



Editorial

The start of the New Year, 2025, marks the beginning of another cyclic year-long activities at Aravind, following its routine. Alongside clinical operations, events such as CME programmes, retreats, training sessions, employee engagement activities, and celebrations took place with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

The Pongal festival was celebrated with great involvement from every employee. Various traditional activities and games were organised, bringing a sense of unity among the staff.

To support and uplift the lives of visually challenged women at the Rehabilitation Centre in Mannarpuram, Trichy, Aravind-Madurai organised an annual sales day programme for the consecutive year. Held since 2008 as part of the Residents Social Responsibility initiative, this event provided a platform for the women to showcase and sell their handmade products.

A notable highlight was the launch of a documentary honouring the visionary journey of Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, Aravind Eye Care System (AECS), one of the founding members of the AECS. The documentary was featured in the Docflix White Coat Legends series (www.docflix.com), which highlighted his active contribution in pioneering accessible, affordable, and high-quality eye care for millions of people.

News about these and many other events happened between 15th December 2024 and 15th January 2025 are featured in this edition.

Recognitions and Achievements

33rd Annual Conference of Vitreo Retinal Society-India (VRSI)

Guwahati, 6-8 December 2024

Dr. K. Naresh Babu, Chief, Retina and Vitreous Services, Aravind-Madurai, secured third prize for his E-Video titled, *The unfurling technique: Surgically induced retinal detachment enhancing anatomical and functional outcome in grade 3 epiretinal membrane*.

White Coat Legends Video Documentary on Dr. P. Namperumalsamy

Madurai, 28th December 2024

White Coat Legends launched a video documentary on the Docflix OTT platform, supported and promoted by Mankind Pharma, honouring the visionary journey of Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, AECS. Dr. Namperumalsamy is one of the pioneers in bringing state-of-the-art vitreoretinal surgery to India for the management of retinal diseases.

The launch event held at the Marriott Courtyard, Madurai, began with a welcome address by Chintamaani, followed by Rajeev Juneja from Mankind Pharma delivering the founder’s message, and the screening of the documentary. Dignitaries shared their experiences and emotions, and Dr. P. Namperumalsamy expressed his gratitude to Mankind Pharma for producing the documentary, as well as to the staff members and friends of Aravind who joined the occasion.

[Click here](#) to watch the video documentary.



Dr. P. Namperumalsamy and Dr. G. Natchiar being welcomed with bouquets at the documentary launch event by Mankind Pharma representatives



Mankind Pharma team with Dr. P. Namperumalsamy and Dr. G. Natchiar



Dr. M. Srinivasan, Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Dr. G. Natchiar, Premalatha, and Dr. P. Namperumalsamy lighting the ceremonial lamp



Dr. P. Namperumalsamy delivering a felicitation speech



Honoured by Shri. M.V. Muthuramalingam, Founder of Velammal Engineering College



Honoured by S. Rethinavelu, Senior President, Tamil Nadu Chamber of Commerce and Industry



With Aravind-Tirunelveli team



With Aravind-Madurai staff members

Aravind Events

Pongal CME on Communication

Aravind-Coimbatore, 11th January 2025

Aravind-Coimbatore organised a CME for MLOPs to emphasise the importance of communication. Facilitated by Rajakumari, Counselling, participants were divided into four small groups for individual reflection, peer sharing, and group activities.

Each group was given a statement to share individually, and while sharing them with others, they realised the prevalence of misinterpretation, miscommunication, and misleading statements. Participants

gained insights into the importance of presence of mind during communication.

Additionally, they actively engaged in interactive games focused on listening, understanding, and meaning-making, leaving a fun-filled learning experience. They also enjoyed singing a communication song, "Kelunga, Kelunga." Finally, participants shared their learning through a "truth stick" exercise, where they held a stick and expressed their needs, expectations, and thought-provoking ideas. The programme concluded with positive feedback from participants. A total of 29 MLOPs from the departments of OT, Refraction, MRD, OP, Stores, and Housekeeping took part in the session.

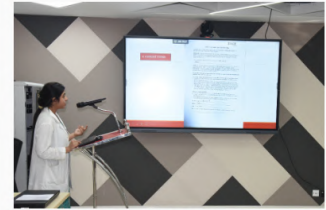
Writathon 2025

Aravind-Tirunelveli, 10th January 2025

Writathon 2025, held at Aravind-Tirunelveli, was a great success. The event began with a welcome address by Dr. Aswin and the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. The programme featured dynamic discussions and insightful presentations by Dr. Nimrita Nagdev, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Tirunelveli. Participants showcased their creativity through case reports, photo essays, ophthalmic images, and original article submissions. The event was coordinated by Dr. Devendra Maheswari, Dr. Ashwin, Dr. Diviyam Abraham, Dr. Shivam Gupta, Dr. Nimrita Nagdev, and Dr. Gomathi Nayagam. Writathon 2025 has set a new benchmark for academic and creative excellence.



Doctors engaged in writing research papers



A doctor presenting her research paper

Pongal Celebration

Marking the spirit of the Pongal festival, various activities were organised across all Aravind Centres, making the festive day filled with joy and togetherness.

At the events organised by Aravind-Pondicherry, a range of activities took place, from vibrant dance and soul-stirring music to the traditional Uriyadi. The MLOPs made Pongal in earthen pots and participated in traditional games, making the event truly special.

Similarly, Aravind-Coimbatore, Tirunelveli, Tirupati, Janakiammal Child Care Centre, Aurolab, and Auroitech celebrated the Pongal with great enthusiasm. The celebration at Aurolab was observed as Auro-Pongal. During the celebration, staff members showcased artistic performances like Karagattam, Oyilattam, Kolattam, Parai, Uriyadi, and Mulaipari, glorifying Tamil tradition. Finally, there was a special pooja and prasad was offered to all.



MLOPs at Aravind-Pondicherry preparing Pongal in the traditional way



Aravind-Pondicherry staff members performing a pooja during the Pongal celebration



Pongal preparation at Aravind-Coimbatore



Uriyadi event at Aravind-Coimbatore



Staff members performing Kummi Adi, a traditional dance, at Aurolab



Dr. G. Natchiar and other invitees observing the celebrations at Aurolab



Children dressed in traditional costumes at Janakiammal Child Care Centre (crèche), Aravind-Madurai



Pongal preparation at Aravind-Tirunelveli

Orbit Retreat

Aravind-Madurai, 8th January 2025

The Department of Orbit, Aravind-Madurai organised its 5th Annual Retreat, focusing on streamlining examination and treatment protocols, as well as standardising procedures across all orbit departments of AECS. The retreat was led by the Madurai Orbit team, including Dr. Usha Kim, Chief, Orbit & Oculoplasty Services, Dr. Meghna Tanwar, Medical Consultant, Orbit & Oculoplasty Services, along with OT, Ward, and counselling MLOPs.

Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman, AECS, also provided valuable insights during the meeting. The event was attended by doctors from various Aravind centres, including Dr. Viji Rangarajan, Chief, Orbit Services, Aravind-Coimbatore, Dr. Kavitha Yuvarajan, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Coimbatore, Dr. Jayashree, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Chennai, Dr. R. Jayagayatri, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Pondicherry, Dr. Preeti Mohandy, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Tirupati, and Dr. V. Maneksha, Chief, Orbit Services, Aravind-Tirunelveli, who represented their respective orbit departments.



Doctors from various Orbit Departments across AECS, engaging in discussion during the Orbit Retreat



Dr. R.D. Ravindran (second from the right), Dr. Usha Kim (centre) along with other participants at the Orbit Retreat

Annual Outreach Meeting

Aravind-Pondicherry, 7-8 January 2025

The annual outreach meeting organised by Aravind-Pondicherry for the camp organisers and admin team reflected on a year of progress and collaboration. The gathering provided an opportunity to share insights and discuss ways to reach even more communities in need of eye care in 2025. From analysing 2024's performance to overcoming challenges, every conversation focused on continuous improvement and finding new ways to eliminate avoidable blindness.

The meeting featured a special motivational talk by an external speaker, Saravana from Vanthavasi, and a fun game event. The camp officers from all Aravind Centres also participated, including Dr. Lalitha, Chief Microbiologist, Aravind-Madurai, Dr. V. Maneksha, Dr. Radney John Morris, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Coimbatore, Dr. Dayakar Yadalla, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Pondicherry, Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Pondicherry, and Dr. Srinath.



A beautifully designed kolam welcoming participants to the annual outreach meeting



R. Meenakshi Sundaram delivering the introductory speech at the 2025 Annual Outreach Planning Meeting



Kumar, Camp Organiser, leading a session



Participant interaction during a session, Rajesh, representing Aravind-Chennai





Participants engaged in a team-building activity



A fun activity



Participants of the Annual Outreach Meeting at Aravind-Pondicherry

Vision Centre CME

Aravind-Coimbatore, 5th January 2025

Organised by Aravind-Coimbatore, the CME for Vision Centre MLOPs began with an Aurowell check-up, followed by various sessions. Clinical sessions on neuro, cornea, retina, uvea, glaucoma, and paediatrics were conducted by speciality doctors, including Dr. M. Karthik Kumar, Medical Consultant, Neuro-Ophthalmology Services, Dr. C. Prem Anand, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Dr. P. Mangala, Medical Consultant, Cornea Services, Dr. Sazikala Elizabeth, Medical Consultant, Paediatric Ophthalmology, and Dr. S. Prema, Medical Consultant, Paediatric Retina and Ocular Oncology Services, sharing their insights.

In addition to these clinical sessions, there were classes on IOL lenses, accounts, and cash settlements. Mohamed Gowth, Senior Faculty, LAICO, spoke about incidents that occur in vision centres and how they should be documented. The sisters had the opportunity to discuss with the doctors and clarify their doubts. The programme was hosted by Dr. Vijayavarshini, Medical Consultant, General Ophthalmology Services. Lunch was provided at the end of the event. Around 30 MLOPs from 15 vision centres participated in this programme.



MLOPs clarifying clinical doubts with doctors during a session at the Vision Centre CME

Counselling CME

Aravind-Madurai, 5-6 January 2025

Organised by Aravind-Madurai, the CME programme aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of counsellors, ensuring they are equipped to provide the best support and guidance to patients. The session engaged counsellors in discussions, helping them understand the purpose of protocols, learn from real incidents, and refine their approaches to addressing patient needs.

The programme began with an introduction to the context, followed by a lecture by Dr. Rani Chakravarthy, Director, Rakshna Child Guidance Centre, Madurai, on the Importance of Counselling. Dr. Mahesh Kumar, Chief, Neuro-Ophthalmology Services, Aravind-Madurai, spoke on the importance of consent forms, pre-op investigations, and taking a thorough systemic history.

Subravani from AuroLab and Dr. Hasini provided valuable insights into the basics of Intraocular Lenses (IOL) and how counsellors can help patients make informed decisions. Dr. Sathya T. Ravilla, Chief, Paediatric Ophthalmology Services, Aravind-Tirupati, presented on Relooking at Patient Safety Protocols. Additionally, there was a quiz on clinical terminology that counsellors need to be familiar with.

The second day's sessions featured various activities, including the use of counselling aids, the need for cross-learning, and planning for 2025. Activities led by Prof. Rachel and Rajakumari reinforced the importance of the soft skills counsellors need. Syed, Senior Faculty, LAICO, spoke on how to strategies, while Dhivy Ramasamy, Executive Director, LAICO, discussed on "What's Next?" Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman, AECS, emphasised that counsellors are key guardians of patient safety. Dr. G. Natchiar, Director Emeritus, AECS, concluded the event with a talk on the *Role of the Counsellor in Aravind's Journey*. The event saw active participation from patient counsellors and in-charge doctors from various centres.



Dr. Sathya T. Ravilla presenting a talk on Relooking at Patient Safety Protocols



Dr. Madhu Shekhar sharing his insights



Dr. Mahesh Kumar delivering a talk on the importance of consent forms, pre-op investigations, and taking a thorough systemic history



Syed Ali leading a session on strategic planning



An MLOP participating in a session discussion



Dr. Rani Chakravarthy presenting on The Importance of Counselling



An exhibition showcasing the significance of counselling in patient care



Participants of the Counselling CME

Basic Life Support (BLS) and Fire Safety Training

Aravind-Madurai, 5th January 2025

Aravind-Madurai organised a BLS and Fire Safety training programme for Vision Centre staff, focusing on precautions and safety measures. The resource person for BLS training, Nithyananthan from TEVYE Training Services, Chennai, and the resource person for Fire Safety, Jothi Prakasham from Usha Fire Safety Equipment Pvt. Limited, Chennai, conducted the sessions. A total of 70 Vision Centre staff members attended the programme.



Nithyananthan conducting a session on Basic Life Support (BLS)



An MLOP participating in a fire-extinguishing drill under the guidance of a trainer



An MLOP handling fire safety equipment



Participants of the Basic Life Support (BLS) and Fire Safety Training

ACEI - Hackathon '25

Aravind-Pondicherry, 3-5 January 2025

The sixth edition of the annual Hackathon, organised by Aravind-Pondicherry, began six months ago with the collection of 120 problem statements from across all the centres. After a detailed review, 36 were shortlisted and consolidated into 28 unique challenges.

The Hackathon brought together an inspiring mix of participants: 79 staff members from Aravind, including Consultants, Fellows, PGs, MLOPs, and Managers from Pondicherry, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Tirupati, Chennai, and Coimbatore centres, 44 engineering students from VIT (Vellore & Chennai), IIT Tirupati, and Thiagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai, and a few staff children pursuing engineering, who joined as observers.

The panel of judges included Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Prof. Dr. Arulmozhiarman, Dean, Academic Research, VIT Vellore, Prof. Dr. Sebin Sunny, CEO, TCE Technology Business Incubator, TCE Madurai, and Dr. Anand Sivaraman, Founding Director, Remidio.

After 48 hours of non-stop brainstorming and collaboration, all teams presented working prototypes for their respective problem statements. The top 5 projects were recognised with cash prizes. The first and second prizes were awarded to Madurai teams for their innovative Eyemount 360 and Multitome Maker, respectively. The third prize went to the Aravind-Pondicherry team for their Kaleidoscope Camera, the fourth to the Ontilean - The Pharo Coach by the Tirupati team, and the fifth to the OG - Outreach Gonioscope innovation by the Pondicherry team. A significant highlight of this year's event was the exposure

visit to the principal. The visit began by the inspection and the visit to the selection concepts and then by the remaining team. Highlights of this year's event was the speaker's visit to VIT-Vellore on 2nd January 2025, where 20 Aravind doctors had the opportunity to explore advanced lab facilities and resources.



Dr. R. Venkatesh welcoming participants to the Annual Hackathon



The Aravind-Tirunelveli team presenting their innovation to the judges



Teams discussing problem statements



Dr. Swati Upadhyaya representing her team and presenting their innovative Care Buzz



Judges sharing their insights



First Prize Winner - Innovative Eyemount 360



Participants of Hackathon 2025 with Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Dr. R. Venkatesh, and the judging panel

Research Data Management using REDCap Software

Aravind-Madurai, 3-4 January 2025

The Department of Biostatistics hosted a two-day workshop on research data management using REDCap software. The event began with a welcome speech by Sanil Joseph, Senior Faculty, LAICO, via Zoom, followed by a lamp-lighting ceremony, and a keynote address by Thulasiraj Ravilla, Director Emeritus, LAICO. The workshop aimed to familiarise participants with the features and functionalities of REDCap software, enhancing data standardisation and accuracy. The event included hands-on training with lectures, actively engaging participants throughout the session. A detailed discussion took place between the participants and the Biostatistics team about the various applications of the software and how to acquire it for their institutions. Overall, the combination of structured learning activities and meaningful discussions made the programme a highly valuable and enriching experience for all involved. Sixteen external participants from various parts of India and eight internal participants from other Aravind branches attended the workshop.



Sanil Joseph delivering the welcome address



Thulasiraj Ravilla delivering the keynote address



Hands-on training during the workshop



Participants with Thulasiraj Ravilla during the Research Data Management workshop

Low Vision Devices Distribution Programme

Aravind-Madurai & Coimbatore, 4th January 2025

To honour the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of the Braille system, World Braille Day is observed annually on 4th January. In celebration of his legacy, the Vision Rehabilitation Departments at Aravind-Madurai and Aravind-Coimbatore organised Smart Vision Glass (SVG) distribution programmes at their respective centres.

At the event held at Aravind-Madurai, 28 SVGs were distributed to beneficiaries from a total of 30 SVGs sponsored by Bharat Petroleum Ltd. and SHG. During the event, Ibrahim, MD, SHG, spoke about the benefits of the new low-vision devices, while a representative from Bharat Petroleum discussed innovations in eye care.

Similarly, at Aravind-Coimbatore, 30 patients with severe visual impairment received SVGs, sponsored by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Rotary Club Madras East.

The chief guests included members from Rotary Club Madras East, Balaji Srinivasan, President, RCME Chennai, Gaurav Srikrishna, Rotarian, and Sriram, Service Engineer, SHG Technologies Pvt Ltd. At the conclusion of the event, Mahalingam, a beneficiary, shared his feedback about the glasses.



Dr. Vijayalakshmi delivering the welcome address at the Low Vision Devices Distribution Programme at Aravind-Madurai



Ibrahim, MD of SHG, discussing the benefits of new low-vision devices



Dr. Vijayalakshmi handing over an SVG device to a beneficiary



A beneficiary expressing gratitude



Smart Vision Glass Pro Distribution Programme at Aravind-Coimbatore



Chief guests distributing SVG devices to beneficiaries

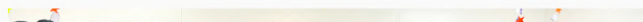


Beneficiaries of SVGs with Aravind doctors, staff, and representatives from the Rotary Club of Madras East and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

Vaanavil

Aravind-Madurai, 1st January 2025

As part of the Residents Social Responsibility programme – RSR's flagship event, 'Vaanavil', Aravind-Madurai organised an event, providing a platform for the visually challenged women from the Rehabilitation Centre, Mannarpuram, Trichy, to showcase and sell their handmade products, such as colourful and attractively printed bags, pouches, candle holders, incense sticks, towels, pillows, cushion covers, wire baskets, and bed sheets. Aravind staff thronged the exhibition and purchased items. This programme fostered empowerment and self-reliance among these visually challenged women.





A visually challenged woman from the Rehabilitation Centre, Mannarpuram, Trichy, weaving baskets and showcasing handmade products



The sale of handmade jute bags



Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna with postgraduates and the Rehabilitation team

Goal-Setting Workshop

Aravind-Chennai, 1st January 2025

A goal-setting workshop was held at Aravind-Chennai with all clinical department stakeholders to review and plan for the year ahead. During the session, each department presented a comprehensive overview of their performance over the past year, including updates on their 2024 goals and progress made toward achieving them.

Clinical HODs also highlighted their academic activities, such as workshops, conferences, and collaborative initiatives, along with updates on research projects and publications that contributed to the institution's knowledge base.

Following these reviews, each department outlined their goals for 2025, along with measurable outcomes to ensure continued growth and excellence. The collaborative discussions fostered a shared vision and alignment of efforts for the year.



Participants of the Goal-Setting Workshop held at Aravind-Chennai

PASS 2024

Aravind-Pondicherry, 22nd December 2024

The special programme "PASS-2024" was successfully organised by Aravind-Pondicherry for all married MLOPs and Vision Centre staff, along with their family members. This event provided an opportunity to bring together staff members from the base hospital and various vision centres under one roof. The event served as a platform for fostering unity and friendship among team members. It also provided valuable updates on hospital systems and offered insights into methods of financial empowerment. In addition, a feedback session as well as a variety of fun activities and games, ensuring a lively and engaging atmosphere for families.



A thematic kolam welcoming participants to PASS 2024



Dr. K. Veena sharing insights on hospital systems



Dr. Josephine Christy conducting an informative session



Staff members engaging in a fun activity



A cultural performance during the PASS event



Dr. Veena and Dr. N. Sivagami presenting gifts to children of staff members



Staff members with their families and the PASS organising team

SIGHT FIRST Seminar

Aravind-Theni, 22nd December 2024

Held at Aravind-Theni, the Sight First Seminar for Lion's Club members featured a comprehensive review of Vision Centre monitoring processes, with an in-depth presentation of data from January to November 2024, and centre-wise performance metrics. The programme was graced by Dr. A. Sashikumar, Lions District Governor. The programme featured various sessions led by internal experts from Aravind. Dr. Hema delivered the keynote address, Dr. Sreeramya presented on common eye diseases, and R. Meenakshi Sundram, Senior Manager, Clinical Services, Aravind-Madurai, spoke on the Lions' efforts to eliminate needless blindness. Additionally, a session on eye donation was handled by D. Saravanan, Manager, Aravind Integrated Eye Bank Services. Navenethan, the District Chairperson for Sight First, organised the seminar. A total of 60 Lions members actively participated.



Navenethan, District Chairperson for Sight First, delivering an introduction speech



R. Meenakshi Sundaram discussing the Lions' initiatives to eliminate avoidable blindness



Saravanan conducting a session on eye donation



Dr. Sreeramya presenting on common eye diseases

CME for Vision Centres

Aravind-Salem, 22nd December 2024

Organised by Aravind-Salem, the CME was conducted for Vision Centre staff, primarily focusing on strategic planning for 2025, emphasising the importance of outreach development and increasing the frequency of community camps. The event brought together VC In-charge MO doctors, and VC staff from various locations to share experiences and discuss action plans.

The morning session included a comprehensive overview of the VC teams' data presentation from January to November 2024, showcasing centre-wise performance metrics. Adhiparasakthi, Overall VC Training Coordinator, conducted a class on "How to Communicate with VC Nearby Sponsors," providing valuable guidance on sponsor communication. Rajathi, in charge of the Gandhigram VC, shared her valuable experience in managing vision centres, discussing key strategies for handling patients effectively while ensuring that no investigations were missed. The afternoon session involved the preparation of an action plan, developed with inputs from all VC staff to ensure that everyone's perspectives were considered. The event concluded with an interactive quiz on common diseases.



Mohana Sundram sharing insights during the CME for Vision Centre Staff



MLOPs attending a session via teleconferencing

CME on SICS & Phaco

Aravind-Salem, 21st December 2024

A specialised workshop on Small Incision Cataract Surgery (SICS) and Phacoemulsification (Phaco) Basics was organised by Aravind-Salem, focusing on providing comprehensive, practical knowledge on cataract surgery techniques. The programme offered valuable hands-on wet lab training to eye care professionals. Participants had the unique opportunity to enhance their skills through interactive sessions.



Dr. A. Saranya presenting her views at the CME on SICS & Phaco



Participants of the CME on SICS & Phaco with Dr. B. Manohar Babu (centre)

Fire Safety Awareness Class and Practical Drill

Aravind-Salem, 20th December 2024

A fire safety awareness session was conducted at Aravind-Salem, led by Sivakumar, District Fire Officer, Salem. The event included an informative class and a practical drill, aimed at enhancing the employees' knowledge of fire safety and preparedness. The class covered the importance of fire prevention, how to respond during an emergency, adopting proactive measures to minimise risks, and the various safety measures individuals can implement at home and in public spaces. The event raised awareness about fire hazards and how to protect themselves and others from dangers.



Sivakumar, District Fire Officer of Salem, conducting a fire safety awareness session



A demonstration of fire-extinguishing techniques



An MLOP receiving hands-on guidance from a fire safety officer during the training



Dr. B. Manohar Babu presenting a memento to the fire safety officer

LAICO

Needs Assessment Visit

Maharashtra, 8-10 January 2025

Dr. Kunal Mandlik, Medical Officer, Cornea and Refractive Surgery Services, Aravind-Pondicherry, and Sasipriya Karumanchi, Senior Faculty, LAICO, Madurai, visited Aurangabad Chikalthana Lions Eye Hospital (ACLEH, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, for a needs assessment. The primary objective of this visit was to evaluate the hospital's capacity to transition into a comprehensive eye care provider and identify gaps and opportunities for improvement. During the visit, the LAICO team interacted with the hospital's leadership, ophthalmologists, and staff, visited an outreach screening eye camp, and met with Lions leadership from the Aurangabad district. This visit was part of an LCIF-funded three-year project aimed at developing five Lions Eye Hospitals in tier 2 and 3 towns into comprehensive eye care providers.



Dr. Kunal Mandlik and Sasipriya Karumanchi with the Aurangabad Chikalthana Lions Eye Hospital team

Publications

- Sen S, Khalid H, Udaya P, Raman R, Rajendram R, ElHousseini Z, Nicholson L, Kannan NB, Ramasamy K, Kumaragurupari T. **Ultrastructural imaging biomarkers in diabetic macular edema: A major review.** Indian J Ophthalmol. 2025 Jan 1;73(Suppl 1):S7-S23. [View More](#)
- Kumawat D, Dave VP, Venkatesh P, Shanmugam MP, Nagpal M, Gupta V, Bhende PS, Babu N, Narayanan R, Shroff D; Macular Hole Survey Study Group. **Surgeon's perceptions and preferences in the management of idiopathic macular hole.** Indian J Ophthalmol. 2025 Jan 1;73(Suppl 1):S83-S87. [View More](#)
- Biju Mark J, Smit DP, Rajashree E, Rathinam SR. **Intermediate Uveitis: An Updated Review of the Differential Diagnosis and Relevant Special Investigations.** Ocul Immunol Inflamm. 2025 Jan 14;1:1-13. [Epub] [View More](#)
- Karpagavalli M, Sindal MD, Arunachalam JP, Chidambaram S. **miRNAs, piRNAs, and lncRNAs: A Triad of Non-Coding RNAs Regulating The Neurovascular Unit in Diabetic Retinopathy And Their Therapeutic Potentials.** Exp Eye Res. 2025 Jan 10;110236. [View More](#)
- Gupta S, Ravilla RD, Aravind H, Chandrashekhara S, Ravilla TD. **Changing patterns in cataract surgery indications, outcomes, and costs, 2012–2023: a retrospective study at Aravind Eye Hospitals, India.** Lancet Reg Health Southeast Asia. 2025 Feb. [Epub] [View More](#)

Training

Enrolments for January 2025		
Course title	Training Centre	No. of enrolments
Long Term Fellowship Programmes – For Ophthalmologists		
Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery	Coimbatore	1
Fellowship in Cornea	Madurai	3
	Pondicherry	1
Fellowship in General Ophthalmology	Coimbatore	2
	Theni	1
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Coimbatore	1
Fellowship in Medical Retina	Tirunelveli	1
Fellowship in Orbit & Oculoplasty	Coimbatore	1
	Madurai	1
Fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus	Coimbatore	2
Fellowship in Retina Vitreous	Tirunelveli	1
	Pondicherry	1
Fellowship in Uvea	Coimbatore	1
Short-Term Training Programmes – For Ophthalmologists		
Clinical Observership Program In Diagnosis and Management Of Glaucoma	Madurai	1

Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity and Paediatric Retinal Disorders	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	1
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	1
	Chennai	1
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Coimbatore	2
	Tirunelveli	1
	Pondicherry	2
	Chennai	1
HelpMeSee Simulation-based Training in MSICS	Madurai	1
Paramedical Courses		
Optical Dispensing	Madurai	1
Training for Orthoptist	Madurai	1
Eyebank Courses		
Training in Eye Bank Techniques	Madurai	1

Statistics

Patient Statistics – December 2024															
Hospitals	Total	Madurai	Tirunelveli	Theni	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Tirupur	Dindigul	Salem	Tuticorin	Udumalpet	CbeCC	Chennai	Tirupati	Kovilpatti
Hospital Out-patient visits															
Paying (New & Review)	2,52,682	58,459	30,189	8,886	36,147	23,431	5,525	9,222	12,676	5,443	4,036	4,959	39,108	11,310	3,291
Free: Direct walk-in (New & Review)	83,319	20,431	8,683	2,780	11,015	7,469	2,150	2,074	5,441	1,272	1,742	-	9,905	9,242	1,115
Outreach Out-patients															
Comprehensive Eye Camps	32,688	9,205	4,793	1,437	5,783	4,129	989	-	1,936	-	129	-	3,578	461	248
Diabetic Retinopathy Camps	1,926	1,201	107	276	251	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucoma Camps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refraction Camp	4,379	831	1,559	-	976	793	131	-	-	-	-	-	89	-	-
Mobile Refraction Unit	1,178	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,178	-	-	-	-	-	-
School Screening	3,316	595	491	427	318	349	-	-	120	-	-	-	479	537	-
Paediatric Eye screening camps	342	-	-	-	228	114	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RoP Screening	1,017	246	110	106	309	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	180	23	-
Vision Centres	83,504	28,954	15,233	6,271	6,603	15,125	1,961	-	4,013	-	1,957	-	3,387	-	-
Community / City Centres	19,045	9,421	2,852	2,389	-	2,707	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,150	526	-
Total OP Examinations	4,83,396	1,29,343	64,017	22,572	61,630	54,251	10,756	11,296	25,364	6,715	7,864	4,959	57,876	22,099	3,820
Total number of camps	184	45	28	9	35	18	4	-	13	-	2	-	24	4	2
Surgeries															
Cataract	28,561	6,841	3,428	1,143	4,603	2,445	629	732	2,186	413	612	296	3,664	1,238	331
*Other Surgeries	22,171	5,814	3,011	448	4,785	2,365	98	212	756	72	65	140	3,090	1,247	68
Total Surgeries	50,732	12,655	6,439	1,591	9,388	4,810	727	944	2,942	485	677	436	6,754	2,485	399

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

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January 2025

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