.



Dr. Usha Kim leading a session during the CPE



Dr. N. V. Prajna interacting at the CPE for Stores



Store team representatives from all Aravind centres

Aurosamabaralu

Aravind-Tirupati, 25th January

Aurosamabaralu is a monthly event at Aravind-Tirupati designed to bring out the talents of staff members and foster unity among departments. This year's Aurosamabaralu commenced with a Rangoli competition themed around Republic Day, enthusiastically participated in by MLOPs and administrative staff. A patient's attendant served as the judge, evaluating the colourful Rangoli creations.



MLOPs engaging in creation of Rangoli



Inauguration of the Komaralingam Vision Centre

Aravind-Coimbatore, 24th January

Aravind's 111th Vision Centre at Komaralingam, Tirupur District, was inaugurated by R. Jayaramkrishnan, Former MP, Madathukulam, in the presence of Dr. V. Narendran, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Coimbatore, and prominent members from the locality, including K. Eswarasamy, M.A. Shahul Hameed, Sharmila Banu Zahra Hussain, and A. Achimuthu. The centre will be managed by Aravind-Coimbatore. On the first day, a total of 40 patients had their eyes examined.



R. Jayaramkrishnan, Former MP, Madathukulam, inaugurating the Komaralingam vision centre



Dr. V. Narendran lighting the lamp



An MLOP examining a patient



Community members at the inaugural event

Personnel Meet

Aravind-Theni, 9-10 January

The two-day Personnel meet held at Theni focused on highlighting the importance of the personnel department, its role, processes, and responsibilities. The programme included various sessions covering topics such as policies, planning and scheduling work, discussions about statutory acts applicable to hospitals, process flow within the department, allocation of additional duties and responsibilities, centralisation of work, and sharing. A total of 18 attendees, including senior managers, managers, nursing superintendents, coordinators, and admin assistants from 14 branches, participated in the event.



Dr. Dipankar Datta lighting the lamp



Attendees at the Personnel Meet

AMRF

National Conference on Frontiers in Life Science Research, NCFLSR 24

Madurai, 23rd January

Aravind Medical Research Foundation (AMRF) participated in the National Conference on Frontiers in Life Science Research (NCFLSR 24), organised by The American College, Madurai. During the programme, Prof. K. Dharmalingam, Director-Research, AMRF, delivered an invited lecture on *Extracellular vesicles: Signaling to epigenetic regulation*, and research scholars presented posters on various topics. R. Sethu Nagarajan and R. Iswarya received the best poster awards.

Below are the titles of the posters presented by the research scholars:

- **R. Iswarya** – *Protein profiling of human trabecular meshwork stem cell derived exosomes by mass spectrometry* (Best poster award)
- **R. Sethu Nagarajan** – *Evaluation of GD2 Synthase as a Prognostic Biomarker in Retinoblastoma* (Best poster award)
- **Hariharan** – *Isolation and characterisation of the extracellular vesicles from Aspergillus flavus clinical isolate and a saprophyte*
- **Praveen Kumar** – *Human corneal mirnas and their role in pseudomonas aeruginosa keratitis*
- **T.Gr. Aadithiya** – *Deciphering the proteome signature of plasma extracellular vesicles from proliferative diabetic retinopathy patients*



R. Iswarya receiving the best poster award at the National Conference on Frontiers in Life Science Research



R. Sethu Nagarajan receiving the best poster award

Aurolab

Aurolab Day and New Logo Launch

Aurolab, 27th January

Aurolab celebrated its 32nd anniversary with the theme “Enabling vision for all”, commemorating Aurolab’s growth, values, and culture as well as its ability to gain a significant place in the ophthalmology market.

Dignitaries including Dr. P. Balakrishnan, Managing Director Emeritus, Aurolab, Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Dr. Natchiar, Aurolab Trustee & Director Emeritus, AECS, Dr. Vijayalakshmi, Chief, Vision Rehabilitation Centre, and Dr. M. Srinivasan, Director Emeritus, AECS, graced the event.

R.D. Sriram, Managing Director, Aurolab, delivered a felicitation address, followed by a special talk by the chief guest, Dr. V. Siddharthan, Medical Director and Chief Ophthalmologist, TSM Eye Hospital. Dr. Balakrishnan unveiled Aurolab’s new logo, while Dr. P. Namperumalsamy revealed the corporate video. Chithra Thulasiraj, Chief, Aravind Communications, AECS, released Aurolab’s corporate brochure, which was received by Lakshmi Siddharthan, TSM Eye Hospital.

Service awards were presented to employees. During the logo launch, balloons with lights were released into the sky, accompanied by sky lanterns, adding a moment of excitement. The cultural programme, featuring staff dance and drama performances, made the occasion even more engaging.



Krishna Kumar addressing the audience



Dr. G. Natchiar presenting service awards to employee



Staff members performing a dance programme



Launch of the logo

5th Winter IIRS 2024 Conference

Amritsar, 27-29 January

Aurolab’s Domestic Marketing Division personnel showcased their products at the 5th Winter IIRSI 2024 conference organised by the Intraocular Implant and Refractive Society of India (IIRSI) held at Taj Swarna, Amritsar. During the conference, Dr. Rishi Raj Singh shared his experience with the Aurovue Vivid CFV IOL, while Dr. T.P. Lahane shared his experience with the Aurovue EV Toric IOL, implanted the same in a live surgery session, and demonstrated its effectiveness.



Aurolab’s Domestic Marketing team showcasing their products at the 5th Winter IIRSI 2024 conference



Hawk-i Roadshow

Rajasthan and Kerala, 20 January–1st February

Aurolab’s marketing team conducted a roadshow campaign featuring the Hawk-i slit-lamp diagnostic equipment at various institutes and hospitals in Rajasthan and Kerala.

Vigneshpandian, Diagnostic Equipment Product Manager, along with his team, led this roadshow, loading a vehicle with Aurolab’s Hawk-i slit-lamp to make it easy for doctors to experience the quality of Hawk-i Slit Lamp Technology firsthand. The team visited a total of six institutes and nine hospitals during these activities.



A roadshow campaign conducted by Aurolab’s marketing team



LAICO

The Lions Give Conclave

Mumbai, 27-28 January

The LAICO team actively participated in The Lions Give Conclave, organised by Lions International, at the Jio World Centre, BKC, Mumbai. The event highlighted various initiatives by LIONS Club International, such as sight-first initiatives, blood donation camps, dialysis centres, etc. Thulasiraj Ravilla, Executive Director, LAICO, delivered a talk on *Cutting-edge technology and charitable eye hospitals: How to make the twin meet*.

At the LAICO stall, the team showcased their work and ongoing initiatives, including the bundling of equipment with Aurolab at Vision Centres. LAICO faculty members Yesunesan, Mohammed Gowth, and a marketing executive from Aurolab, Deena Dayalan, engaged with teams from various Lions Eye hospitals. They shared insights into LAICO’s current initiatives and established connections with both early mentees and new members.



R.D. Thulasiraj and Yesunesan with the delegates



Engaging in discussions with the delegate



Mohamed Gowth and Yesunesan at the Conclave



R.D. Thulasiraj delivering a talk

Training in Management Priorities in Eye Care Delivery for Heads of Eye Hospitals

LAICO, 12-17 January

The 22nd batch of the one-week training programme, organised by LAICO, saw 24 participants from India, Nepal, and Maldives. Commencing with an inspiring note by Dr. Raja Sabapathy, the course provided different aspects of eye hospital management, including demand generation, operational excellence, quality assurance, evidence-based management, financial management, and HR management. Finally, the course concluded with a leadership session by Prof. DVR Seshadri.

Conference Attended

The UK Paediatric Glaucoma Society Annual Meeting 2024

London, 26th January

Dr. Manju R. Pillai, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Madurai, delivered presentations at various sessions during the UK Paediatric Glaucoma Society Annual Meeting, UKPGS 2024, held at the Cavendish Conference Centre, London. The titles of her talks are as follows:

- AADI in secondary childhood glaucoma – Congenital Rubella syndrome post PKP (Tube symposium session)
- Rare case of Adams Oliver syndrome with secondary childhood Glaucoma (Rapid fire-clinical session)
- Clinical evaluation protocol for childhood glaucoma (Rapid fire –videos session)



Dr. Manju R. Pillai delivering a presentation



Dr. Manju R. Pillai at the centre alongside other delegates

RoP Screening	1,682	196	269	221	764	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	164	33	-
Vision Centres	80,547	27,888	15,600	6,554	6,404	14,168	1,743	-	3,503	-	1,996	-	2,691	-	-
Community / City Centres	18,005	9,624	2,607	2,414	-	2,607	-	-	-	-	-	-	753	-	-
Total OP Examinations	4,38,338	1,16,034	58,287	22,118	59,916	50,957	9,126	9,322	20,042	6,470	8,061	4,191	47,915	21,844	4,055
Total number of camps	103	27	14	4	26	13	2	-	-	1	1	-	10	5	-
Surgeries															
Cataract	24,841	5,982	3,160	981	3,875	2,551	523	650	1,544	386	544	173	2,907	1,326	239
*Other Surgeries	19,341	5,369	2,519	371	3,835	2,217	96	172	685	54	55	95	2,654	1,146	73
Total Surgeries	44,182	11,351	5,679	1,352	7,710	4,768	619	822	2,229	440	599	268	5,561	2,472	312

*Other surgeries include major surgeries, minor surgeries, intra-vitreous & other injections and laser procedures.

Archives

Learn more about the happenings at Aravind

February 2024

More Archives

Subscribe to our newsletter

By subscribing to our mailing list you will always be updated with the latest news from us!

Email*

rajan@aravind.org

Submit

