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aravind news – news bulletin of Aravind Eye Care System

September 2024 | Volume 46 | Issue 07

39th National Eye Donation Fortnight Programme 2024

Editorial

Beyond the efforts of eye care hospitals, doctors, and other medical professionals, it is the public's knowledge about eye diseases that plays a crucial role in the fight to eliminate needless blindness. To educate the public, Aravind is consistently raising awareness about eye care and related issues since its inception, highlighting its patient-centric approach. A prime example is the extensive awareness campaign during the 39th National Eye Donation Fortnight, held recently across Aravind's major tertiary care centres, which garnered significant public attention.

In direct patient care, Aravind's Mid-Level Ophthalmic Personnel (MLOPs) are indispensable, comprising 75% of the workforce. Their friendly and compassionate interactions with patients have been key in building trust and ensuring high levels of patient satisfaction. Aravind places great importance on training MLOP trainees to understand and practice the humanitarian values upheld by the institution. Moreover, after completing their training, Aravind organises a graduation day, during which trainees celebrate their accomplishments with memorable moments. At the recent graduation day held at Aravind Eye Hospitals in Tirunelveli, Kovilpatti, and Tuticorin, a candle-lighting ceremony, the Florence Nightingale pledge, and inspiring speeches by doctors and mentors created lasting memories for the trainees.

Aravind prioritises the mental and physical well-being of its employees by organising various welfare initiatives to foster a pleasant working environment. The innovative programmes implemented at Aravind have led to impressive outcomes, making it a top choice for employment. In this regard, Aravind-Tirunelveli conducted the "AURO REVIVE – Relax, Rejoice & Rejuvenate" programme, which encourages employees to showcase their talents and participate in extracurricular activities.

This edition covers these and many other events that took place between 15th August and 15th September 2024.

Recognitions and Achievements

APOS Gopalakrishna Young Ophthalmologist Lecture & Medal

Tirupati, 13-15 September 2024

Dr. V.R. Vivekanandan, Medical Consultant, Cataract and General Ophthalmology Services, Aravind-Tirunelveli, was awarded the APOS Gopalakrishna Young Ophthalmologist Lecture & Medal at the 9th Annual Meeting of the Andhra Pradesh Ophthalmic Society (Tirupati Eyecon 2024), held at Shree Conventions, Tirupati.

Judges' Choice Top Video Award

Aravind-Salem, 14th September 2024

Dr. Megha, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma, Aravind-Salem, won the Judges' Choice Top Video at a virtual contest organised by Young Ophthalmologists Society of India (YOSI), for her video titled, *Brightening lives through smartphone.*

Dr. GV lifetime Achievement Award

Pondicherry, 25th August 2024

Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Aravind-Pondicherry, was honoured with the Dr. GV lifetime achievement award by the Akila India Samuga Nala Amaippu at Pondicherry.

Dr. R. Venkatesh receiving the Dr. GV Lifetime Achievement Award

Awards at the 71st Annual conference of Tamil Nadu Ophthalmic Association (TNOA)

Chennai, 16-18 August 2024

Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Advisor, Aravind-Tirunelveli was honoured with the TNOA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Best Free Paper Session
Dr. Prithviraj U, Medical Consultant, Retina, Aravind-Madurai
Title: *Mastering modified Gabor's SFIOL technique from novice to expert: Comparison of surgical outcomes*

Winners: TNOA ET Selvam Endowment Quiz Award
Dr. Chinmay Vikas Mahatme, and Dr. Sujay Sanjay Jaju, PG Resident, Aravind-Coimbatore

Winners -TNOA Free Paper Session – Cornea
Dr. Divya Nachammai, PG Resident, Aravind-Coimbatore
Title: *Azadirachta indica: A novel natural approach effective in demodectic ocular surface disorders*

Winner: TNOA Free Paper Session – Neuro Ophthalmology
Dr. Ruhel Kurudamannil Chacko, Resident, Aravind-Coimbatore
Title: *PULSE study: Efficacy of pupilmate in low cost pupillary light reflex screening*

Winner: TNOA Free Paper Session – Orbit
Dr. Viji Rangarajan, Chief, Orbit, Aravind-Coimbatore
Title: *Hook, Line & Sinker*

Winner: Free Paper Session – Cataract
Dr. Bala Saraswathy, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Coimbatore
Title: *Acute waterfall blindness*

Winner: Free Paper Session – Glaucoma 2
Dr. Rohan Daniel, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Coimbatore
Title: *To compare the efficacy of 1st and 2nd generation probes of Micropulse Cyclophotocoagulation*

Winner: Free Paper Session – Orbit 2
Dr. Padmapriya Venkatraman, PG Resident
Title: *A scar for a scar. Scar release with full thickness skin grafting for cicatricial ectropion*

First Runner-Up: Vinadi Vina – Quiz Session
Dr. D. Chandrasekhar, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Coimbatore, Dr. VR. Saravanan,Chief, Retina, Aravind-Coimbator, Dr. Chinmay Vikas Mahatme, and Dr. Sujay Sanjay Jaju

Dr. Velayutham Award for Best Free Paper in Glaucoma (2023)
Dr. Devendra Maheshwari, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Service, Aravind-Tirunelveli
Title: *Long-term outcomes of MMC trabeculectomy with subconjunctival injections versus sponges: A randomised controlled trial*

Best Scientific Video in OPL
Dr. V.R. Vivekanandan, Medical Consultant, Cataract and General Ophthalmology Services, Aravind-Tirunelveli
Title: *CTS my way*

Best Paper in Glaucoma
Dr. R. Madhavi, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Tirunelveli
Title: *Outcomes of GATT in juvenile open-angle glaucoma (JOAG)*

Best Paper in Cornea
Dr. Harini Krishna, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Kovilpatti
Title: *Demographic and clinical profile of patients presenting with corneal foreign body to secondary eye care centre in rural South India*

Best Thesis
Dr. Drishti, Postgraduate, Aravind-Tirunelveli
Title: *To assess the efficacy of combined phacoemulsification and microhook AB interno trabeculotomy in South Indian eyes with open angle glaucoma*

Winner: Heroes of TNOA Award
Dr. Puja Maitra, Medical Consultant, Retina-Vitreous Services, Aravind-Chennai

Winner: Best Paper
Dr. Divya J, PG Resident, Aravind-Chennai
Title: *Rare complications of optic nerve head melanocytoma*

Winner: Best Paper
Dr. D. Raseena Atheek, PG Resident, Aravind-Chennai
Title: *Retrospective study of outcomes of Hemi-Hang back adjustable suture in horizontal rectus surgery*

Winner – Quick Ophthal Quiz
Dr. S. Sivaranjani, Medical Officer – Retina Services, Aravind-Pondicherry

Winner: TNOA Best Free Paper Award for Comprehensive & Community Social Ophthalmology
Dr. Akshay Wagh, DNB Resident, Aravind-Pondicherry
Title: *Waste Segregation in Healthcare Facilities: Revenue generation and sustainable disposal*

Winner: TNOA Capt. Subramamaniam Best Video Award
Dr. Premjith Muraleedharan, Cornea Fellow, Aravind-Pondicherry
Title: *Pythium keratitis v/s Fungal keratitis*

Winner: Chen EyeCon Best Paper Presentation for Cornea – II
Dr. Premjith Muraleedharan
Title: *Outcomes of intracameral and intrastromal voriconazole in deep stromal fungal ulcers in South India*

Winner: Chen Eye Con Best Paper Presentation for Comprehensive Ophthalmology – V
Dr. Vijay Antony, DNB Resident, Aravind-Pondicherry
Title: *Posterior segment disease diagnosis done by tele-ophthalmologists vs base hospital specialists*

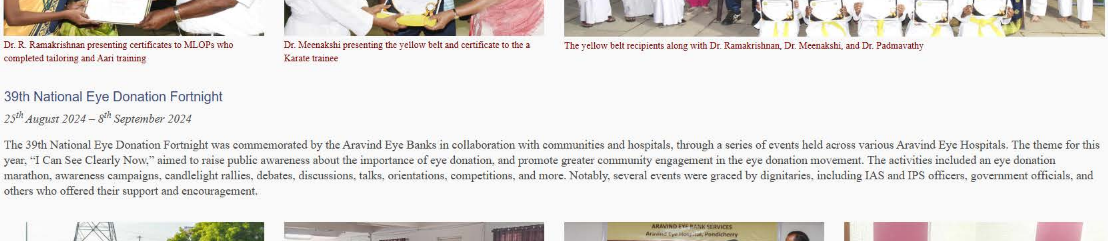
Aravind Events

AURO REVIVE - Relax, Rejoice & Rejuvenate

Aravind-Tirunelveli, 2nd September 2024

As part of its Employee Welfare initiative, Aravind-Tirunelveli initiated the "AURO REVIVE – Relax, Rejoice & Rejuvenate" programme, to promote employee well-being. The event began with a prayer song by Kanisha, an MLOP, followed by a welcome address from Padmakala. Sankarammal, and Princy, MLOPs, gave a Tamil folk dance performance.

Dr. Ramakrishnan, Advisor, Aravind-Tirunelveli, Dr. Meenakshi, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Tirunelveli, and Dr. Padmavathy, Regional HR Director, Aravind-Tirunelveli presented certificates to MLOPs who completed Tailoring and Aari work training through the "My Life My Pride" initiative. Yellow belts and certificates were also distributed to those who completed six months of basic Karate training. The yellow belt recipients put on an entertaining show, performing kicking techniques, sparring, tile breaking, and forming a human pyramid. AURO REVIVE is planned to be a monthly event.



Tile breaking by an MLOP

Tile breaking by MLOPs

MLOPs performing a dance show

Human pyramid formation by the karate trainees

Dr. R. Ramakrishnan presenting certificates to MLOPs who completed tailoring and Aari training

Dr. Meenakshi presenting the yellow belt and certificate to the a Karate trainee

The yellow belt recipients along with Dr. Ramakrishnan, Dr. Meenakshi, and Dr. Padmavathy

39th National Eye Donation Fortnight

25th August 2024 – 8th September 2024

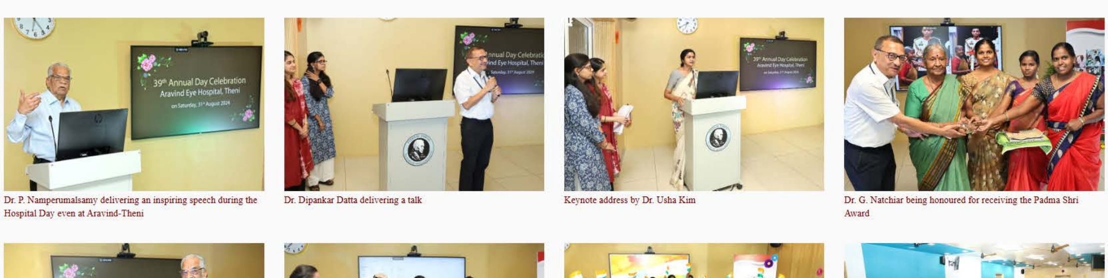
The 39th National Eye Donation Fortnight was commemorated by the Aravind Eye Banks in collaboration with communities and hospitals, through a series of events held across various Aravind Eye Hospitals. The theme for this year, "I Can See Clearly Now," aimed to raise public awareness about the importance of eye donation, and promote greater community engagement in the eye donation movement. The activities included an eye donation marathon, awareness campaigns, candlelight rallies, debates, discussions, talks, orientations, competitions, and more. Notably, several events were graced by dignitaries, including IAS and IPS officers, government officials, and others who offered their support and encouragement.

A five-kilometre eye donation marathon from Viraganur Roundana to Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai

Saravanan, handling a session on Eye donation awareness at the MMHRC Nursing and Allied Health Science College, Tiruvathavoor, Madurai

Shri K. Kailasanathan, Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Pondicherry presenting an award to a motivator at the Eye Donation Fortnight event held at Aravind-Pondicherry

Dr. Mangala delivering an awareness talk on All India Radio about the importance of eye donation and common eye diseases



Eye donation awareness exhibition at Aravind-Tirunelveli

Eye donation awareness rally at Aravind-Kovilpatti

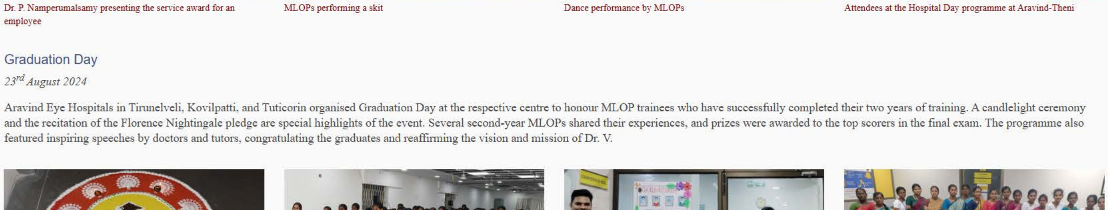
Eye donation awareness exhibition at Aravind-Salem, showcasing drawings, paintings, poetry, and an enucleation model created by MLOPs

Eye donation awareness rally at Aravind-Chennai

Hospital Day

Aravind-Theni, 31st August 2024

Aravind-Theni celebrated its 39th Hospital Day, in the presence of Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, Aravind Eye Care System (AECS), Dr. G. Natchiar, Director Emeritus, AECS, and Dr. Usha Kim, Regional HR Director – Madurai Region. The event included a hospital activity report presentation by Dr. Sreeramya, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Theni, followed by cultural performances by MLOPs and doctors. During the occasion, Dr. G. Natchiar was honoured for receiving the prestigious Padma Shri Award.



Dr. P. Namperumalsamy delivering an inspiring speech during the Hospital Day even at Aravind-Theni

Dr. Dipankar Datta delivering a talk

Keynote address by Dr. Usha Kim

Dr. G. Natchiar being honoured for receiving the Padma Shri Award

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy presenting the service award for an employee

MLOPs performing a skit

Dance performance by MLOPs

Attendees at the Hospital Day programme at Aravind-Theni

Graduation Day

23rd August 2024

Aravind Eye Hospitals in Tirunelveli, Kovilpatti, and Tuticorin organised Graduation Day at the respective centre to honour MLOP trainees who have successfully completed their two years of training. A candlelight ceremony and the recitation of the Florence Nightingale pledge are special highlights of the event. Several second-year MLOPs shared their experiences, and prizes were awarded to the top scorers in the final exam. The programme also featured inspiring speeches by doctors and tutors, congratulating the graduates and reaffirming the vision and mission of Dr. V.

A Rangoli at Aravind-Tirunelveli

Candle lighting ceremony during the graduation day programme at Aravind-Tirunelveli

Graduating MLOPs with their tutors at Aravind-Tuticorin

MLOP trainees with doctors and senior MLOPs at Aravind-Kovilpatti

Technology Skills Transfer Course 2024

Aravind-Pondicherry, 25th August 2024

Aravind-Pondicherry organised the Technology Skills Transfer Course 2024, bringing together around 40 internal and external participants to learn, innovate, and enhance their technical skills. The event featured insightful sessions and hands-on workshops, including Basic Video Editing & Movie Making, Creating Impactful PPT Slides, Managing a Social Media Page, Photo Essay & Case Report Publication, Using ChatGPT & Generative AI for Voiceovers and Scripts, 3D Designing & Printing, and Virtual Reality Immersive Learning. At the 3D Printing and Designing competition, Dr. Aravind Krishna and Dr. Benedicta won first prize, while Vimala Devi secured second place.

Dr. Jenani presenting a talk on Go-Pro HD Video Recording

Introducing Virtual Reality Immersive Learning method for training doctors in developing their surgical skills

Dr. Venkatesh presenting an award to Dr. Prasanna Venkatesh

Dr. John Davis presenting a prize to Dr. Benedicta, winner of the 3D Printing and Designing competition

Eye Innovation Hackathon 2024

Aravind-Tirupati, 23-24 August 2024

The Aravind Centre for Eyecare Innovation (ACEi) and IIT Tirupati jointly conducted the Eye Innovation Hackathon 2024 at Aravind-Tirupati. Around 70 participants, including IIT Tirupati students, Aravind doctors, and technicians, participated. The participants grouped in different teams worked on nine problem statements, each focused on finding innovative solutions. The best solutions were awarded cash prizes: 1st prize Rs.50,000/-, 2nd prize Rs.30,000/-, and 3rd prize Rs.20,000/-. The event's chief guest was Prof. K. N. Satyanarayana, Director, IIT Tirupati. Judges included R. D. Thulasiraj, Director Operations, AECS, Dr. Karthik Srinivasan, Medical Officer, Aravind-Chennai, Dr. Sridhar Chimalakonda, and Hemanth Satyanarayana. Udayakumar, Senior Faculty, LAICO, led the Hackathon organising team.

Jadeja Dushyantsinh Anopsinh, Head, Google Health, India, delivered a special talk

Srini presenting a talk at the Eye Innovation Hackathon 2024

A team presenting their innovative solution

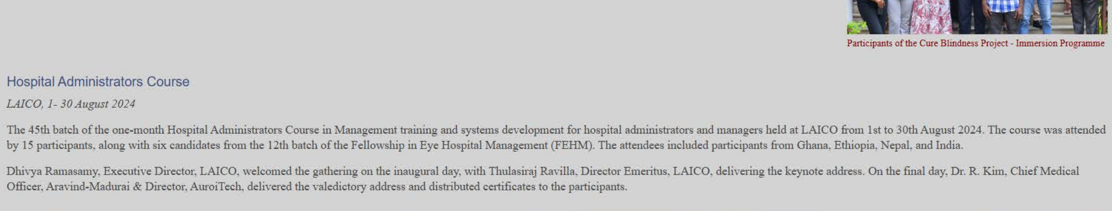
The winning team of Eye Innovation Hackathon 2024

LAICO

Seva GSI Follow-Up Visit

Chhattisgarh, 2-6 September 2024

As part of capacity-building efforts, Dr. Preeti Mohanty, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Tirupati and Syed Ali, Senior Faculty, LAICO, made a Seva GSI follow-up visit to MGM Eye Institute, Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The visit aimed to understand the hospital's operations and increase its patient footfall.



Dr. Preeti Mohanty, and Syed Ali, meeting with Dr. Deepshikha Agrawal, the Director of MGM Eye Institute

Dr. Anil Babanrao Gangure, Dr. Deepshikha Agrawal, presenting a memento to Syed Ali

Dr. Preeti Mohanty, and Syed Ali, along with the MGM Eye Institute team members

Cure Blindness Project - Immersion Programme

LAICO, 29th August-4th September 2024

Teams from the Cure Blindness Project in Ghana and Ethiopia participated in an immersion programme at LAICO focused on enhancing high-volume, high-quality cataract surgical programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa. A team from the Himalaya Eye Hospital in Nepal also participated. The programme provided an in-depth orientation to the Aravind model of eye care delivery and best practices for high-quality, high-volume cataract care. Observational visits to Aravind Eye Hospital in Theni, eye screening camps, and detailed interactions with senior ophthalmologists and resource persons were part of the programme. The participants also visited Aurolab, and on the last day, each team presented an action plan for implementing desired changes in their respective countries.

Participants of the Cure Blindness Project - Immersion Programme

Hospital Administrators Course

LAICO, 1- 30 August 2024

The 45th batch of the one-month Hospital Administrators Course in Management training and systems development for hospital administrators and managers held at LAICO from 1st to 30th August 2024. The course was attended by 15 participants, along with six candidates from the 12th batch of the Fellowship in Eye Hospital Management (FEHM). The attendees included participants from Ghana, Ethiopia, Nepal, and India.

Dhivya Ramasamy, Executive Director, LAICO, welcomed the gathering on the inaugural day, with Thulasiraj Ravilla, Director Emeritus, LAICO, delivering the keynote address. On the final day, Dr. R. Kim, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Madurai & Director, AuroiTech, delivered the valedictory address and distributed certificates to the participants.

Ceremonial lamp lighting during the inaugural event of the Hospital Administrators Course

Dhivya Ramasamy, delivering the welcome address

A participant giving feedback about the course

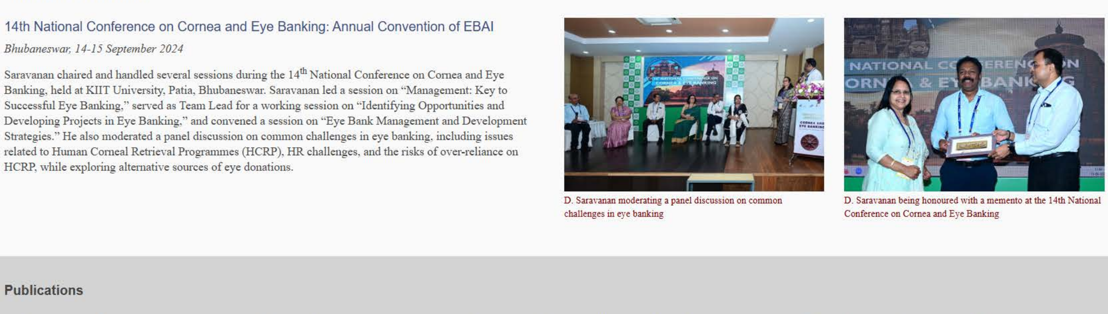
Participants of the Hospital Administrators Course and Fellowship

Capacity Building for AOP Training

New Delhi, 21-24 August 2024

The LAICO team conducted a four-day Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on capacity building for Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) at Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, New Delhi. This workshop, held as part of the LEAP programme, aimed to implement Auroshiksha's Learning platform using a competency-based curriculum tailored to the hospital's needs. The training materials included knowledge and skill assessments, TOT modules, and the Aurosiksha LMS.

On the first day, the team interacted with staff to understand the current recruitment process. The second day featured sessions by Sunita Arora, on "Sharing Best Training Practices," and Dhivya Ramasamy on "Competency-Based Training." Jeyagokila introduced the skill plan template and LMS, while Atchaya gave a hands-on demo of Aurosiksha. Vibish discussed the role of the Training Coordinator, and Dr. Vedhanayaki covered "the role of the Assessor and Preparing the Assessor". The final day included live skill assessments and discussions on implementation challenges. The workshop was attended by approximately 50 trainees.



Vibish Kumar discussing the role of the Training Coordinator at the Capacity Building for AOP Training workshop

G. Jeyagokila introducing the skill plan template and LMS

Participants of the Capacity Building for AOP Training workshop

Conferences Attended

14th National Conference on Cornea and Eye Banking: Annual Convention of EBAI

Bhubaneswar, 14-15 September 2024

Saravanan chaired and handled several sessions during the 14th National Conference on Cornea and Eye Banking, held at KIIT University, Patia, Bhubaneswar. Saravanan led a session on "Management: Key to Successful Eye Banking," served as Team Lead for a working session on "Identifying Opportunities and Developing Projects in Eye Banking," and convened a session on "Eye Bank Management and Development Strategies." He also moderated a panel discussion on common challenges in eye banking, including issues related to Human Corneal Retrieval Programmes (HCRP), HR challenges, and the risks of over-reliance on HCRP, while exploring alternative sources of eye donations.

D. Saravanan moderating a panel discussion on common challenges in eye banking

D. Saravanan being honoured with a memento at the 14th National Conference on Cornea and Eye Banking

Publications

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Training

Enrolments for September 2024

Course title	Training Centre	No. of enrolments
Long Term Fellowship Programmes – For Ophthalmologists		
Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery	Madurai	1
	Chennai	1
	Coimbatore	2
Fellowship in General Ophthalmology	Tirunelveli	1
	Madurai	1
Fellowship in Cornea	Madurai	1
	Chennai	1
	Coimbatore	1
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Chennai	1
	Tirunelveli	1
Fellowship in Orbit & Oculoplasty	Madurai	1
Fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus	Coimbatore	1
Fellowship in Retina and Vitreous	Chennai	3
Short-Term Fellowship Training Program – For Ophthalmologists		
Short-term Fellowship in Orbit & Oculoplasty	Madurai	1
Short-Term Training Programmes – For Ophthalmologists		
Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity and Paediatric Retinal Disorders	Coimbatore	1
	Madurai	1
Clinical Observership Programme in Diagnosis and Management Of Glaucoma	Madurai	1
	Pondicherry	1
Phacoemulsification	Coimbatore	2
	Madurai	1
	Pondicherry	1
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Tirunelveli	2
	Coimbatore	2
	Pondicherry	1
	Madurai	1
Paramedical Courses		
FF & USG	Madurai	1
Optical Dispensing	Madurai	2
OT Techniques	Pondicherry	2

Statistics

Patient Statistics – August 2024

Hospitals	Total	Madurai	Tirunelveli	Theni	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Tirupur	Dindigul	Salem	Tuticorin	Udumalpet	CbeCC	Chennai	Tirupati	Kovilpatti
Hospital Out-patient visits															
Paying (New & Review)	2,68,634	59,334	32,519	9,056	34,857	28,576	5,207	9,490	13,455	6,107	4,859	4,908	41,632	15,147	3,487
Free: Direct walk-in (New & Review)	1,04,578	24,444	8,813	2,936	12,562	10,390	2,264	2,530	6,206	1,756	1,956	–	13,293	16,149	1,279
Outreach Out-patients															
Comprehensive Eye Camps	37,685	8,542	4,497	800	7,069	6,884	624	–	1,924	410	659	–	3,401	2,753	122
Diabetic Retinopathy Camps	2,130	748	–	212	887	283	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Glaucoma Camps	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Refraction Camp	3,260	641	1,659	136	222	393	209	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Mobile Refraction Unit	1,201	–	–	89	–	–	–	–	1,112	–	–	–	–	–	–
School Screening	8,369	157	1,337	746	2,391	955	296	–	822	–	311	–	925	197	232
Paediatric Eye screening camps	951	–	–	380	–	571	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
RoP Screening	1,244	286	118	118	439	35	–	–	–	–	–	–	215	33	–
Vision Centres	89,890	29,558	16,549	6,463	7,075	17,519	2,085	–	4,726	–	2,221	–	3,694	–	–
Community / City Centres	18,600	8,879	2,716	2,532	–	2,649	–	–	–	–	–	–	1,211	613	–
Total OP Examinations	**5,36,542**	**1,32,589**	**68,208**	**23,468**	**65,502**	**68,255**	**10,685**	**12,020**	**28,245**	**8,273**	**10,006**	**4,908**	**64,371**	**34,892**	**5,120**
Total number of camps	**197**	**38**	**28**	**6**	**36**	**29**	**3**	**–**	**12**	**3**	**4**	**–**	**19**	**18**	**1**
Surgeries															
Cataract	39,304	9,180	3,707	1,000	5,405	5,294	628	852	2,573	607	879	249	4,681	3,835	414
*Other Surgeries	24,077	6,392	2,942	465	4,456	2,967	100	173	831	104	106	177	3,715	1,595	54
Total Surgeries	63,381	15,572	6,649	1,465	9,861	8,261	728	1,025	3,404	711	985	426	8,396	5,430	468

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

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