



Editorial

The opening of vision centres at different locations each month marks a significant step forward in fulfilling the mission of Dr. V, who established the first vision centre in Annabasaanamudram on 14th April 2004. With the recent openings of centres in Kilpennathur and Kayathar, the total number of centres has now risen to 116.

In preparation for moving to a larger facility, once construction is completed in 2026, the Aravind Eye Hospital, Salem, conducts workshops focused on planning strategies to ensure a smooth shift.

As part of its patient care initiatives, Aravind ensures that low-vision patients with severe visual impairments have the privilege of experiencing the world more freely and carrying out their daily routines. This is achieved by providing Smart Vision Pro glasses to beneficiaries, with support from various non-profit organisations. Recently, two Smart Vision Pro Glass Distribution Programmes were held at Aravind Eye Hospitals in Tirunelveli and Coimbatore, where 83 glasses were distributed.

Beyond eye care, Aravind is also committed to community engagement through its Resident Social Responsibility programmes, which encourage philanthropic practices among residents. Recently, residents from Aravind-Madurai visited several government schools, providing educational kits and raising awareness about protecting eyesight.

News about these developments and much more occurred between 15th July and 15th August are featured in this edition.

Recognitions and Achievements

Dr. David Hunter Cheruvu Award for Global Ophthalmology at the 3rd Global Ophthalmology Summit (GOS)

USA, 9-10 August

Dr. Harishankar Aisankar, Junior Resident, Aravind-Pondicherry, won the prestigious 2024 David Hunter Cheruvu, MD Award for Global Ophthalmology for his presentation titled, *Greening Eye Care: Environmental sustainability of telemedicine at a tertiary eye-care centre in South India*.



Dr. Harishankar with the award at the Global Ophthalmology Summit

Aravind Events

Excellent Goal Setting Workshop

Aravind-Salem, 8th August 2024

An Aravind-Salem prepares to move to a new and bigger facility in 2026. The team participated in a half-day workshop. The workshop was initiated by Dr. Manohar Babu, Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Aravind-Salem, and led by Syed Ali A. Senior Faculty, LAICO. The focus was on planning strategies and allocating resources to expand services in anticipation of the move.



Syed Ali leading the Excellent Goal Setting Workshop



Participants collaborating on strategy development during the workshop



Syed Ali and Dr. Manohar Babu with the team members

Inauguration of Kayathar Vision Centre

Aravind-Tirunelveli, 21st July 2024

Aravind's 116th Vision Centre in Kayathar was inaugurated by Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Advisor, Aravind-Tirunelveli, in the presence of Saradha Ramakrishnan and Dr. R. Meenakshi, CMO, Aravind-Tirunelveli. Several well-wishers, camp sponsors, and persons of Aravind Eye Care System (AECS), graced the inauguration with their presence.

A team from Tirunelveli Base Hospital managed the event. On the inaugural day, 77 patients were examined.



Dr. R. Ramakrishnan inaugurating the new vision centre and Saradha Ramakrishnan lighting the Kuthuvilaku



Patients registering for the eye check-ups



Aravind's well-wishers during the inaugural occasion

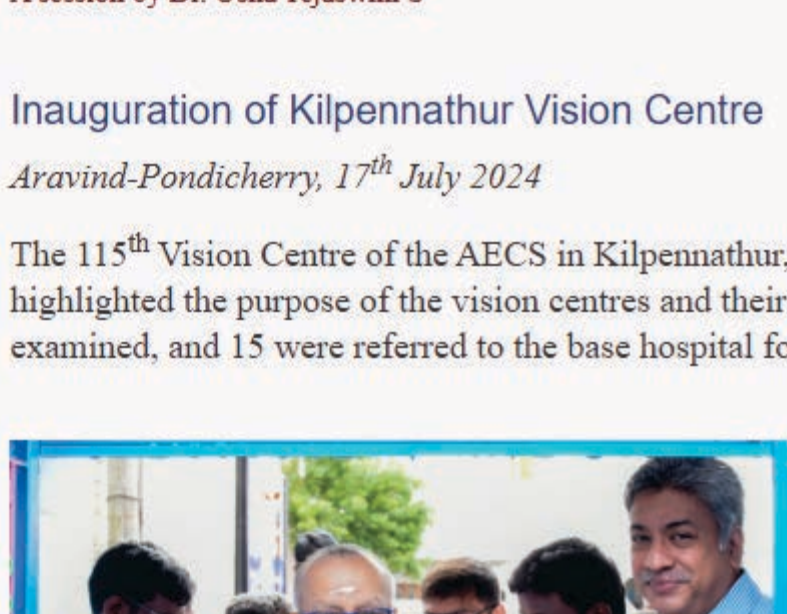


Patient undergoing a screening

Library Week

Aravind, 22-27 July 2024

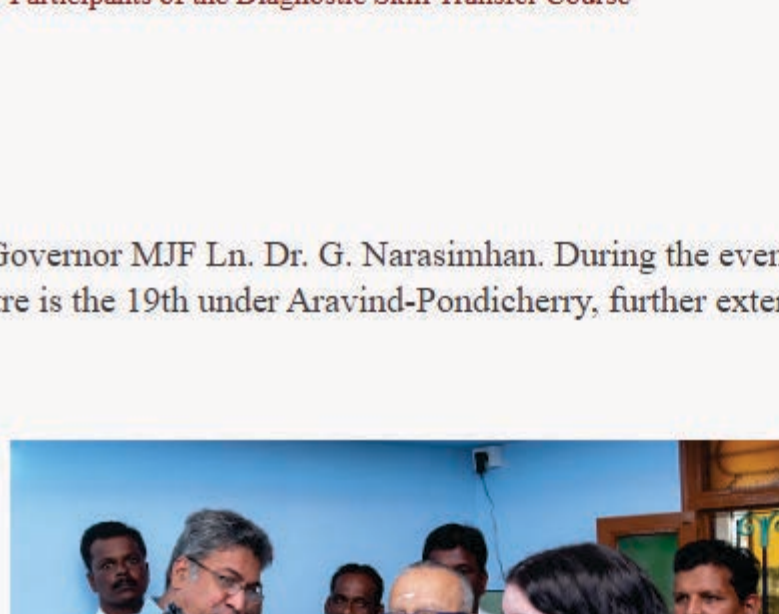
Library Week at Aravind was a unique annual event aimed at spreading knowledge. This year, the library team collaborated to organise various activities for postgraduates and ML/OPs across Aravind libraries in Madurai, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli, and Pondicherry. Events included an online research skills test for postgraduates, a photo quiz to test observational skills by identifying eye conditions and treatments from educational images, and an exciting treasure hunt within the library, where participants searched for hidden treasures using provided clues. Additionally, an oral quiz assessed knowledge and encouraged learning on various topics, including ophthalmology subjects. Notably, Aravind-Coimbatore hosted a debate competition that engaged participants in stimulating discussions. For ML/OPs, the events included a preliminary skills test followed by a case-based treasure hunt competition at Aravind-Madurai. The weeklong programme concluded with the final round of the ML/OP skills test. Winners of the various competitions were awarded books relating to their fields, recognising their exceptional performance.



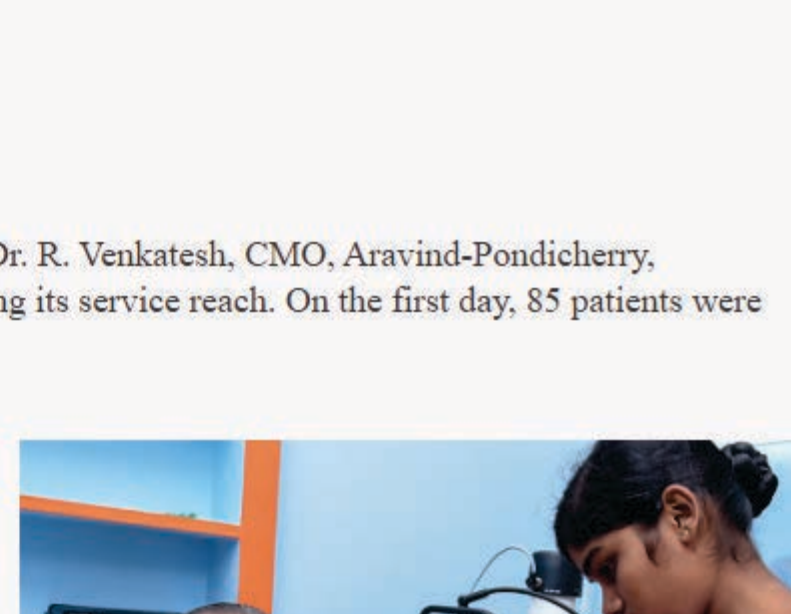
Dr. Nareesh Babu conducting Quiz for the postgraduates at Aravind-Madurai



Dr. Manoj K. Pillai and Kumaraganesan conducting the treasure hunt event at Aravind-Madurai



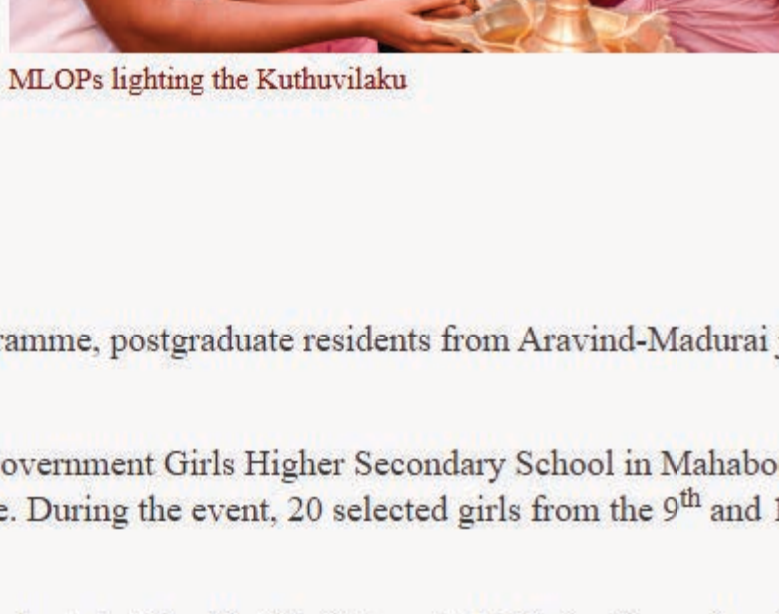
ML/OPs participating in the treasure hunt at Aravind-Madurai



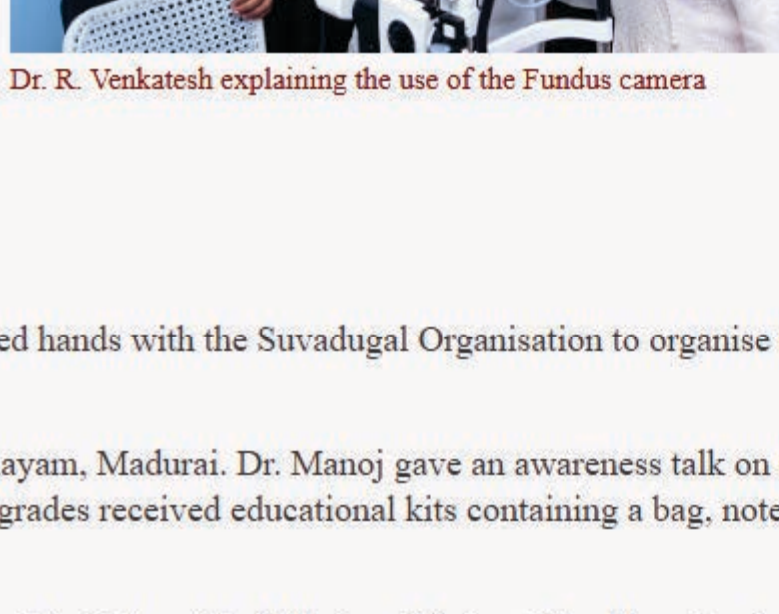
Dr. Chandrasekar conducting quiz for the postgraduates at Aravind-Coimbatore



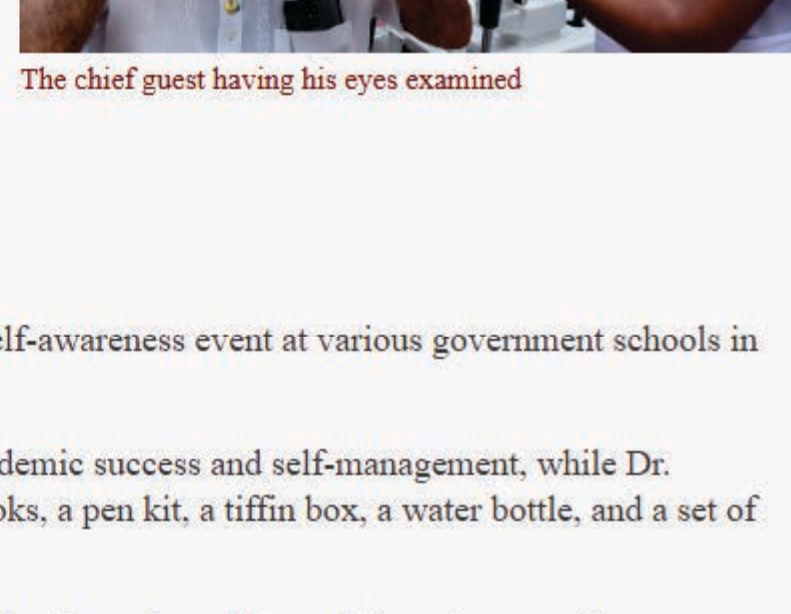
A discussion during the ML/OP Quiz competition at Aravind-Coimbatore



Postgraduates taking a quiz at Aravind-Tirunelveli



Postgraduates participating in the treasure hunt event at Aravind-Tirunelveli



ML/OPs participating in the skills test at Aravind-Pondicherry

Diagnostic Skill Transfer Course

Aravind-Pondicherry, 21st July 2024

Aravind-Pondicherry organised a one-day programme to enhance the diagnostic skills of postgraduates from various hospitals through expert-led sessions and hands-on workshops. The key focus of the immersive programme included: Fundus Fluorescein Angiography, Macular OCT, B-Scan, Humphrey Visual Field Analysis, OCT Optic Nerve Head, Ocular, Punctum, Haze/Diplopia Charting, Visually Evoked Potential, and Electroretinograms. Additionally, the afternoon session featured a lively Kaboot quiz won by Dr. Anashita Sharoff, DNSB Resident, Aravind-Chennai, Dr. Preethika from Sree Balaji Medical College, Chennai, and Dr. Raghava Murugan, MS Resident, Aravind-Madurai.



A session by Dr. Usha Tejaswini S



Hands-on workshop



Participants of the Diagnostic Skill Transfer Course

Inauguration of Kilpennathur Vision Centre

Aravind-Pondicherry, 17th July 2024

The 115th Vision Centre of the AECS in Kilpennathur, Tiruvannamalai district, was inaugurated by former District Governor M.F. Lin. Dr. G. Narasimhan. During the event, Dr. R. Venkatesh, CMO, Aravind-Pondicherry, highlighted the purpose of the vision centres and their crucial role in providing eye care to the community. This centre is the 19th under Aravind-Pondicherry, further extending its service reach. On the first day, 85 patients were examined, and 15 were referred to the base hospital for further evaluation.



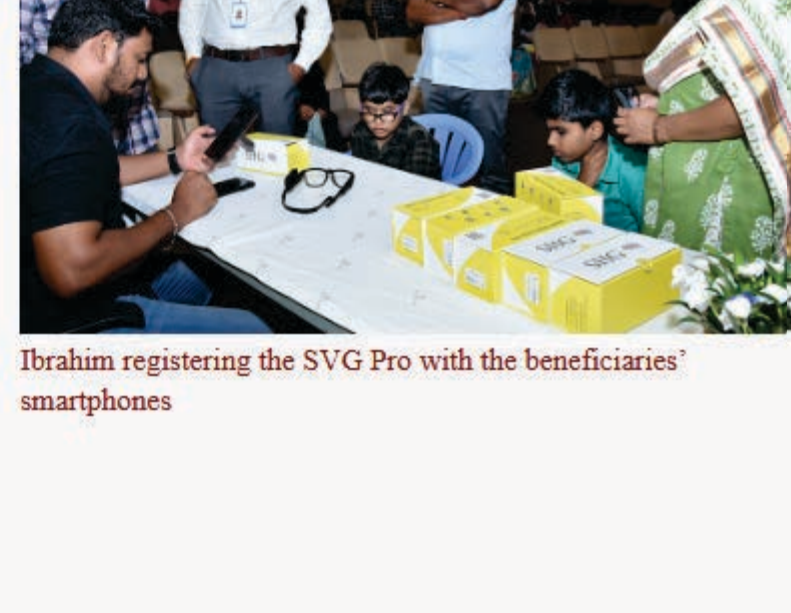
Dr. G. Narasimhan inaugurating the new vision centre



ML/OPs lighting the Kuthuvilaku



Dr. R. Venkatesh explaining the use of the Fundus Camera



The chief guest having his eyes examined

RSR Programme

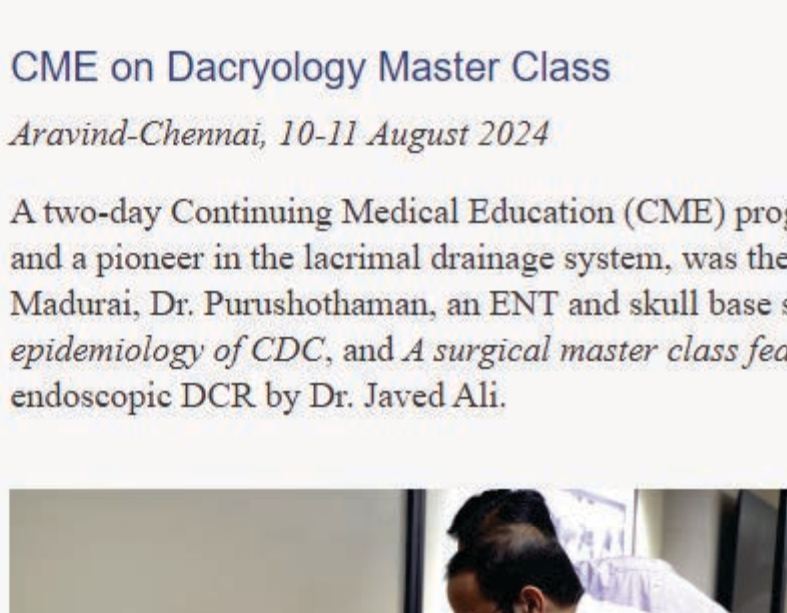
Aravind-Madurai, 23rd July – 9th August 2024

As part of the Resident Social Responsibility (RSR) programme, postgraduate residents from Aravind-Madurai joined hands with the Suravdagal Organisation to organise a self-awareness event at various government schools in Madurai.

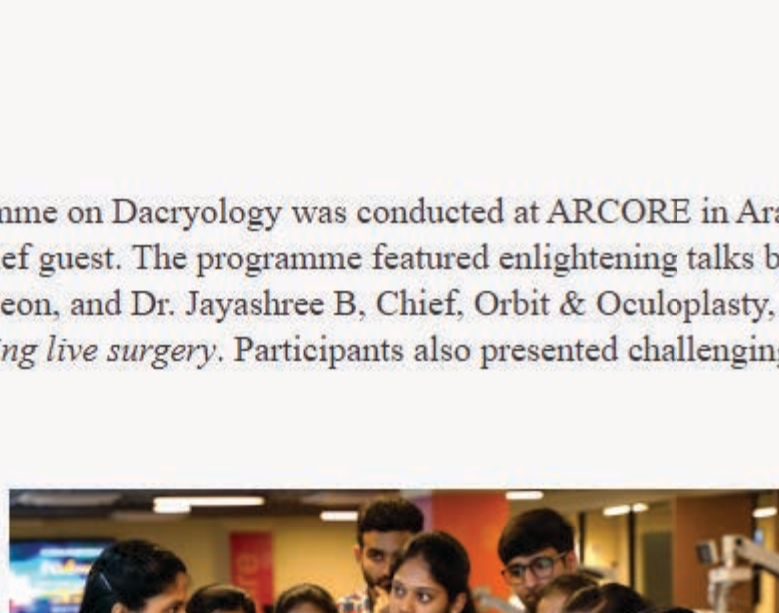
On 23rd July 2024, the RSR programme was held at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Mahaboopallayam, Madurai. Dr. Manoj gave an awareness talk on academic success and self-management, while Dr. Evangelina spoke about eye health awareness and hygiene. During the event, 20 selected girls from the 9th and 11th grades received educational kits containing a bag, notebooks, a pen kit, a tiffin box, a water bottle, and a set of uniforms.

Similarly, on 30th July 2024, the RSR programme was conducted at Kakkai Padinjari Girls Higher Secondary School in China Chokkikulam, Madurai. Backiyaraj, a Suravdagal member, delivered the welcome address, followed by a brief talk by Dr. Sathya on general eye care. Dr. Subhashini, a gynaecologist, discussed menstrual hygiene. Twenty students were provided with the educational kits.

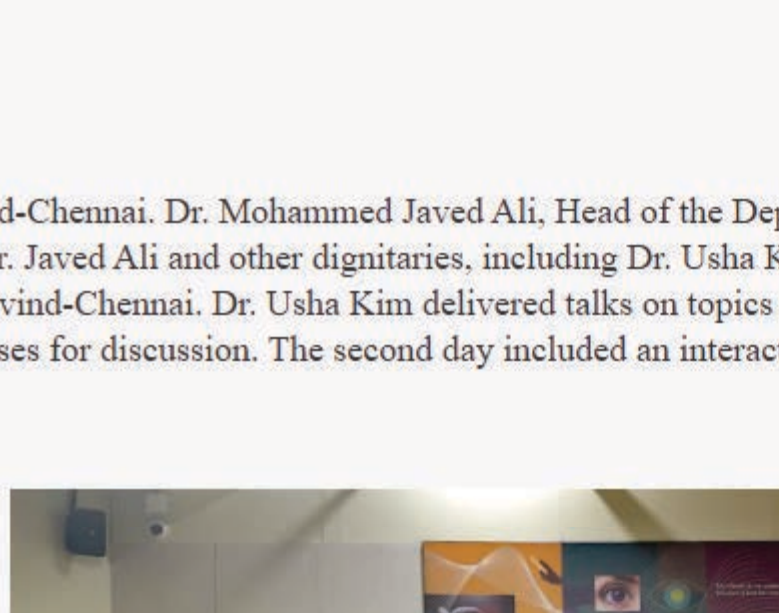
Finally, on 9th August 2024, sixth-year residents visited Velli Veediyar Girls Higher Secondary School in Arappalayam, Madurai and distributed school essentials to 20 children. Dr. Shobhina gave a talk on the importance of eye care to the students.



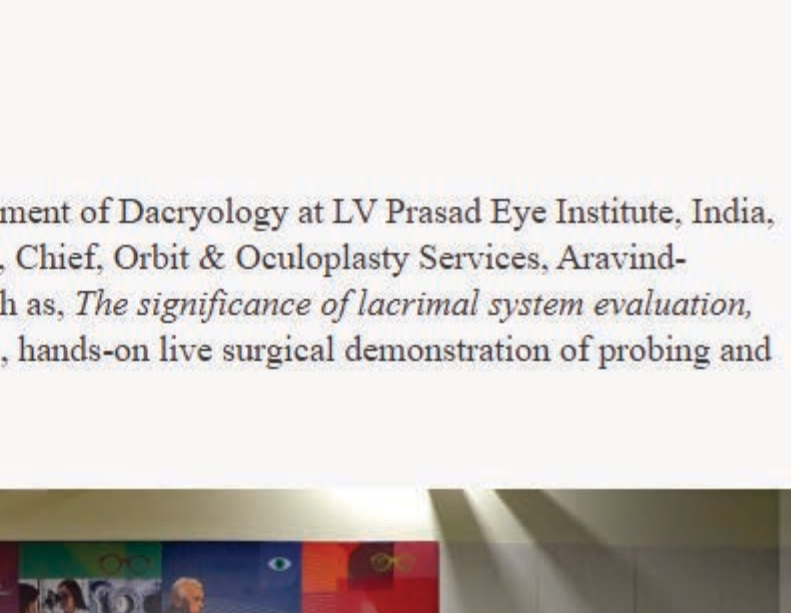
Dr. Venkatesh Pragas distributing the educational kits to schoolchildren at the Kakkai Padinjari School



School essentials to students through RSR programme at the Mahaboopallayam Govt. School



Awareness talk by a resident at the Vellothiya Corporation School



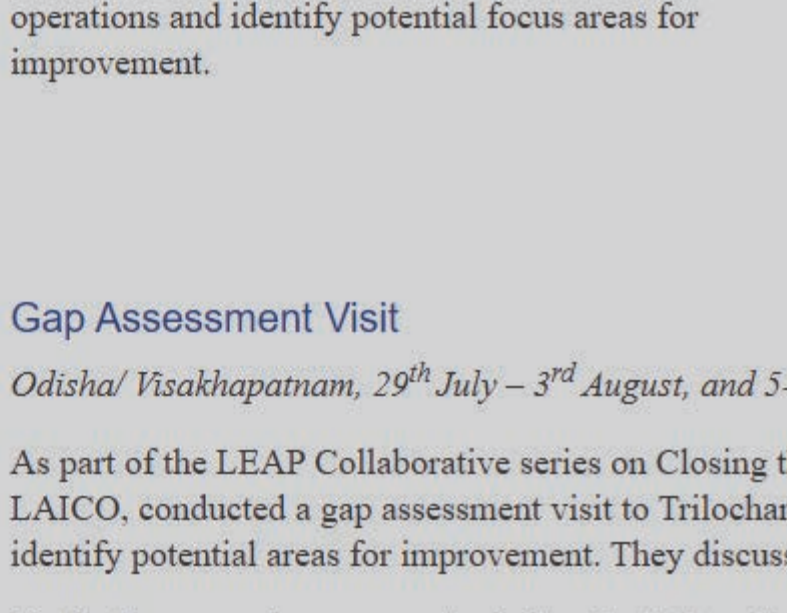
Dr. Manoj giving an awareness talk at the site at the Mahaboopallayam Govt. School

Smart Vision Glass Pro Distribution programme

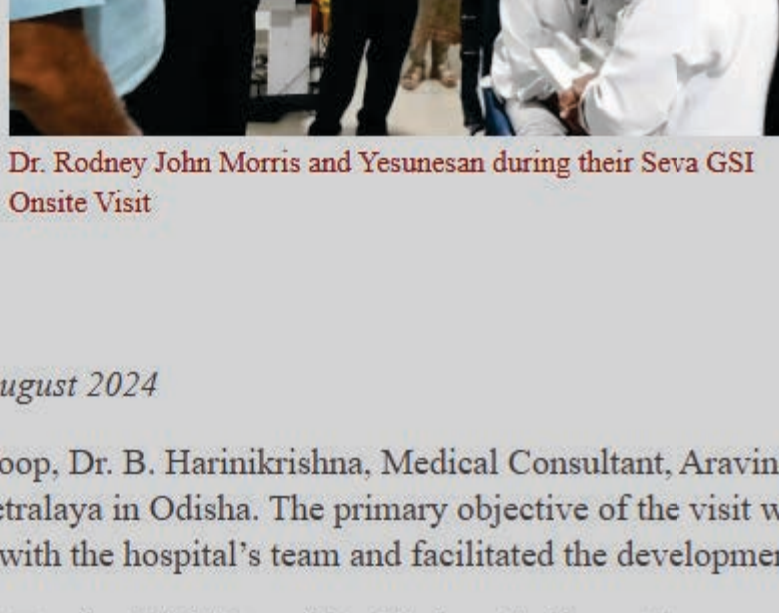
Aravind-Tirunelveli/Coimbatore, 9th and 12th August 2024

On August 9th, Aravind-Tirunelveli organised an event at the Vision Rehabilitation Centre, where 57 Smart Vision Glasses, provided to patients with severe visual impairments. These Smart Vision Pro glasses, an assistive AI device for the visually challenged developed by Smart Health Global, were sponsored by Jiven Charitable Trust, a global non-profit organisation.

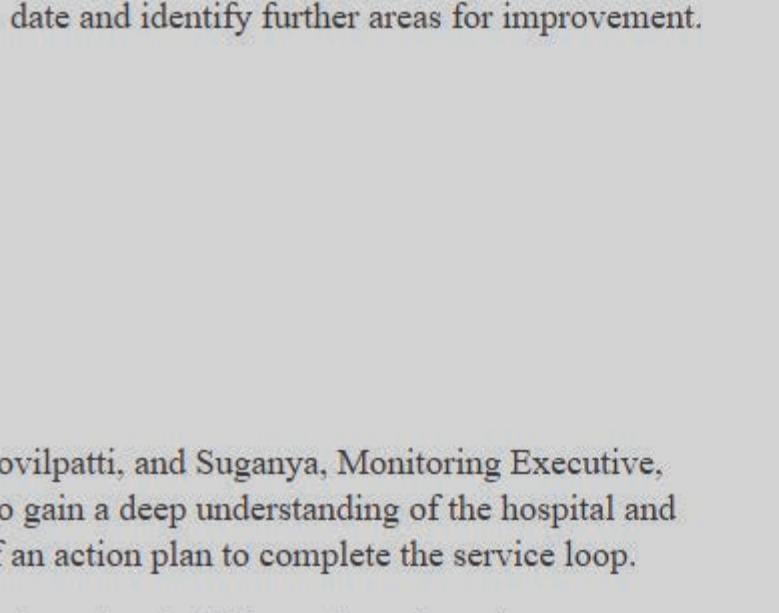
The event was led by Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Advisor, Dr. R. Meenakshi, Medical Consultant, Vision Rehabilitation Centre, the Low Vision Aids (LVA) programme, with participation from members of the Rotary Club of Madras East, Ramakrishnan, a former President of the Rotary Club of Madras East, spoke about the project. Madurai, CEO, JM Fintech India Private Ltd. & Jiven Trust, elaborated about their CSR activities. Ibrahim, an AI engineer from Smart Health Global, Bangalore, introduced the smart vision glasses and demonstrated their features. A video showcasing the milestones of the Vision Rehabilitation Centre was played, followed by a presentation by Dr. Fathima, who discussed the organisation's services. Ibrahim then registered the devices with the beneficiaries' smartphones and provided training on how to use the various features of the Smart Vision Glasses.



Dr. R. Ramakrishnan along with the members from Jiven Charitable Trust and the Rotary Club of Madras East



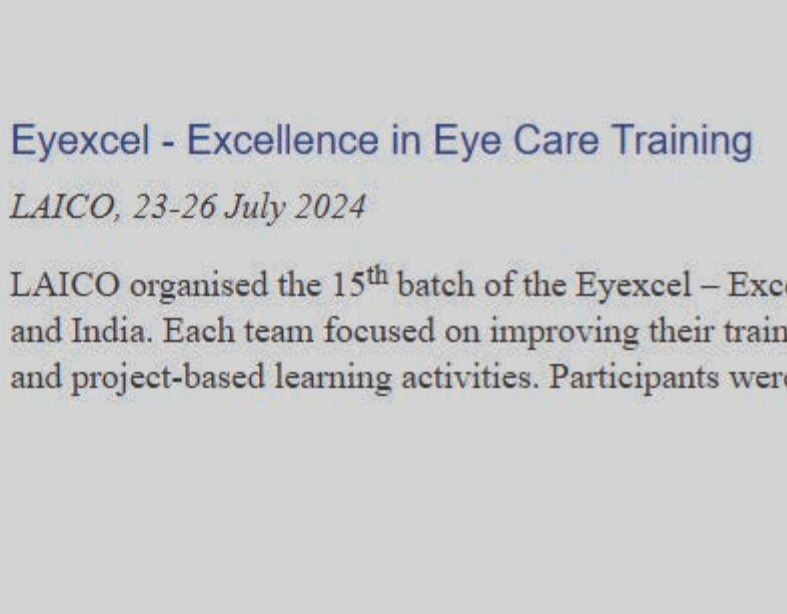
Madurai, CEO of JM Fintech India, presenting the SVG Pro to a beneficiary



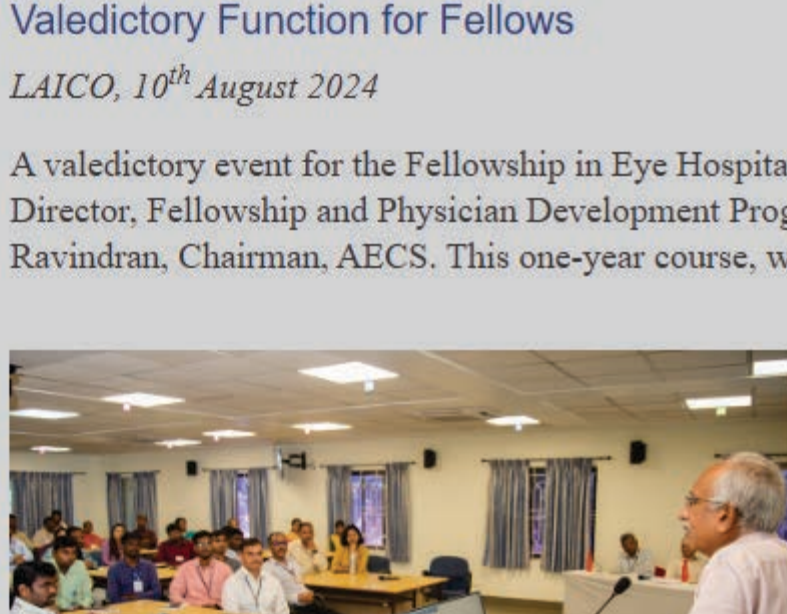
A beneficiary experiencing the benefits of the SVG Pro



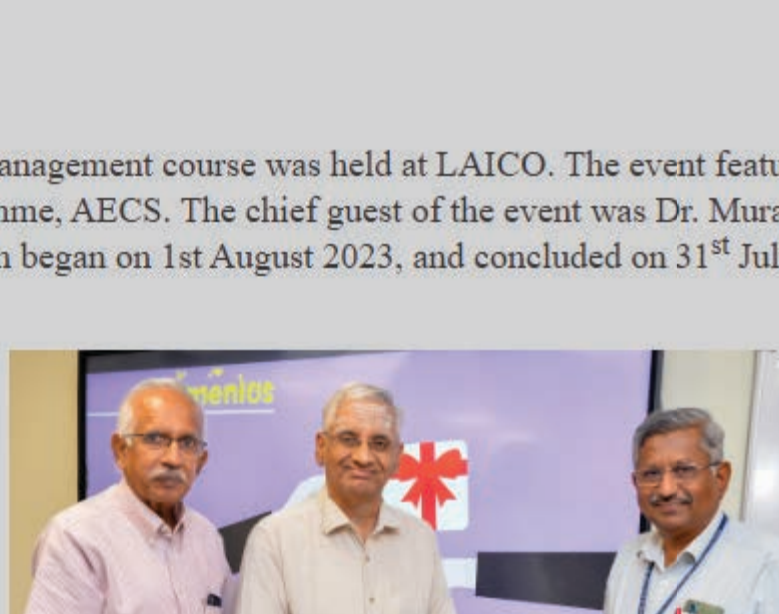
Ibrahim demonstrating the features of the SVG Pro



The event featured a video highlighting the achievements of the Vision Rehabilitation Centre. Devi from Vision Aid spoke about the organisation's mission. An inspiring speech was delivered by Mohashana, a beneficiary, and Ananda Saravanan shared his experiences as a digital resource trainer at Aravind Eye Hospitals. Ibrahim concluded the event by registering the smart vision glasses with the beneficiaries' smartphones.



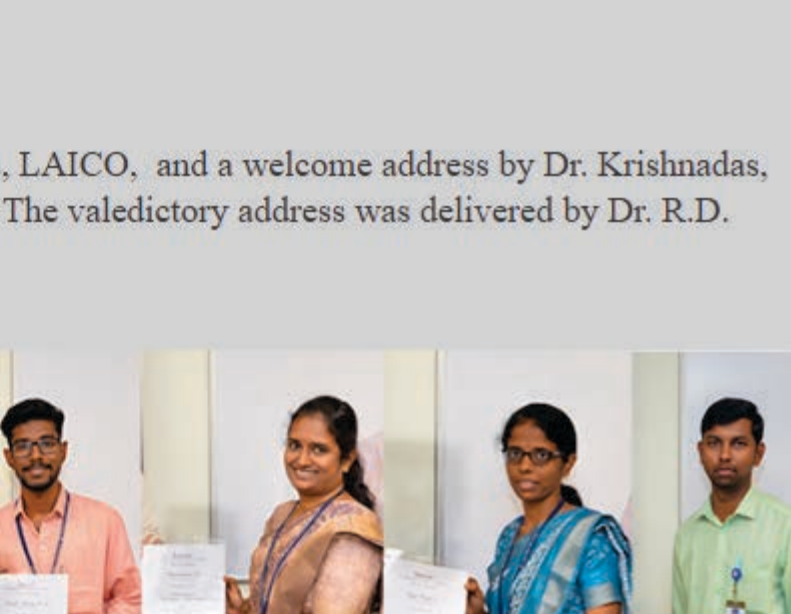
Mohashana, a beneficiary, sharing her thought



Dr. Kalpana Narendran distributing the SVG Pro devices to a beneficiary



Dr. Sandra Ganesh distributing the SVG Pro devices to a beneficiary



Ibrahim registering the SVG Pro with the beneficiaries' smartphones

Sight First Seminar

Aravind-Madurai, 10th August 2024

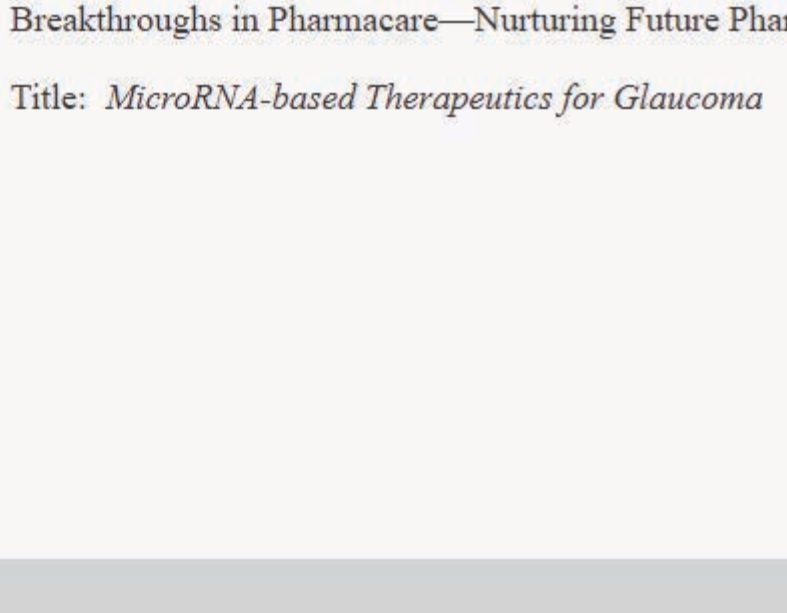
The International Association of Lions Clubs – District 324 B organised the Sight First Seminar in association with the AECS. Hosted by Aravind-Madurai, this annual seminar aimed to raise awareness about blindness and visual impairment among the newly elected office bearers for the year 2024-2025 and members.

The programme began with a welcome address by Dr. A. Arumugam, PMF Lion Dr. A. Sankaranarayanan, District Governor of District 324 B, delivered the inaugural address, followed by a felicitation speech by PDG M.F. Lion S. Manjaganam. Dr. R. Kinn, CMO, Aravind-Madurai, delivered the keynote address.

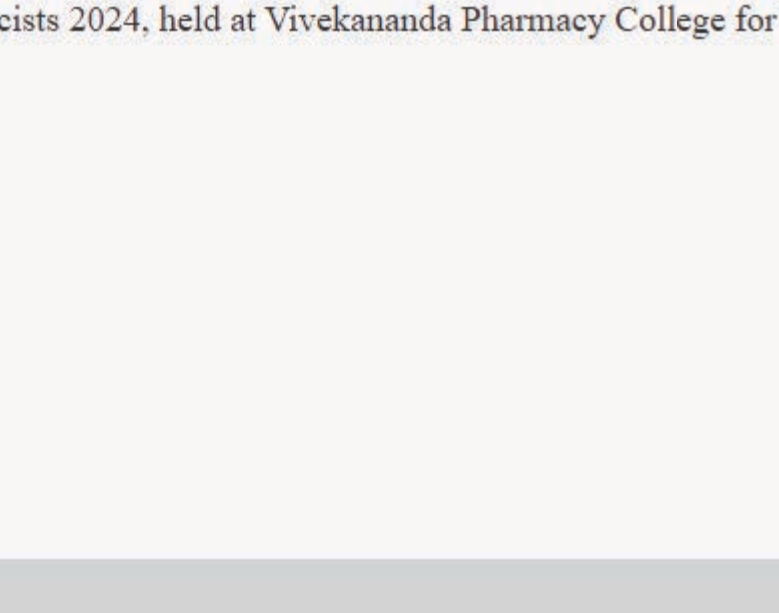
The seminar featured various scientific sessions, led by Dr. A. Kowsalya, Medical Consultant, Neuro-Ophthalmology, Aravind-Madurai, R. Meenakshi Sundaram, Senior Manager, Clinical Services, Aravind-Madurai, and D. Saravanan, Manager, Eye Bank, Aravind-Madurai. Dr. Kowsalya presented on common eye problems and the impact of diabetes on vision. R. Meenakshi Sundaram acknowledged the Lions Club support in eliminating preventable blindness and discussed how the newly elected officebearers could further support this mission. D. Saravanan shared important facts about eye donation and strategies to enhance donor rates with Lions Club support in 2024-2025.

PMF Lion CA, D. Selvam, First Vice District Governor, and PMF Lion Dr. N. Arumugam, Second vice District Governor, shared their observations and urged all Lions members to increase outreach programmes and promote awareness on eye donation. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by M.F. Lion K. Thangadurai.

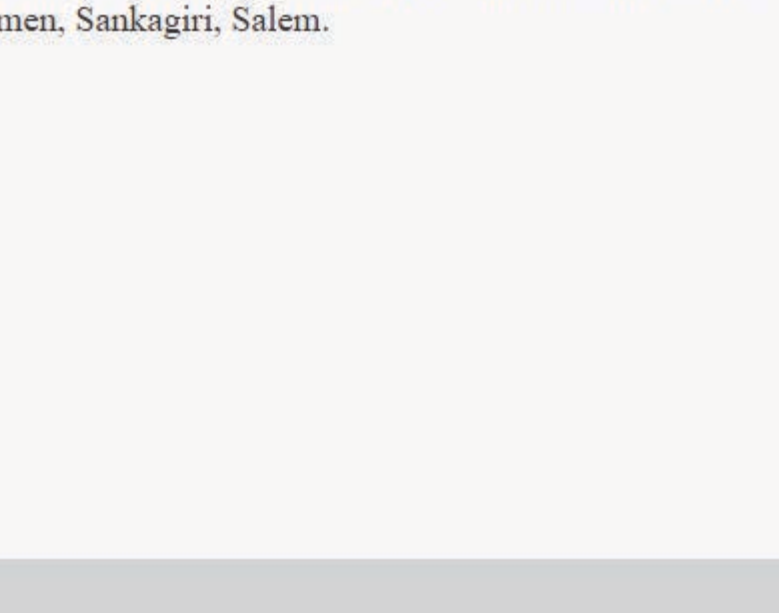
A total of 139 participants from Madurai and Sivagangai districts, including past District Governors, attended the seminar. The event was organised by M.F. Lion K. Arumugam, District Chairperson for Sight First. Notably, this awareness seminar has been conducted annually for over two decades.



Dr. R. Kinn delivering the keynote address



Dr. R. Kinn being honored by PMF Lion Dr. A. Sankaranarayanan



Dr. A. Kowsalya delivering a talk on Common eye diseases



R. Meenakshi Sundaram acknowledging the Lions Club's contributions

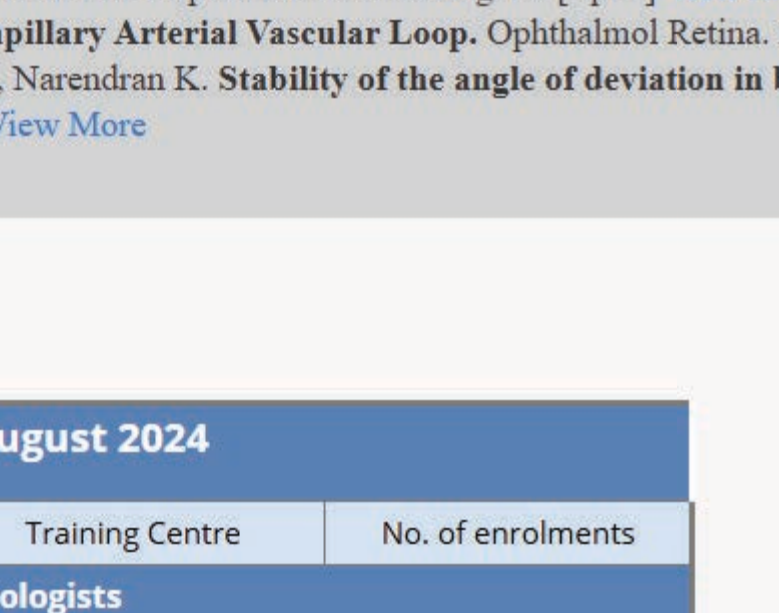
CME on Dacryology Master Class

Aravind-Chennai, 10-11 August 2024

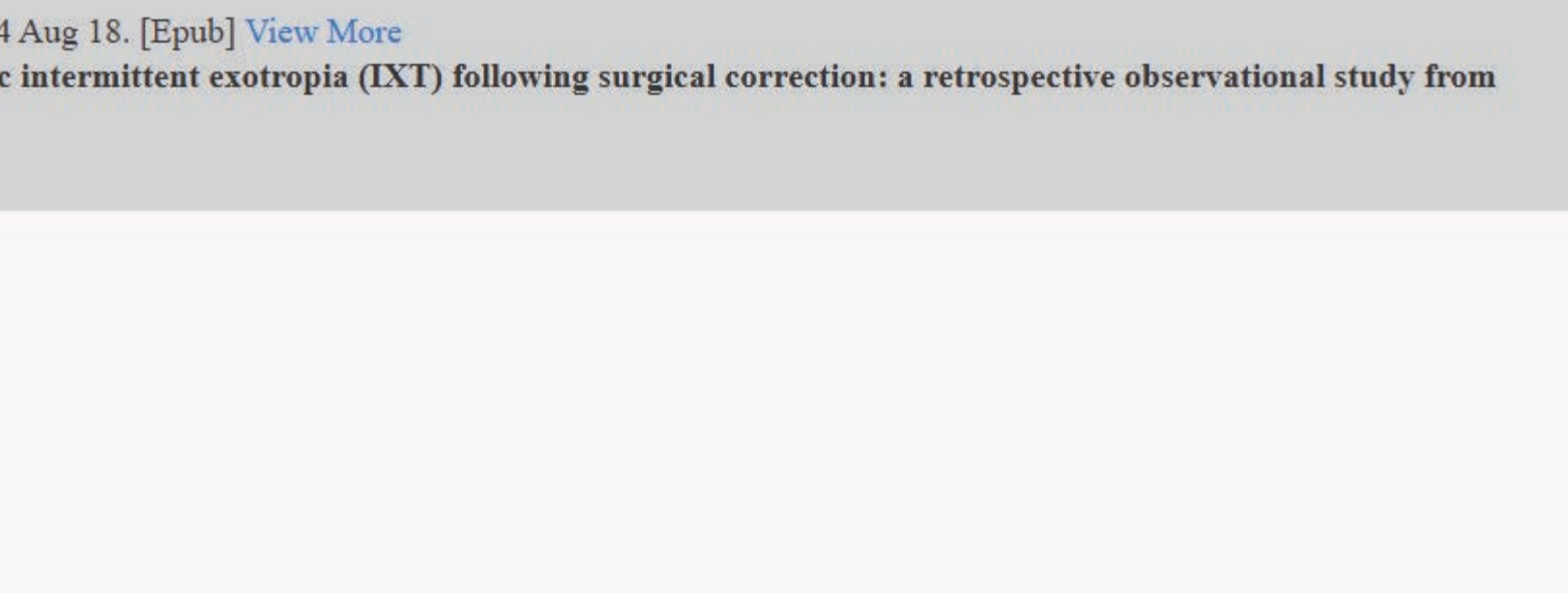
A two-day Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme on Dacryology was conducted at ARCORE in Aravind-Chennai. Dr. Mohammed Javed Ali, Head of the Department of Dacryology at LV Prasad Eye Institute, India, and a pioneer in the lacrimal drainage system, was the chief guest. The programme featured enlightening talks by Dr. Javed Ali and other dignitaries, including Dr. Usha Kim, Chief, Orbit & Oculoplasty, Aravind-Chennai, Dr. Usha Kim delivered talks on topics such as: The significance of lacrimal system evaluation, epidemiology of CDC, and A surgical master class featuring live surgery. Participants also presented challenging cases for discussion. The second day included an interactive, hands-on live surgical demonstration of probing and endoscopic DCR by Dr. Javed Ali.



Dr. Javed Ali lighting the Kuthuvilaku



A demonstration session



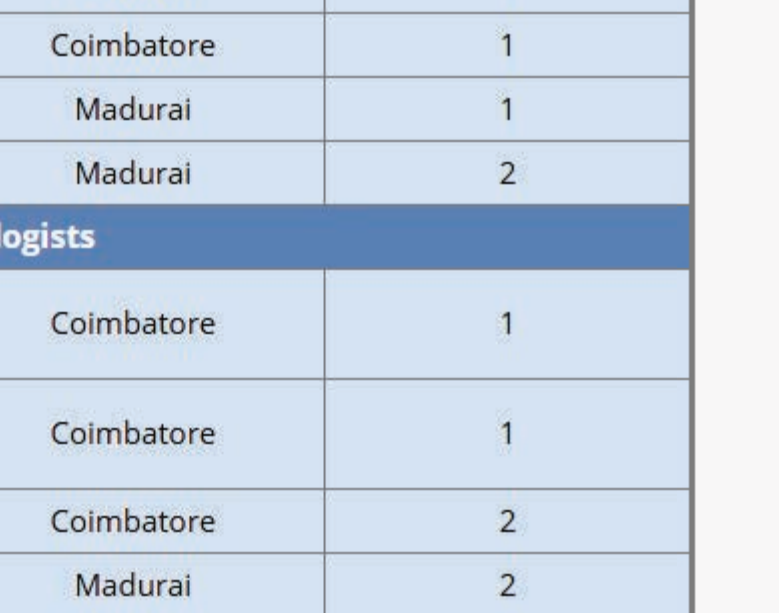
Participants of the CME on Dacryology Master Class

LAICO

Seva GSI Onsite Visit

Rajasthan, 30th July – 3rd August 2024

Dr. Rodney John Morris, Medical Consultant, Retina Services, Aravind-Coimbatore and Yeswanth, Senior Faculty, LAICO, conducted a Seva GSI Onsite visit to Alak Nayan Mandir Eye Hospital in Rajasthan. The visit aimed to understand the hospital's operations and identify potential focus areas for improvement.



Dr. Rodney John Morris and Yeswanth during their Seva GSI Onsite Visit

Seva GSI Follow-up Visit

West Bengal, 24th July – 27th August 2024

Dr. Dipankar Datta, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Tirunelveli and Yeswanth, Senior Faculty, LAICO, conducted a follow-up visit to Rotary Hooghly Eye Hospital in West Bengal. The goal of this visit was to observe the overall changes made in the hospital to date and identify further areas for improvement.



Dr. Dipankar Datta and Yeswanth with the Rotary Hooghly Eye Hospital team

Gap Assessment Visit

Odisha/Vishakhapatnam, 29th August, and 5-9 August 2024

As part of the LEAP Collaborative series on Closing the Net, Dr. B. Harinikrishnan, Medical Consultant, and Sagunya, Monitoring Executive, LAICO, conducted a gap assessment visit to the Telichena Nethralaya in Odisha. The primary objective of the visit was to gain a deep understanding of the hospital and identify potential areas for improvement. They discussed with the hospital's team and facilitated the development of an action plan to complete the service.

Similarly, a consultancy team including Sasi Priya, Senior Faculty, LAICO, and Dr. Venkata Sudheer, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Tirunelveli, conducted a gap assessment visit to Dr. Ramani Raju Vision Tree Eye Hospital, Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The main objective of this visit was to gain an understanding of the hospital's current performance and identify potential focus areas for improvement.



Dr. B. Harinikrishnan and Sagunya with the Telichena Nethralaya Eye Hospital team

Eyexcel - Excellence in Eye Care Training

LAICO, 23-26 July 2024

LAICO organised the 15th batch of the Eyexcel – Excellence in Eye Care Training course, with participation from 10 teams comprising 30 participants from Cameroon and India. Each team focused on improving their training projects and creating a competency-based curriculum. The course featured several engaging interactive sessions, and project-based learning activities. Participants were also introduced to various training resources, interactive techniques, and assessment tools.

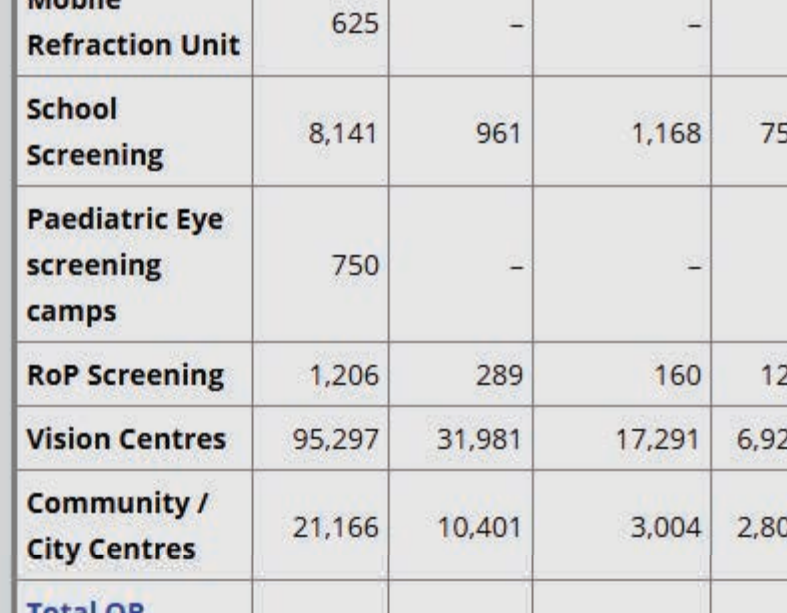


Dr. R.D. Ravindran and Thibasthi Ravilla with the participants of the Eyexcel - Excellence in Eye Care Training course

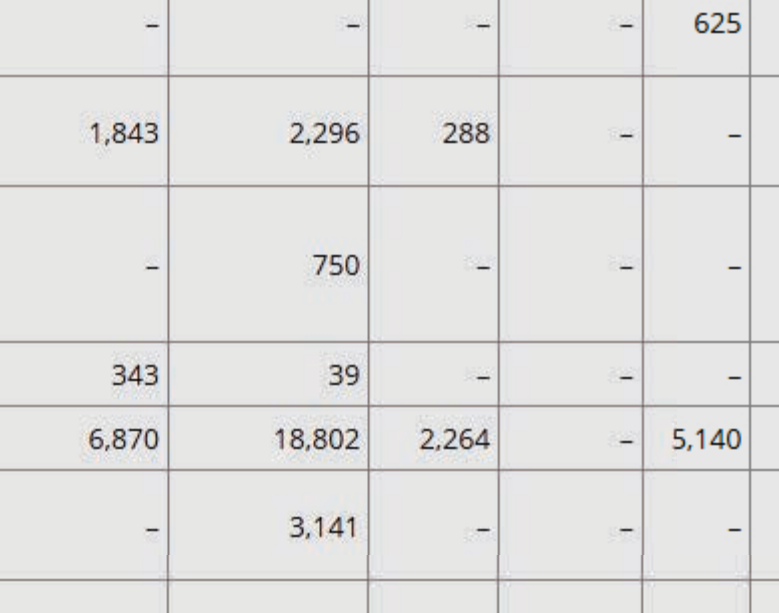
Valedictory Function for Fellows

LAICO, 10th August 2024

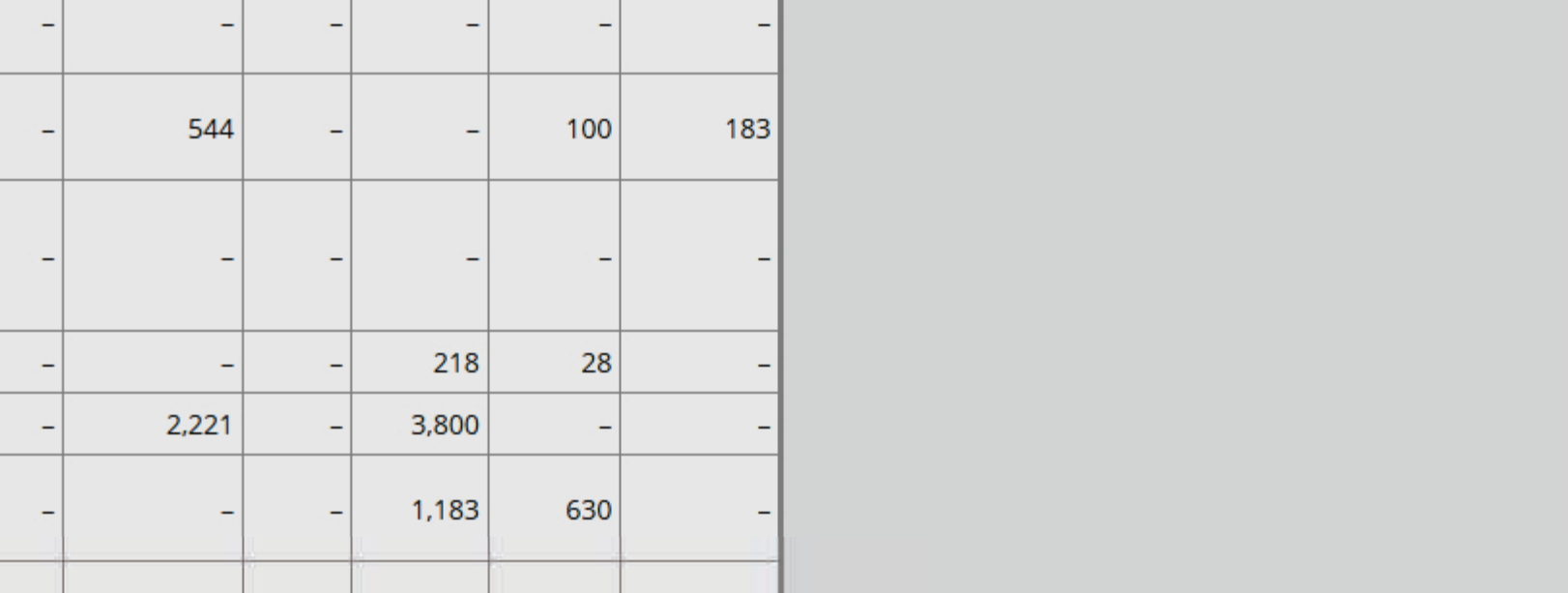
A valedictory event for the Fellowship in Eye Hospital Management course was held at LAICO. The event featured a keynote address by Thibasthi Ravilla, Director Emerita, LAICO, and a welcome address by Dr. Krishnadas, Director, Fellowship and Physician Development Programme, AECS. The chief guest of the event was Dr. Murali Sambasivan, Director, Thangiarajar School of Ophthalmology. The valedictory address was delivered by Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman, AECS. This one-year course, which began on 1st August 2023, and concluded on 31st July 2024, was attended by seven participants.



Thibasthi Ravilla delivering the keynote address



Thibasthi Ravilla and Dr. R.D. Ravindran, along with the chief guest Dr. Murali Sambasivan



Dr. Murali Sambasivan distributing course completion certificates to the participant

Conferences Attended

Visit to the USA

USA, 6-11 August 2024