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Inauguration of Aurolab's Advanced Eye Drops Manufacturing Facility



Dr. G. Venkataswamy Memorial Oration and Award Ceremony 2025
Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai

Editorial

October marks the birth anniversary of Dr. G. Venkataswamy. During this time, Aravind conducts a series of events as part of the October Summit, a season of reflection and recommitment for every member of the Aravind family, honouring its visionary founder.

The Dr. G. Venkataswamy Oration Award for this year was conferred upon Dr. Leon B. Ellwein, a distinguished public health professional whose work significantly enhanced Aravind's capacity for population-based studies and fostered international collaborations that continue to guide its research initiatives.

As part of these occasions, Aravind honoured Mike Myers by organising a photography exhibition and a workshop for photographers, designers, counsellors and doctors. Mike, a dedicated volunteer from the USA, had been closely associated with Aravind since 1985. Initially visiting to improve the computer facilities, his growing passion for photography led him to play a pivotal role in strengthening the photography team of Aravind Communications. His passing last year in Madurai was a great loss, yet his motivation, guidance, and influence continue to inspire many. The events served as a heartfelt tribute to Mike's contributions, with members sharing memories and stories that revealed the depth of his remarkable personality.

Aurolab inaugurated its Advanced US FDA-Compliant Eye Drops Manufacturing Facility in Madurai, marking a major milestone in its commitment to advancing global eye care and supporting India's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision. The new 75,000 sq. ft. facility expands production capacity to 36 million bottles annually, reinforcing Aurolab's commitment to international quality standards, sustainability, and the Make in India initiative.

All this and more that took place during October 2025 are featured in this edition. Some stories may continue in the next issue.

Recognitions and Achievements

Awards at MOSCON 2025

Goa, 3-5 October 2025

Dr. Sujay Sanjay Jaju, PG Resident, Aravind–Coimbatore, won awards at the 45th Annual Conference of the Maharashtra Ophthalmological Society (MOSCON 2025) held in Goa.

- Best Paper of MOSCON 2025 – Cornea Session
  Title: *Clinical Utility of CRISPR-based RID-MyC Assay in Smear- and Culture-Negative Fungal Keratitis*
  Co-author: Dr. Siddharth Narendran
- Best Poster – Cataract Session
  Title: *Aborted Suprachoroidal Haemorrhage Presenting as Pseudomelanoma: Don't Get Psyched Out!*
  Co-authors: Dr. Angeetha M.R., Dr. Parag K. Shah
- Best Poster – Retina Session
  Title: *Comparing Safety and Efficacy of Bevacizumab, Ranibizumab, and Ranibizumab Biosimilar in ROP*
  Co-authors: Dr. Puja Maitra, Dr. Kushal Agrawal, Dr. Abhishek Das, Dr. Prema S, Dr. Narendran V, Dr. Parag K. Shah
- Adjudged Best Free Paper and Best Postgraduate (PG) Paper of MOSCON 2025

Dr. Kunal Mandlik, Medical Consultant, Cornea & Refractive Surgery Services, Aravind-Pondicherry, received an award for his presentation at the 45th Annual Conference of the Maharashtra Ophthalmological Society (MOSCON 2025), held in Goa.

Dr. G. Venkataswamy Endowment Award at the 26th Annual Conference - USICON 2025

Jammu, 3-5 October 2025

Dr. B. Manohar Babu, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Salem, was honoured with the prestigious Dr. G. Venkataswamy Endowment Award by the Uveitis Society of India at its 26th Annual Conference – USICON 2025, hosted by AIIMS Vijaypur, Jammu.

The award recognises his outstanding contributions to the field of Uveitis. Dr. Manohar delivered the special endowment lecture virtually on the title *"My Journey as an Ophthalmologist"*



Dr. B. Manohar Babu receiving the Dr. G. Venkataswamy Endowment Award at the 26th Annual Conference – USICON 2025

Dr. Vidya Ravi Memorial Award for Women Scientist

Trichy, 28th September 2025

Dr. Gowri Priya Chidambaranathan, Scientist, Immunology & Stem Cell Biology, AMRF, was honoured with the Dr. Vidya Ravi Memorial Award for Women Scientist for proving existence of stem cells in trabecular meshwork and its deficiency leading to glaucoma. The award was presented at the National Conference on Advances in Burns Treatment – Thermal and Radiation, held in Trichy.



Dr. Gowri Priya receiving the Dr. Vidya Ravi Memorial Award for Women Scientist at NCB 2025

2025 APACRS Certified Educator Award

Ahmedabad, 21-23 August 2025

Dr. Haripriya Aravind was honoured with the 2025 APACRS Certified Educator Award, at the 37th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (APACRS), held in Ahmedabad.



Dr. Haripriya Aravind receiving the 2025 APACRS Certified Educator Award

Awards at the 10th Annual Conference of Andhra Pradesh Ophthalmic Society

Guntur, 19-21 September 2025

Dr. Haripriya Aravind, Chief, IOL & Cataract Services, Aravind–Chennai, was honoured with the Dr. Sundararama Raju Cataract Lecture Medal 2025. She also received the awards for Best Scientific Presentation and Best Team in the Ophthalmic Premier League at the 10th Annual Conference of the Andhra Pradesh Ophthalmic Society- EyeCon Guntur 2025, held at Guntur.

Title: *How can we ensure high-quality eye care*



Aravind team receiving the Best Team Award in the Ophthalmic Premier League



Dr. Haripriya Aravind receiving the Dr. Sundararama Raju Cataract Lecture Medal 2025 at the 10th Annual Conference of the Andhra Pradesh Ophthalmic Society

Aravind Events

Vision Centre Skill Assessment

Aravind-Salem, 15-16 October 2025

A Vision Centre Skill Assessment was organised at Aravind-Salem for all Vision Centre staff. On the first day, nine Vision Centre Technicians participated in the skill assessment, followed by an evaluation session for Vision Centre Coordinators on the second day.

The sessions were conducted under the valuable guidance and support of Sr. Pitchimeena from Aravind-Madurai, whose expertise greatly enriched the training experience. The interactive assessments provided an opportunity for staff to refresh their knowledge, refine their practical skills, and gain a deeper understanding of various procedures and protocols followed at the Vision Centres.


An AOP explaining her job responsibilities to the examiner


An AOP's counselling skills being evaluated


An AOP's vision screening skills being assessed


Participants of the Vision Centre Skill Assessment

Distribution of Free Protective Glasses

Aravind-Pondicherry, 16th October 2025

Doctors and staff members of Aravind-Pondicherry visited Vidhya Bhavan School to educate children on safe cracker-bursting practices, first aid measures in case of an eye injury, and the importance of seeking timely medical advice.

As part of the initiative to distribute 23,600 free protective glasses in collaboration with Keralink International, they provided free protective glasses to all the schoolchildren, taking one more step toward promoting eye safety during the festive season.

Diwali Awareness Campaign

Aravind-Coimbatore, 17-18 October 2025

The Department of Paediatric Ophthalmology at Aravind-Coimbatore organised an awareness campaign for the general public to highlight the importance of eye safety while celebrating Diwali with crackers. The campaign featured posters, awareness videos, and interactive sessions where AOPs patiently addressed public queries. Children enthusiastically took part in drawing and colouring activities, learning the importance of celebrating a safe and eco-friendly Deepavali. With the growing number of cracker-related ocular injuries reported each year, this initiative by Aravind aims to ensure that everyone celebrates a safe and green Diwali


Doctors and AOPs at the Diwali Awareness Campaign, with posters highlighting the importance of eye safety

Exploring Orbitology: Orbital Infections and Inflammation

Aravind-Pondicherry, 26th October 2025

Organised by Aravind-Pondicherry, the programme offered a day of rich academic learning and hands-on experience, blended theory and practice.

The sessions were graced by eminent keynote speakers, Dr. Usha Kim, who delivered an insightful talk on Non-Specific Orbital Inflammation: A Broad Spectrum and Its Management, and Dr. Milind N. Naik, Consultant Ophthalmic Plastic Surgeon, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, who elaborated on Specific Orbital Inflammations: Thyroid Eye Disease Spectrum and Management.

Other engaging sessions included presentations by Dr. Kalaiselvi Rain on Anatomy of the Orbit, Dr. Sangeetha on Preseptal Cellulitis, Dr. Rajalakshmi A. R. on Orbital Cellulitis, Dr. Bhagwati Wadwekar on Complications of Orbital Infections, and Dr. Jai Kishore on Imaging in Orbital Inflammations.

An interactive Kahoot quiz added excitement to the learning experience, with Dr. Drashti, Dr. Sanjana, and Dr. Rajalakshmi securing the first, second, and third prizes, respectively.

The day concluded with a cinematic 3D experience featuring live demonstrations of orbital surgeries by Dr. Jayagayathri, Chief, Orbit, Oculoplasty & Ocular Oncology Services, and Dr. Dayakar Yadalla, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Pondicherry. The event ended with a hands-on wet lab session, providing participants with an invaluable opportunity for skill enhancement.



A thematic kolam welcoming the participants


Doctors from Aravind-Pondicherry with Dr. Milind N. Naik and Dr. Usha Kim at the CME



Dr. R. Venkatesh welcoming the gathering and setting the context



Dr. Usha Kim leading a session on Management of Nonspecific Orbital Inflammatory Disease


A hands-on wet lab session


Dr. Dayakar Yadalla and Dr. Jayagayathri presenting the prize to the quiz winner


Participants of the CME on Exploring Orbitology: Orbital Infections and Inflammation

Pre-Diwali Writathon October 2025

Aravind-Pondicherry, 17th October 2025

The Pre-Diwali Writathon October 2025 commenced at Aravind-Pondicherry, celebrating writing, learning, and knowledge-sharing. The event received over 30 submissions, including articles, videos, case reports, case series, image essays, letters to the editor, and clinical images, all contributed by enthusiastic participants. The best works have been sent for acceptance and publication in prestigious journals.


Doctors engaging in scientific writing during the Writathon event


Participants of the Pre-Diwali Writathon October 2025

An Insightful and Inspiring Talk

Aravind-Pondicherry, 23rd October 2025

Preeti Srinivasan, Founder of Soulfree Inspired Centre, delivered a deeply motivational talk at Aravind-Pondicherry, sharing her remarkable journey of courage and transformation. A prodigy in sports, Preeti became the youngest member of the Tamil Nadu Senior Women's Cricket Team at just eight years old. At 18, a tragic accident left her paralysed below the neck, yet she turned adversity into purpose. In 2013, she founded India's





first integrated spinal rehabilitation centre, offering a holistic framework for recovery that integrates art, music, and dance therapy, helping individuals rediscover joy and independence.

Her session highlighted the power of resilience, self-belief, and purpose-driven living. It inspired everyone to rise above challenges and contribute meaningfully to society, reminding the audience that true strength lies in the mind and spirit.


Preeti Srinivasan delivering a motivational session


Dr. S. Kavitha presenting a memento to the chief guest Preeti Srinivasan, in the presence of Dr. R. Venkatesh

Ikshana – Comprehensive Capsule for Postgraduates (Phase 1)

Aravind-Chennai, 14-18 October 2025

The fourth batch of Ikshana – Comprehensive Capsule for Postgraduates (Phase 1) was organised by Aravind–Chennai at the ARCORE Training Centre. This five-day programme aimed to equip postgraduates with a strong foundation in both theoretical knowledge and practical surgical skills. A key highlight of the programme was the guest lecture delivered by Dr. V. R. Roopesh Kumar, MS, MCh, Director of Neurosurgery, MGM Healthcare, Chennai, on "Compressive Lesions of Visual Pathways – IIHT." A total of 40 postgraduate participants attended the programme, representing a wide range of institutions from across India, including Trivandrum, Ranchi, Guntur, Kozhikode, Yadavapura, Bagalkot, Gujarat, Hyderabad, Udaipur, and Puducherry, along with postgraduates from Aravind–Chennai.


Dr. V.R. Roopesh Kumar leading a session



An insightful session by Dr. C. Akila


A peer-learning session


A hands-on training session


A wet-lab training session


Dr. Bina John presenting a memento to a participant


Participants of the Ikshana - Comprehensive Capsule for Postgraduates

Diwali CME 2025: Empowering Excellence through Discipline and Professionalism

Aravind-Salem, 8-11 October 2025

Organised by Aravind-Salem, the Diwali CME 2025 programme served as a refresher course aimed at boosting morale, fostering teamwork, and reinforcing professional values among the staff. The sessions covered a range of practical and behavioural topics, including, Discipline and Dress Code: emphasising punctuality, uniform standards, and workplace ethics; Telephonic Conversation Etiquette: promoting effective, polite, and professional communication; Patience in the Workplace: highlighting the importance of calmness, empathy, and mindfulness in patient care and teamwork; Good Manners and Behaviour: encouraging respect, courtesy, and positive interpersonal interactions; Sterilisation Protocols: reinforcing best practices to maintain hygiene and patient safety; and Equipment Handling: ensuring the safe and efficient use of medical instruments. Each session was highly interactive, encouraging active participation and discussion, thereby strengthening the collective commitment to excellence across the organisation.


I. Seran conducting a session on behavioural practices

Glaucoma Retreat

Aravind-Tirunelveli, 11-12 October 2025

The Glaucoma Retreat, organised at Aravind–Tirunelveli, aimed to provide a comprehensive platform for sharing knowledge, reviewing current practices, and exploring newer developments in the management of glaucoma. The programme brought together medical consultants, glaucoma clinic managers, coordinators, and AOPs for two days of insightful learning and discussion. Participants were divided into four groups to discuss key focus areas: research, improving patient care, and strengthening training programmes. The sessions were facilitated by Dhivya Ramasamy, Executive Director, LAICO, and B. Udayakumar, Senior Faculty, LAICO. The group discussions encouraged the exchange of ideas and addressed practical challenges faced in clinical settings. The two-day event concluded with a feedback session, during which participants outlined an action plan with specific goals, designated responsibilities, and clear timelines.



A thematic kolam at the Glaucoma Retreat 2025


Ceremonial lamp lighting marking the inauguration


Dr. R. Ramakrishnan setting the context for the retreat


Dr. Mohideen Abdul Khadar welcoming the gathering


Participants engaging in a group discussion to exchange ideas


Participant interaction during a session


B. Udayakumar facilitating a discussion


Participants of the Glaucoma Retreat 2025

World Sight Day 2025

9th October 2025

World Sight Day was observed across all Aravind-Centres to raise public awareness on the importance of protecting the gift of sight.

Aravind-Madurai

A rally was held with participation from AOPs, starting from the Gandhi Museum and concluding at Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai. G.S. Anitha, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Madurai North, flagged off the rally in the presence of Dr. R. Kim, CMO, Aravind–Madurai, Dr. S.R. Krishnadas, Senior Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Dr. Manoranjan Das, Medical Consultant, Cornea Services, Aravind-Madurai, Ramanathan, PRO, Aravind-Madurai, and D. Saravanan, Manager, Eye Bank, Aravind–Madurai.

In connection with World Sight Day, an eye care awareness exhibition was organised, featuring educational posters and models focused on eye health, with approximately 1,000 visitors exploring the exhibits. Additionally, a Q&A session was conducted to promote awareness among patients and their attendants.

An orientation programme on the Hospital Cornea Retrieval Programme (HCRP) was conducted at Railway Hospital, Madurai, with the participation of 20 doctors and nurses.

An eye care awareness session was organised at The American College, Madurai, attended by approximately 150 students and faculty members. Dr. Leenu led a session on "Eye Care and Its Importance".

An eye screening camp was conducted at the Collectorate, Madurai, to raise awareness among the office staff. K.J. Praveenkumar, IAS, District Collector, Madurai inaugurated the workplace screening camp. A total of 122 staff members were screened, 76 were diagnosed with various eye problems and counselled for further interventions.


G.S. Anitha, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Madurai North, flagging off the awareness rally


AOPs participating in the rally, spreading messages on the importance of protecting one's vision


Staff members from the Collectorate taking part in an eye screening camp



A doctor conducting an eye examination at the Collectorate, Madurai


D. Saravanan highlighting the importance of HCRP and the role of healthcare professionals in promoting eye donation


Launch of the Eye Donation Helpline Number


An eye care awareness exhibition


An orientation programme on the Hospital Cornea Retrieval Programme (HCRP) at The American College, Madurai

Aravind-Coimbatore

The Paediatric Department of Aravind–Coimbatore, in collaboration with Ajanta Pharma, organised a drawing competition to celebrate World Sight Day. Children from the Paediatric Department and Crèche participated enthusiastically, showcasing their creativity and raising awareness about eye care.


A child participating in a drawing competition as part of the World Sight Day event at Aravind-Coimbatore


Children receiving gifts in appreciation of their beautiful drawings at Aravind-Coimbatore

Aravind-Pondicherry

To mark the global occasion of World Sight Day, Aravind–Pondicherry organised a drawing competition and a rangoli contest with enthusiastic participation from paediatric patients and AOPs. The AOPs also took centre stage in the enquiry area, performing an engaging flash drama to raise awareness about eye health and the importance of timely care.


An engaging flash drama performed by AOPs


Drawing competition for Crèche children


Rangoli competition for AOPs


Children receiving prizes for their outstanding artworks

Sponsors Day 2025

Aravind-Madurai, 9th October 2025

A felicitation programme was organised as part of the World Sight Day celebrations, to honour sponsors and social service organisations for their contributions to eye camps.. Dr. R. Kim welcomed the gathering, and R. Meenakshi Sundaram, Senior Manager, Clinical Services, Aravind-Madurai, highlighted the contributions of service organisations and the need to strengthen community eye care services in the future. K.J. Praveenkumar, IAS, District Collector, Madurai, felicitated representatives of various social organisations and volunteers for their commendable service in eye care. Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman, Aravind Eye Care System (AECS), spoke about Aravind's contribution to eliminating needless blindness. Dr. G. Natchiar, Director Emeritus, AECS, appreciated community leaders for their invaluable support in achieving the mission and vision. Professor K. Gnanasambandan, a renowned Tamil scholar and multidisciplinary expert, delivered a special address, motivating leaders to inculcate eye health–seeking behaviour in their communities. Around 600 participants, including members of various Lions Clubs, social organisations, and volunteers, attended the programme.


R. Meenakshi Sundaram and Dhivya Ramasamy with the camp sponsors


Camp organisers and sponsors at the World Sight Day Eye Care Awareness Exhibition


K.J. Praveenkumar, IAS, District Collector, Madurai, being received with a bouquet by Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna



Dr. G. Natchiar delivering the felicitation address


Dr. R. D. Ravindran presenting on Aravind's role in preventing needless blindness


Professor K. Gnanasambandan delivering a special address, captivating the audience with his witty and eloquent speech


A camp sponsor sharing his thoughts during the felicitation event



Dr. S. Lalitha Prajna delivering the vote of thanks

Cortical Visual Impairment Awareness Month - September

Aravind-Tirunelveli, September 2025

In observance of Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) Awareness Month, the Low Vision Department, Aravind–Tirunelveli, organised a series of academic and outreach events throughout the month.

During the first week, an informative session on "Cortical Visual Impairment" was conducted by Dr. A. Fathima, Medical Consultant, Paediatric Ophthalmology & Adult Strabismus Services, Aravind–Tirunelveli, for postgraduates and fellows.

In the second week, a webinar was held featuring a series of expert talks. Dr. A. Fathima spoke on "The Hidden Causes of CVI." Dr. Pradeep Subramanian presented "Prevention, Early Identification, and Referral of CVI: A Paediatrician's Perspective." Dr. Sandra Ganesh shared insights on "Practical Insights into CVI," and Dr. B. Sahithya discussed "Assessment Tools for Functional Vision in CVI." The final session was delivered by special educator Jeeva, who spoke on "A Holistic Approach: Intervention for Children with CVI."

A total of 78 participants, including consultants, postgraduates, fellows from various eye hospitals, and staff from the Low Vision Department, attended the sessions.

Additionally, a quiz competition was organised, coordinated by Dr. Fathima and Dr. Shruthi Krishna. Dr. Kalyani won the 1st Prize, while Dr. Lava Sowmiya and Dr. Preethi secured the 2nd and 3rd Prizes, respectively.



A session by Dr. A. Fathima on "Cortical Visual Impairment," providing valuable insights into its causes, identification, and management, particularly in children



Dr. A. Fathima presenting the winner's prize to Dr. Kalyani, who won 1st place in the quiz competition organised by the Low Vision Department

Hospital Day Celebrations

Aravind–Chennai, 11th October 2025

Aravind-Chennai celebrated its 8th Hospital Day with great joy and pride. The theme for this year was "Infinity," symbolising limitless growth and possibilities. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Sunil Paliwal, IAS, and the Guest of Honour was Dr. R.D. Ravindran. The event began with a Welcome Address by Dr. Aravind Srinivasan, CMO, Aravind-Chennai. A tribute video was screened in memory of Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, AECS, honouring his lasting legacy and visionary leadership. The Annual Report for the year was presented by Dr. Bina John, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Chennai, highlighting the hospital's milestones and achievements. A special video on the launch of the Innovation Lab -"eyeRIS," was also unveiled. Service Awards for 5, 15, 20, and 30 years of service, along with 100% Attendance Awards, were presented to deserving staff members. The hospital's academic excellence was recognised through the Research Publication Awards. Additionally, there were cultural performances, showcasing the creativity and teamwork of staff across all cadres through various art forms. The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Varuna Abinethri, Medical Consultant, Aravind–Chennai.



Dr. Bina John presenting the annual report



Chief Guest Sunil Paliwal delivering his address



Service award presented to a staff member



A cultural performance by AOPs

Aravind-Dindigul, 10th October 2025

The 15th Annual Day of Aravind–Dindigul began with a welcome address by Dr. Sandeep Balaji, Medical Officer, Aravind–Dindigul. The annual report was presented by Dr. Rahul Ramesh, Medical Officer, Aravind–Dindigul. Dr. R. Kim, Dr. Usha Kim, Chief, Orbit and Oculoplasty Services, Aravind–Madurai, and the Chief Guest, Dr. Vinothini Parthiban, IAS, Dindigul, delivered special addresses. This was followed by talks from Chandrakumar, RMO, Indian Overseas Bank, and Ilamathi, Meyor, Dindigul. Awards were presented to staff members in recognition of their years of dedicated service. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by D. Kumaresan, Manager, Aravind–Dindigul.



Dr. Rahul Ramesh presenting the annual report



Service awards presented to employees

Aravind-Kovilpatti, 20th September 2025

The 6th Hospital Day of Aravind–Kovilpatti was observed in a simple and solemn manner as a mark of deep respect for Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, who recently passed away. Staff members from Aravind–Kovilpatti and a few from Aravind–Tirunelveli gathered to pay homage, reflecting on his extraordinary vision and compassionate leadership. The celebration began with the presentation of the annual report by Dr. Sarveswaran, Medical Consultant, Aravind–Kovilpatti, followed by a two-minute silence in memory of Dr. P. Namperumalsamy. Dr. R. Ramakrishnan and Dr. R. Meenakshi congratulated the Kovilpatti staff for their dedication in their addresses. The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Dr. Suganya, Medical Consultant, Aravind–Kovilpatti.



Dr. R. Ramakrishnan congratulating staff members for their dedication and commitment to work



Dr. Sarveswaran presenting the annual report



Participants and staff coming together to celebrate the 6th Hospital Day at Aravind–Kovilpatti



Aravind–Kovilpatti staff warmly welcoming the invitees during the Hospital Day event

Madurai Corporation Signs MoU with Aravind Eye Hospital for Free Student Eye Check-ups

Madurai, 13th October 2025

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai, and Madurai City Corporation to benefit nearly 17,000 students studying in Corporation schools across the district. The MoU was formally exchanged between Chitra Vijayan, Corporation Commissioner, and Dr. P. Vijayalakshmi, Chief, Paediatric Ophthalmology Services, Aravind–Madurai.

In previous years, free eye check-ups and diagnoses were conducted, but in a random and irregular manner. To make this initiative more systematic and sustainable, the MoU ensures that free eye examinations will be conducted for students in 64 Corporation schools over the next five years. In addition, free spectacles will be provided to students who require them. By reaching students directly, the collaboration aims to broaden the scope of early detection of eye problems.



Madurai Corporation signs MoU with Aravind Eye Hospital: Chitra Vijayan, Corporation Commissioner, and Dr. P. Vijayalakshmi during the formal exchange

Sight First Seminar 2025–2026

Aravind-Pondicherry, 12th October 2025

Organised by Lions International District 3241G, the Sight First Seminar 2025–2026 was held at Aravind–Pondicherry, bringing together nearly 175 dedicated Lions members from Pondicherry, Cuddalore, and Villupuram districts. Distinguished guests included, MJF Ln N.R. Ravichandran, District Chairperson, PMJF Ln G. Kamal Kumar Bothra, District Vision Coordinator, and PMJF Lion Dr. Er. K. Rajasubramaniyam, District Governor. The gathering was honoured by an inspiring address from PMJF Lion Er. K. Subhas Chandra Bose, Immediate Past District Governor, and keynote remarks by Dr. Dayakar Yadalla, Camp Medical Officer, Aravind-Pondicherry, on behalf of Dr. R. Venkatesh, CMO, Aravind–Pondicherry. Eminent past District Governors and regional chairpersons also shared motivational talks.

Firecracker Injury Awareness Week

Aravind-Pondicherry

Aravind–Pondicherry, in association with KERALINK, and Rock Beach, Pondicherry, inaugurated the Firecracker Injury Awareness Week to promote a safe and injury-free Diwali celebration. The event was inaugurated by M. Kandasamy, Commissioner, Pondicherry Municipality, in the presence of Dr. S. Josephine Christy, Chief, Cornea Services, Aravind-Pondicherry, Sashi Karumanchi, India Country Director, KERALINK, Dr. Frederick Mouttapa, Medical Consultant, Paediatric Ophthalmology & Adult Strabismus Services, Aravind-Pondicherry, Dr. Kunthavai Abirami, Medical Officer, Aravind-Madurai, and the residents of Aravind–Pondicherry. There were artworks

made from recycled materials beautifully conveyed the message of celebrating a safe and eco-friendly Diwali. A firecracker safety quiz was being conducted throughout the week, with winners receiving protective safety glasses. Children participated enthusiastically, sharing creative safety slogans and proudly winning their prizes.


Inauguration of Firecracker Injury Awareness Week


Artworks made from recycled materials on display


Children and parents participating in a firecracker safety quiz


Aravind–Pondicherry team at the fire safety awareness event

Arangam – Aravind Intramural Conference

Aravind-Madurai, 9th October 2025

The Arangam – Aravind Intramural Conference, held as part of October Summit 2025, fostered a culture of learning, continuous improvement, and innovation among staff.

This year, over 484 submissions were received from all Aravind centres, organised into four dynamic tracks. The CARE Track focused on operations, process improvements, patient satisfaction, the FOCUS Track on refraction, orthoptics, biometry, spectacles, contact lenses, low vision care, the HEAL Track on clinical processes, case reports, clinical studies, and the TRAIN Track on teaching, training, skill transfer, audiovisual production. The event included instructional courses and competitions such as oral and poster presentations, video sessions, and quizzes. A total of 239 innovative presentations were showcased, with 63 participants winning prizes. In addition to competitive events, participants engaged with learning stalls and poster exhibits, promoting interdisciplinary learning and innovation.


Dr. Usha Kim moderating a session under the TRAIN Track


Oral presentation by an AOP


Pannel disscussion at FOCUS Track


An oral presentation during the session


A special talk by writer Shah Jahan


AOPs displaying their innovations through posters


An AOP presenting her department's innovative practice


Dr. G. Natchiar reviewing the poster displays

Nan Uyir Kaavalan – Road Safety Campaign

Aravind-Coimbatore, 9th October 2025

As part of the Nan Uyir Kaavalan campaign, an accident-free Coimbatore initiative by the Government of Tamil Nadu and various NGOs, a mass pledge was organised at Aravind–Coimbatore. Doctors, AOPs, admin staff, patients, and visitors participated in the pledge, showing their support for road safety and accident prevention. The event aimed to raise awareness about following traffic rules and making Coimbatore a safer city for everyone.


Doctors, AOPs, admin staff, patients, and visitors pledging support for road safety and accident prevention

Book Fair

Aravind–Coimbatore, 3–4 October 2025

In commemoration of Founder's Day and the 50th year of Aravind, the Library team of Aravind–Coimbatore conducted its annual Book Exhibition, collaborating with the New Century Book House, Coimbatore.

In an age dominated by smartphones, tablets, and constant digital distractions, around 500 individuals, especially AOPs and children, immersed themselves in the joy of reading. In alignment with this year's World Library theme, "Drawn to the Library," the event served as a powerful reminder that books continue to inspire, inform, and bring people together.


Children reading books at the event


Visitors exploring the book exhibition at Aravind–Coimbatore

Mike Myers Memorial Photography Competition and Exhibition

Aravind-Madurai, 4-7 October 2025

The Aravind Communication Department organised a photography exhibition to honour Mike Myers, an Aravind volunteer and photography consultant who passed away on 4th October 2024. The exhibition showcased portraits of Mike, photographs taken by him, the best works of Aravind photographers, ophthalmology images featured on journal covers, and memorable moments capturing Aravind's journey. The inaugural event, held on the first day of the exhibition, began with a special address by Thulasiraj Ravilla, who shared his personal connection with Mike and spoke about Mike's contributions to Aravind. Dr. R. Venkatesh joined virtually and shared memories of Mike's visits to Aravind–Pondicherry, while Dr. R. Kim highlighted Mike's dedication and professionalism. The Chief Guest, Bharathy, a professional photographer, shared his experiences with Mike and conducted a session for Aravind photographers. Dr. T.P. Vignesh, Medical Consultant, Retina–Vitreous Services, Aravind–Madurai, delivered a presentation on ophthalmic imaging. Additionally, Aravind photographers presented videos of their best works and reflected on their personal memories of Mike.









Bharathy, professional photographer, inaugurating the Mike Myers Memorial Photography Exhibition

Ceremonial lamp lighting marking the opening

The chief guest observing the photo displays

Staff members viewing ophthalmic photographs on exhibit



Thulasiraj Ravilla sharing fond memories and reflections on Mike's contributions



Bharathy recounting his experiences with Mike



Dr. T.P. Vignesh presenting on ophthalmic imaging



Aravind photographers and AVD staff with the chief guest Bharathy

The Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop on Vision Centre Skill Assessment

Aravind-Madurai, 4th October 2025

Organised by Aravind-Madurai, the workshop marked an important milestone in Aravind's ongoing efforts to enhance the quality and performance of Vision Centre services across its growing network. Planned, coordinated, and facilitated by the Central Office Vision Centre (VC) team, the programme focused on equipping participants with the knowledge, tools, and methodologies required to conduct skill assessments locally. Participants were also trained to mentor and evaluate Vision Centre teams, ensuring consistent quality standards in service delivery.

The workshop brought together 25 participants, including Assessors, Senior Vision Technicians, and Vision Centre Clinical Coordinators from Madurai, Theni, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, Pondicherry, Salem, and Chennai.

The programme emphasised that the rapid expansion of Vision Centres necessitates decentralising the assessment process and conducting evaluations directly at the respective base hospitals. This approach aimed to build local capacity for regular training, skill assessment, and certification of Vision Centre personnel.

Participants expressed confidence in implementing the new model, which was expected to strengthen capacity at the base level, ensure continuous skill development, and further improve the quality and effectiveness of Vision Centre services across the Aravind network.

Prior to the workshop, two virtual meetings with Vision Centre in-charge staff were conducted to identify specific training and assessment needs, helping to tailor the workshop content to real-world challenges.

As a next step, the Central Team would be providing follow-up support, including the deployment of a senior trainer at each base hospital to guide the first round of decentralised skill assessments.



Dr. Kowsalya stating the objectives of the meeting



Prof. Damrita conducting a session on the importance of skill assessment



Mohamed Gowth presenting on the need for continuous skill assessment and upgradation in vision centres



Skill assessment on slit lamp examination



A session by Sr. Pitchaimeena assessing the participants' skills



Sr. Sangeetha briefing participants on how to conduct a skill assessment



Participants of the Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop



Participants visiting the Eyedeas Lab

Dr. G. Venkataswamy Oration Award - 2025

Aravind-Madurai, 30th September 2025

The Dr. G. Venkataswamy Oration is organised annually to celebrate the legacy of Dr. G. Venkataswamy, honouring individuals who have made significant contributions toward eliminating needless blindness in communities.

This year, the Oration Award was conferred on Dr. Leon B. Ellwein, a public health professional recognising his contributions to epidemiology and operations research in vision health. Dr. Ellwein has held leadership roles at the National Eye Institute (NEI) as Associate Director for Applications of Vision Research, and served as Professor and Associate Dean at the University of Nebraska Medical Centre. Dr. Ellwein delivered the Dr. G. Venkataswamy Memorial Oration on the topic "Research to Give Sight for All".

Dr. R. Ravindran recalled the contributions of Dr. G. Venkataswamy to the world of eye care. Thulsiraj Ravilla, Advisor, Director-Operations, AECS, and Dhivya Ramasamy, Executive Director, LAICO, introduced Dr. Ellwein. The award was presented by Dr. R. Kim, President, GOVEL Trust, in the presence of Dr. G. Natchiar.

Dr. Ellwein's collaboration with Aravind began in the early 1980s with community-based research aimed at improving cataract care delivery. He later played a pivotal role in the landmark Madurai Intraocular Lens Study (MIOLS). These initiatives helped build Aravind's capacity for population-based studies and facilitated international collaborations that continue to guide Aravind's research.



Thulasiraj Ravilla honouring Dr. Leon B. Ellwein with a garland



Dr. R.D. Ravindran highlighting Aravind's contributions in his address



Thulasiraj Ravilla introducing the awardee



Dhivya Ramasamy reading the citation



Dr. G. Natchiar presenting the oration award to Dr. Leon B. Ellwein



Thulasiraj Ravilla and Dr. G. Natchiar presenting the citation to Dr. Leon B. Ellwein



Dr. Leon B. Ellwein delivering his oration on "Research to Give Sight for All"



A cultural performance by doctors

Tvisha: Bloom Within

Aravind-Chennai, 30th September 2025

This wellbeing programme for AOPs was thoughtfully designed to help participants pause, reflect, and rediscover themselves beyond their professional roles. Named "Tvisha", derived from Sanskrit meaning light, brilliance, and radiance, the programme was rooted in the daily realities of AOPs' on-field work. Sessions addressed the challenges of balancing home, children, work, patient care, and personal well-being. Through interactive discussions and activities, participants explored work–life balance, time awareness, emotional well-being, and self-care, leading to heartfelt reflections on better time management and life balance.

The workshop was conducted by Ramya, who holds a Master's degree in Counselling Psychology from Monash University, Australia, and is the co-founder of Bridgeable, a philanthropic consultancy.


An interactive group activity during a session


Dr. Haripriya Aravind presenting a memento to Ramya



Participants of Tvisha: Bloom Within, a well-being programme

Vision Centre CME

Aravind-Tirunelveli, 28th September 2025

Organised by Aravind-Tirunelveli for the staff of Vision Centres, Community Centre, Sankarankoil, and Secondary Centres, Tuticorin and Kovilpatti, the programme aimed to enhance knowledge and skills, update participants on recent developments in clinical practices, and reinforce the importance of quality eye care delivery in the community.

The programme began with Lakshmi R, Manager HR, welcoming the gathering, followed by Dr. R.T. Haridas, Medical Consultant in charge of Vision Centres, setting the context. Dr. R. Meenakshi appreciated and congratulated the staff for their excellent work. The CME featured interactive sessions by eminent faculty, with separate sessions for technicians and coordinators, providing practical insights, case-based discussions, and opportunities to clarify doubts. The programme served as a platform to share experiences, standardise practices, and strengthen teamwork across different centres.


Dr. R. Meenakshi addressing the AOPs during the Vision Centre CME


Dr. R.T. Haridas setting the context for the sessions



Sivaram, Optometrist from Essilor India Pvt. Ltd., conducting a session


Dr. J. Divya engaging participants in a case-based discussion


A participatory session for AOPs


A hands-on learning session in progress


Participants of the Vision Centre CME

Mike Myers Memorial Event: Digital Storytelling in Health Communication:

LAICO, 26th September 2025

Organised by the Aravind Communications Team, the workshop on Digital Storytelling in Health Communications held at LAICO, featured a session by Dana Berger, Creative Director and Documentarian from the USA. Around 30 participants from across the Aravind centres took part, including videographers, video editors, photographers, graphic designers, instructional designers, doctors, and counsellors. This one-day workshop provided valuable insights into the role of digital storytelling in health care communication.



Syed Ali welcoming the gathering


Dana Berger conducting a hands-on session on Digital Storytelling in Health Communications


A hands-on activity in progress


Participants of the Digital Storytelling Workshop

World Patient Safety Day Awareness Event

Aravind-Salem, 23rd September 2025

In observance of World Patient Safety Day, Aravind–Salem organised an awareness event with enthusiastic participation from all departments, including AOPs, admin staff, security personnel, drivers, and the facility coordinator. The event reflected a collective commitment to fostering a safer environment for both patients and caregivers.

The session was led by Dr. B. Manohar Babu, CMO, Aravind-Salem, and I. Seran, Manager, Aravind-Salem, who delivered insightful talks on the importance of patient safety. They shared consolidated incident reports and valuable patient feedback, highlighting key areas for improvement and successful safety practices already in place.

As part of the programme, an educational video was screened, showcasing best practices in the workplace. The video covered essential Do's and Don'ts related to patient handling, hygiene protocols, emergency response, and effective communication, aiming to instil a safety-first mindset among all staff members.


Dr. B. Manohar Babu delivering an insightful talk on patient safety



I. Seran leading a session highlighting key areas for improvement

Inauguration of Eye Gym, Vision-Skills Training Lab & Myopia control clinic

Aravind-Tirunelveli, 15th September 2025

The "Eye Gym" is a specialised facility to diagnose, treat vision disorders like amblyopia ("lazy eye") and binocular vision anomalies. It features state-of-the-art tools such as the Orthoptek Magnocellular Stimulator, virtual reality game-based therapy (Bee Vee), and dichoptic therapy (BYNOCS), plus manual and in-house device-based techniques.

The Vision-skills training lab, within the Vision Rehabilitation Clinic, provides Digital Resources where visually impaired patients develop computer competency and are trained to use advanced assistive technologies such as Smart Vision Glasses and Aura Vision Glasses. It featured a professional kitchen setup where such patients acquire everyday life skills. There was also a specialised Vision stimulation therapy unit offering tailored therapeutic

activities designed to stimulate residual or emerging sight, particularly for visually impaired children, to support neuroplasticity and enhance visual function.

The "Myopia Control Clinic" was also equipped with advanced diagnostic tools to monitor progression precisely. It offers evidence-based interventions such as low-dose atropine drops, Myopia Control spectacle lenses (e.g. Miyo Smart, Myocare, Stellest). Lifestyle guidance would also be given.


R. Sukumar, District Collector, Tirunelveli, inaugurating the Eye Gym lab


Ceremonial lamp lighting at the inauguration


Dr. R. Meenakshi demonstrating the activities of the new Vision Skills Training Lab to the chief guest


Dr. A. Fathima explaining key functions of the lab

AMRF

Three-Day Workshop on "Extracellular Vesicles: Biology and Applications"

AMRF, 6-8 October 2025

As part of the October Summit 2025, a three-day workshop on "Extracellular Vesicles: Biology and Applications" was organised at AMRF. The workshop included hands-on training on, Isolation of EVs from plasma and commercial milk using ultracentrifugation.

EV characterisation using Nanoparticle Tracking Analysis (NTA), Protein isolation and profiling by SDS-PAGE, Marker evaluation through Western blotting, and A demonstration session was held on mass spectrometry for EV proteomic analysis.

Guest lectures were delivered by Dr. Jitendra Shandilya, Application Specialist, Beckman Coulter on flow cytometry, and Dr. Sebastian Raja, Application Specialist, Leica, on confocal microscopy. During the inaugural session, Prof. K. Dharmalingam, Director, Research, AMRF, highlighted the emerging importance of EV research in diagnostics and therapeutics. Talks were also delivered by Dr. Gowripriya, Senior Scientist, on EVs in regenerative medicine, Dr. Bharanidharan, Scientist, on EV-derived microRNAs in host–pathogen interactions, and Dr. Daipayan Banerjee, Scientist, on EVs as biomarkers in diabetic retinopathy. The workshop concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony, where Prof. Dharmalingam encouraged participants to pursue further research in this rapidly evolving field. The workshop brought together 16 participants, including faculty members, Ph.D. scholars, and M.Sc. students from 11 institutions across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Telangana.


Prof. K. Dharmalingam highlighting the emerging role of EV research in diagnostics and therapeutics


A hands-on training session in progress


Prof. K. Dharmalingam presenting certificates to participants


Participants of the Workshop on "Extracellular Vesicles: Biology and Applications"

Aurolab

Inauguration of Aurolab's Advanced Eye Drops Manufacturing Facility

Aurolab, 5th October 2025

Aurolab inaugurated its Advanced US FDA-Compliant Eye Drops Manufacturing Facility, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to strengthen global eye care and support India's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision. Dr. V. Aantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India, formally inaugurated the state-of-the-art facility. The new 75,000 sq. ft. unit in Madurai enhances production capacity to 36 million bottles annually, reinforcing Aurolab's standards of international quality, sustainability, and "Make in India" commitment.

The inaugural event began with R. Krishna Kumar, Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs, Aurolab, welcoming the gathering. In his address, Dr. V. Aantha Nageswaran commended Aravind for hiring local talent while reaching global heights. The guest of honour, Shri M. V. Muthuramalingam, Founder-Chairman, Velammal Educational Trust, shared that he has drawn inspiration from Dr. G. Venkataswamy. R.D. Sriram, Managing Director, Aurolab, spoke on Aurolab's establishment in 1992 and its evolution. Venkatesa Kannan, Head, Pharmaceutical Division, discussed the growth of the pharmaceutical division. S. Aravind, Secretary, Aurolab Trust & Director of New Projects, outlined Aurolab's vision, and Thulasiraj Ravilla, highlighted the objectives of Aurolab.

The event was also attended by Dr. G. Natchiar, Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman, AECS, N. Venkatesh Prajna, Director Finance, AECS and others. J. Venkateswaran, Assistant Division Manager, Pharma, proposed the vote of thanks.

The new facility positions Aurolab among the leading ophthalmic pharmaceutical manufacturers in the region. It features advanced cleanroom technology, automated manufacturing lines, and robust quality systems to ensure global compliance. The facility also reflects Aurolab's commitment to sustainability, with a 286 kW rooftop solar plant, comprehensive water recycling, and the verdant Aurofarm ecosystem, which hosts more than 40 species of birds.


Aurolab's new Eye Drops Manufacturing Facility


Dr. V. Aantha Nageswaran inaugurating the facility


Unveiling of the building façade during the inauguration ceremony


Dr. V. Aantha Nageswaran delivering the Chief Guest address

LAICO

Workshop on "Influencing Change"

LAICO, 30th September 2025

As part of the October events, a Workshop on Influencing Change was organised at LAICO, facilitated by Colin Williams (UK). The programme began with a formal invocation, followed by context setting by Thulasiraj Ravilla. Participants shared brief experiences about managing change, engaged in mutual learning by discussing challenges and successes, and identified specific steps to implement back at work. Dr. Saml Joseph, Senior Faculty, LAICO, served as a session leader. A total of 33 participants, including Managers, Doctors, and AOPs from all Aravind centres, attended the programme.


Colin Williams leading a session on Influencing Change


Participants of the workshop on "Influencing Change"

Workshop on "Consulting Skills"

LAICO, 2-3 October 2025

As part of the October Summit, a Workshop on "Consulting Skills" was organised for LAICO Faculty. The peer group workshop aimed to enhance Aravind's consulting capabilities through peer learning and reflection, providing a platform to share experiences, explore practical models, and practice strategies to strengthen the impact of mentoring efforts.

The programme began with a welcome address from Dr. Sanil Joseph and Thulasiraj Ravilla setting the context. The sessions featured participants sharing consulting challenges, exploring incidents using the consulting framework, and hands-on exercises applying new approaches. Participants presented real consulting cases and engaged in exercises to build confidence in applying practical strategies. Each participant also developed a concrete plan for implementation. Follow-up mechanisms were agreed upon to sustain momentum post-workshop. A total of 21 participants, including the LAICO consultancy team and Dr. Shivakumar Chandrashekharan, Senior Medical Consultant, Cataract Services, Aravind-Tirunelveli, attended the programme.



Colin Williams handling a session on Consulting Skills



Participants of the workshop on "Consulting Skills"

In-person Learning Session: Enhancing Cataract Surgical Outcomes – Batch II

LAICO, 18-20 September 2025

A three-day in-person learning session on Enhancing Cataract Surgical Outcomes was conducted at LAICO for ophthalmologists, administrators, and paramedical staff from various hospitals. The programme aimed to help participants achieve a post-operative visual acuity of 6/12 or better in 90% of cataract-operated eyes on the latest follow-up day, ranging from 21 to 45 days.

The key objectives included finalising clinical protocols for cataract surgery, developing appropriate strategies to improve the rate of post-operative follow-up, and designing a driver diagram to achieve the overall goal. The team was sent for observation to Aravind Eye Hospitals in Madurai and Theni. They had discussions with Dr. Datta, CMO, Aravind–Theni, and participated in sessions on developing clinical protocols for cataract surgery. An interactive session with Dr. R.D. Ravindran was also organised.

The session was attended by 16 participants from Global Hospital Institute of Ophthalmology (Rajasthan), Nirala Eye Hospital (Jharkhand), Reiyukai Eiko Masunaga Eye Hospital (Nepal), Tulsi Eye Hospital (Maharashtra), and Ramganj Lions MJM Eye Hospital (West Bengal).

Conferences Attended

45th Annual Conference of the Maharashtra Ophthalmological Society (MOSCON 2025)

Goa, 3-5 October 2025

Dr. Sujay Sanjay Jaju, presented a paper on Neuro-Ophthalmology at the 45th Annual Conference of the Maharashtra Ophthalmological Society (MOSCON 2025) held in Goa.

Title: *Advancing Diagnostics in IIH: A Tri-modal Investigation of Optic Nerve Sheath Measurements*
Co-author: Dr. Vima Shah

35th Annual Conference of the Oculoplastics Association of India (OPAI 2025)

Kolkata, 19-21 September 2025

Aravind doctors participated in the 35th Annual Conference of the Oculoplastics Association of India (OPAI 2025), themed "Suryodaya", held at Raajkutir, Kolkata, serving as chairpersons, speakers, and judges.

Dr. Usha Kim, Chief, Orbit & Oculoplasty Services, Aravind-Madurai

- Ptosis Symposium (Chairperson & Speaker)
- OPAI Competitive Free Paper Session (Judge)

Dr. Meghana Tanwar, Medical Consultant, Orbit & Oculoplasty Services, Aravind-Madurai

Title: *Functional and aesthetic eyelid tear repair* (Paper Presentation – Session on Trauma)



Dr. Usha Kim and Dr. Meghana Tanwar at OPAI 2025

Publications

1. Das A, Saiteja K, Shah PK, Subramaniam P, Venkatapathy N. **Intra-arterial Chemotherapy for Retinoblastoma: Real-world Experience**. Int Ophthalmol Clin. 2025 Oct 1;65(4):60-67. View more
2. Chang DF, Haripriya A. **Postoperative endophthalmitis rate associated with routine off-label reuse of single-use phacoemulsification cassettes in more than 1,000,000 consecutive surgeries.** Asia Pac J Ophthalmol (Phila). 2025 Sep 27:100247. View more
3. Özdek Ş, Özdemir HB, Bhende M, Bhende P, Sen P, Ratra D, Dasgupta D, Hartnett ME, Simonett JM, Shah PK, Das A, Kusaka S, Ferrone PJ, Lee J, Rosenblatt B, Rhee D, Shakin E, Matsushita I, Othman IS, Ahmed A, Teke MY, Dülger SÇ, Avcı R, Parolini B, Wu WC, Nawrocka ZA, Nawrocka Z, Nawrocki J, El Rayes E, Gürelik G, Ghazi N. **Long-term results of conservative and surgical treatment of congenital x-linked retinoschisis: A retrospective multicentre international study.** Acta Ophthalmol. 2025 Oct 3. [Epub] View more
4. Sharma V, Sankar S, Puthalath AS. **A paediatric case of Nance-Horan Syndrome.** Eye (Lond). 2025 Oct 6. [Epub] View more
5. Das A, Kumar PJ, Shah PK, Venkatapathy N. ***KIF11*-related MCLMR presenting with FEVR-like retinopathy: first report in an Indian child.** Ophthalmic Genet. 2025 Oct 9:1-4. [Epub] View more
6. Pawar N, Rajendran S, Khadar SMA, Shyamkumar R. **Double trouble: exploring Oguchi disease with anomalous optic disc.** Eye (Lond). 2025 Oct 16. [Epub] View more
7. Gangwe AB, Jalali S, Chattopadhyay A, Banker A, Lahiri K, Shah PK, Sharma RK, Das P, Agrawal A, Agrawal D, Azad RV. **A Multicentre Study of Presumed Post Anti Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Injection Endophthalmitis in Infants with Retinopathy of Prematurity: Clinical Features, Treatment Outcomes, and Review of Literature.** Ocul Immunol Inflamm. 2025 Oct 22:1-9. [Epub] View more
8. Kannan NB, Sayyad KJ, Vallinayagam MK, Mishra C, Chakrabarti K, Ramasamy K. **Microbial spectrum and emerging antibiotic sensitivity patterns in explanted scleral buckle elements-a 12 year retrospective analysis**. Int Ophthalmol. 2025 Oct 23;45(1):433. View more
9. Subburaman G-BB, Gupta S, Ravilla T, Mertens H, Webers CAB, van Merode F. **Factors enabling data-based management in healthcare: Insights from case studies of Eye Hospitals.** 2025;2(4):25. View more
10. Nair S, Chidambaranathan GP. **Mesenchymal stem cell-derived microRNAs: Key immunomodulators to prevent ocular tissue degeneration.** World J Stem Cells. 2025;17(10):110058. View more
11. Joseph S, Hu W, Jan CL, Sundar B, Zhu Z, Shang X, Taylor HR, Ravilla T, He M. **Diabetic retinopathy screening in Australian general practice: persistently low uptake despite national guidelines and equity initiatives.** J Diabetes Metab Disord. 2025;24:254. View more

Training

Enrolments for October 2025

Course title	Training Centre	No. of enrolments
Long Term Fellowship Programmes – For Ophthalmologists		
Fellowship in Retina – Vitreous	Coimbatore	1
Fellowship in Cornea	Coimbatore	1
	Pondicherry	1
Fellowship in General Ophthalmology	Madurai	1
	Tirunelveli	2
Fellowship in Medical Retina	Thanjavur	1
Short-Term Training Programmes – For Ophthalmologists		
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	1
	Chennai	1
	Pondicherry	1
	Tirunelveli	1
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	2
	Coimbatore	2
HelpMeSee Simulation-based Training in MSICS	Madurai	1
Neuro Ophthalmology	Madurai	1
Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity and Paediatric Retinal Disorders	Coimbatore	1
Paramedical Courses		
OT techniques	Madurai	2

Orientation to Paediatric Ocular Anaesthesia for Anaesthetic Nurse	Madurai	1
Ocularist	Madurai	1
Eye Bank Courses		
Training in Eye Bank Techniques	Madurai	1
Instrument Maintenance Course		
Instrument Maintenance – For Technicians	Madurai	5

Statistics

Patient Statistics – September 2025

Hospitals	Total	Madurai	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Salem	Chennai	Tirupati	Thanjavur	Theni	Tiruppur	Dindigul	Tuticorin	Udumalpet	CBE CC	Kovilpatti
Hospital Out-patient visits																
Paying (New & Review)	2,81,806	56,495	33,304	38,024	28,189	12,792	41,309	15,842	12,035	9,722	4,882	10,676	5,459	4,955	4,949	3,173
Free: Direct walk-in (New & Review)	1,14,945	22,400	9,142	12,647	11,694	7,572	13,446	16,324	6,640	3,109	2,750	3,272	1,770	2,556	–	1,223
Outreach Out-patients																
Comprehensive Eye Camps	37,183	8,424	3,677	5,795	4,223	2,961	4,635	2,906	–	2,001	877	–	331	925	–	228
Diabetic Retinopathy Camps	2,429	960	135	771	–	–	–	263	–	300	–	–	–	–	–	–
Glaucoma Camps	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Refraction Camp	5,368	2,302	389	902	622	–	–	216	–	632	175	–	–	130	–	–
Mobile Refraction Unit	1,715	–	–	–	–	1,715	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
School Screening	4,696	1,132	547	906	850	293	435	50	–	330	41	–	–	114	–	–
Paediatric Eye Screening Camps	436	–	–	394	42	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
RoP Screening	1,349	303	179	377	67	–	213	29	–	181	–	–	–	–	–	–
Vision Centres	98,066	32,684	16,044	7,361	20,548	5,324	4,313	–	–	7,104	2,216	–	–	2,472	–	–
Community / City Centres	20,470	9,676	3,050	–	2,530	–	1,139	1,247	–	2,828	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total OP Examinations	**5,68,065**	**1,34,376**	**66,467**	**67,177**	**68,765**	**30,657**	**65,690**	**36,877**	**18,675**	**26,207**	**10,941**	**13,948**	**7,560**	**11,152**	**4,949**	**4,624**
Total number of camps	**193**	**47**	**21**	**31**	**21**	**13**	**25**	**16**	**–**	**6**	**3**	**–**	**3**	**5**	**–**	**2**
Surgeries																
Cataract	42,195	8,906	4,121	5,488	4,935	3,230	5,203	3,508	1,148	1,309	856	1,099	662	1,101	263	366
***Other Surgeries**	26,364	6,229	3,407	4,955	2,870	862	3,736	2,009	835	609	100	231	98	177	187	59
Total Surgeries	**68,559**	**15,135**	**7,528**	**10,443**	**7,805**	**4,092**	**8,939**	**5,517**	**1,983**	**1,918**	**956**	**1,330**	**760**	**1,278**	**450**	**425**

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

Visitors

Singapore India Partnership Foundation Delegation Visit to Aravind Eye Hospital, Coimbatore

Aravind-Coimbatore, 15th October 2025

As part of their India Experience Programme, the Singapore India Partnership Foundation (SIPF) visited Aravind-Coimbatore. The visiting team included 10 students from various universities in Singapore, such as Singapore Management University, Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, and the Singapore University of Social Sciences. The students represented diverse fields, including law, business, economics, communications, philosophy, humanities, public safety, and social sciences.

The visit began with a guided tour of the hospital, during which the students learned about Aravind's history, growth, and unique model of providing high-quality, affordable eye care.

After the tour, an interactive Q&A session allowed students to ask questions and engage in meaningful discussions. The visit concluded with high tea, providing an opportunity for informal conversations and the exchange of ideas.



Dr. Sidarth Narendran explaining the genesis of Aravind to the visiting team



Dr. Kalpana Narendran presenting Infinite Vision as a memento



A team from the Singapore–India Partnership Foundation visiting Aravind-Coimbatore

Aravind Inspiration Tour for Healthcare Leaders

Aravind-Chennai and Madurai, 21-25 September 2025

A team from the Aravind Eye Foundation (AEF), USA, visited multiple Aravind centres to gain an in-depth understanding of the Aravind, its operations, innovations, and impact.

The Inspiration tour team comprised 12 members from AEF, including Donna Campbell, Executive Director, Aravind Eye Foundation, Kathleen Stillo, CEO, JunaCare Inc. and several other distinguished professionals.

The tour commenced with group introductions and a hospital tour conducted based on Aravind's deep dive framework. Participants interacted with Dr. S. Aravind, and Dr. Haripriya. The first day concluded with a visit to Mahabalipuram, facilitated by Syed Ali, Senior Faculty, LAICO.

At LAICO, participants attended insightful presentations, including, Power of Purpose – The Story of AECS by Thulasiraj Ravilla, Embracing Technology by Dr. R. Kim, Reaching the Unreached by R. Meenakshi Sundaram. The team also visited Aurolab and Nithyatha, where R.D. Sriram, shared an overview of the organisation.

Later, Dr. R.D. Ravindran along with Dr. Lalitha Prajna, Ushalini, and Sr. Arumugaselvi, spoke on Driving Quality. Dr. Venkatesh presented on the Aravind Centre for Eyecare Innovations (ACEi).

The learning experience was further enriched by special guest lectures by Dr. Ethan Berke, CMO, Teladoc Health on Innovation at Teladoc and beyond, and Dr. Jeffrey Brenner, CEO, The Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services on State of better care at lower cost in the USA.



Dr. S. Aravind briefing the visitors on Aravind's evolution


A team from the Aravind Eye Foundation, USA, on the Aravind Inspiration Tour


Discussion with the senior leadership team at Nithyatha, Aurolab


A. Arumugaselvi presenting on driving quality

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