



eyelights



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Sankara Nethralaya's multidisciplinary department conducts its multidimensional meet with a strong social message as its central theme



Recognitions & Awards

**Big dreams,
big achievements
and big relief
win big honours!**



Terms like enterprising spirit, dreaming big, increasing market share and business innovation seem typically in sync with large commercial enterprises operating in a competitive marketplace.

These qualities appear out of place in a not for profit, service oriented environment as they are essentially viewed as qualities that commercial enterprises need to survive, sustain and win in a tough marketplace.

As an institution Sankara Nethralaya has proved several times that a not for profit, service oriented institution can also leverage these qualities as much as commercial enterprises to fulfil its mission effectively and professionally.

It was a strong reiteration of the above spirit when Sankara Nethralaya was chosen as the **'Best Healthcare Institution'** at the D2d (Dare to Dream Awards - Season - 2) organized jointly by Zee Business and SAP, India. The jury applied their performance evaluation parameters of 'Market Expansion' (MESU & Teleophthalmology's cost free outreach) 'Business Innovation' (MESU) and 'Efficient Processes' (overall functioning) in that order.

Leading UK University honours Sankara Nethralaya's senior Vitroretina surgeon with a Doctorate.



The Anglia Ruskin University located at Cambridge, UK is among the oldest and well known seats of research and academics in the world. This high seat of learning recognizes and honours professionals belonging to diverse fields for their sterling achievements in their area of specialization and contribution to society. We take great pleasure and pride in sharing that the University conferred Dr Rajiv Raman, Senior Consultant, Vitroretina Department with a **Doctorate in Health Services**, at its Annual Graduation Ceremony held this year. Cambridge Network, the University's in-house journal hailed the awardee as 'An internationally renowned retinal specialist, scientist and pioneer in using Artificial Intelligence in the detection of diabetic retinopathy'.

In-depth video graphic demonstration by SN's Senior VR Surgeon wins high recognition at major topical meet



An in-depth and highly educative video by Dr Ekta Rishi, Senior Consultant at the Shri Bhagwan Mahavir Vitro-Retinal services, showcasing a surgical solution to the twin VR challenge of permanent keratoprosthesis and endophthalmitis, through vitrectomy, followed by effective visual rehabilitation of the patient, was acknowledged as the **'Best Video'** at the 28th Annual Conference of the Vitroretinal Society of India (VRSI-2019) held at Lucknow between the 5th - 8th December 2019.

Sankara Nethralaya's pioneering department makes a strong impact at international topical meet



The Oculoplastic Association of India (OPAI), the premium body engaged in promoting education, research, quality of care in the complementing fields of ophthalmic plastic surgery, reconstructive surgery, ocular oncology, aesthetic surgery, oculo - facial plastic surgery, held its 30th Annual conference on the 6th, 7th and 8th of September 2019 at Guwahati. The high power event proved to be a great knowledge

acquisition and dissemination exercise for the participants with interesting workshops, ocular quiz, ocular debate, presentation of Free Papers, e posters, Videos, Ophthalmic Premier League, a grand round with experts, giving participants the rare opportunity to discuss and clarify their doubts with the Masters in the field from all over the world and review of challenging cases. Members of the team from SN's Orbit, Oculoplasty, Aesthetic & Reconstructive Services made a strong presence at the event by demonstrating their subject matter expertise and presentation skills. We take great pride and pleasure in sharing the details of the honours won by them.

Best Video : Film festival - Competitive video session

Tackling the Nidus (Embolization and Excision of Orbital AVM) - Dr Nisar Sonam Poonam, Dr Shebin Salim, Dr Bipasha Mukherjee, Dr Swatee Halbe

Best Team : Oculoplasty Premier League (OPL) : TEAM AVENGERS!

Avenging a Volume Deficient Socket (Autologous Fat Transplant) - Dr Nisar Sonam Poonam

Best Photo : A Monster's Reflection (Sebaceous gland Carcinoma) - Dr Md. Shahid Alam, SNK

Young Ophthalmologist Oculoplastic case competition - YOSI session

Runner up

Battling a Unique Mold (Orbito-rhino-cerebral aspergillosis) - Dr Varsha Backiavathy, Dr Bipasha Mukherjee, Dr Veena Noronha, Dr Krishnakumar. S, Dr Lily Therese

Best e poster in lacrimal session: Lacrimal sac Solitary Fibrous Tumor - Dr Avriel I Gudkar, Dr Bipasha Mukherjee.

A hundred flowers bloom at the 'Temple of the eye' on the joyous occasion of its Chief's 80th birthday!



A hundred joyous smiles through revived vision marked the 80th birthday celebration of Dr SS.Badrinath, among the world's leading vitreoretinal surgeons, a pioneer, visionary and humanitarian doctor, a living legend of our times and Founder and Chairman Emeritus of Sankara Nethralaya, India's leading Clinical Care, Ophthalmic Research, Seat of Academics and Community Eye Care Center.

The Dr VG Appukutty Campus, the institution's vast green premises situated right on the GST Road at St Thomas Mount, Chennai wore a festive look with the institution's Senior Consultants and their teams of nurses, paramedics and support staff mentored by him and ingrained in his values assembled in large numbers in response to a clarion call made by President & Medical Director, Medical Research Foundation, Dr Girish Shiva Rao, to perform 100 cost free cataract surgeries on indigent patients as a befitting tribute and birthday gift from them and the institution to Founder and Chairman Emeritus Dr SS.Badrinath, who would be turning 80 years of age the next day. The Senior surgeons performed cataract removal surgeries on patients already screened at the JCOC, simultaneously at the operation theaters at the CU Shah Sankara Nethralaya, started by the man being honoured, as a peripheral eye hospital to dispense quality eye care to patients living in and around a region considered as a suburb of the city at the time of its inception, at the new JCOC, the recently constructed, massive, exclusive community hospital, a monument of his dream of operating one of the largest exclusive cost free community hospitals from the institution's own premises and the 'Mobile Eye Surgical Unit' (MESU) the State of the Art and 'one of its kind in Asia' operation theater on wheels, the pioneer and only surgical facility which has the Union Health Ministry's approval and sanction to perform cataract surgeries outside a conventional operation theater in a base hospital, a rich testimony to the Octogenarian's foresight and quest to leverage latest technology to bring back lost vision and relief and alleviation from pain to the underprivileged, right to their doorsteps. A total of 103 cataract removal surgeries were performed on the day in commemoration of living legend Dr SS.Badrinath's 80th birthday falling the next day, capturing the spirit of dispensing quality eye care with love and a personal touch and totally cost free to those who cannot afford to pay for there treatment, as ordained by the Seer of Kanchi Mutt and enshrined as one of the founding principles of the institution. Formation of a grand '80' by members of the SN family clad in white, led by Dr TS Surendran, Vice President and a similar formation and a soulful birthday song for their Chief by the Optometrists and staff members at the Kamalnayan Bajaj Sankara Nethralaya, Kolkata, marked the 80th birthday celebrations on the 24th of February. The institution also conducted a special cost free Diabetic Retinopathy screening camp under the leadership of Dr Rajiv Raman, Senior Consultant, Bhagwan Mahaveer Vitreoretinal Services, on 28th February 2020 at its JKCNC campus located at 6, Pycroft Garden Road, Chennai-6, as part of the birthday celebrations and tribute to its founder and Chairman Emeritus Dr SS.Badrinath.

An institution ingrained in his values and driven by his philosophy pays a 'bright' tribute to the Mahatma on his 150th birth anniversary!



Even a cursory glance would reveal the striking similarity between the principles, values and objectives that govern Sankara Nethralaya as an institution and the ones propounded by the Father of the Nation. The institution came into being on the clarion call made by the Seer of the Kanchi Mutt, to strengthen the nation's health care capabilities, as a step towards self-reliance, it dispenses eye care with a spirit of service and love and without disparity between paying and non-paying patients, clear Gandhian values and principles. The institution engaged passionately in fulfilling the Gandhian dream of independence, self-reliance and dignity of our countrymen, by reviving the lost vision of the indigent visually impaired, for more than 4 decades, decided that the best homage and tribute to the Mahatma on his 150th birth anniversary would be by adopting a 'village' where he declared 'The Soul of India lives!' and ensuring the healthy vision of every single resident. **'Sankara Nethralaya Eye Hospital's Anjali to the Mahatma'** whose acronym **SNEHAM** most appropriately translates as 'Love' or 'Friendliness' in Tamil, the brainchild of Mrs Akila Ganesan-Director Administration, Sankara Nethralaya evolved as a vehicle to fulfil the above.

It was most appropriate that Sankara Nethralaya's homage to the Mahatma, SNEHAM-2020, was flagged off by Shri K S Kandaswamy, Collector, Tiruvannamalai district, a civil servant passionately committed to Gandhian values, presiding over the function as the Chief Guest and Shri Surajmal Jain friend and well-wisher of SN and a philanthropist deeply ingrained in Gandhian values and patron of the Suraj Sankara Nethralaya, as a guest of honour. Delivering the welcome address, Dr. Chandrakanth,-In-Charge of the Suraj Sankara Nethralaya, Tiruvannamalai hailed the occasion as a Red Letter Day and a giant step in the institution's community outreach initiatives, he underlined that SNEHAM-2020 being flagged off most appropriately by a Gandhian civil servant will empower and liberate the villagers living in 150 villages in the district through revival of vision. Dr Anuradha Narayanan, Assistant Professor at the ESO and a driving force behind the project hailed that SNEHAM-2020 will bring Vision 2020 (100% vision) to the underprivileged, by year 2020 by eliminating avoidable blindness through massive screening of the local population, the expert in eye screening highlighted that these camps will help in diagnosing diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, refractive errors and offer preventive/curative care and free glasses. Delivering the Chief Guest's address Shri KS Kandaswamy, Collector, Tiruvannamalai district exclaimed that it was a golden day for the district and expressed his thanks to SN for launching SNEHAM-2020, he hailed Shri Surajmal Jain's generous gesture of donating an entire hospital for a noble cause as a rare gesture in today's world adding that his numerous service initiatives have made him as important to the district as it's administrative machinery! SNEHAM-2020 Sankara Nethralaya's ambitious cost free outreach initiative and 150th birth anniversary homage to the Mahatma put its best leg forward with its maiden eye screening camp at the Suraj Higher Secondary Matriculation school, Melthangal village, Chetpet Taluk, Tiruvannamalai district, the venue of the launch.

Sankara Nethralaya's multidisciplinary department conducts its multidimensional meet with a strong social message as its central theme

The Neuro - ophthalmology department at Sankara Nethralaya conducted its topical meet **'Symposium in Neuro ophthalmology: Afferents plus Efferents' - 'Synapse-2019'** involving participation by experts from across the world, belonging to a cross section of specialties like Ophthalmology, Neurology, Neurosurgery and Radiology, with a down to earth message as its central theme. The department which treats a large number of head injury caused vision impairment cases strongly felt that it had a larger role extending beyond treating such cases, in terms of preventing such occurrences, by education and awareness creation. While any injury to the head could lead to such complications, it realized that 'Road accidents' contributed the most to head injuries. As an institution with a strong public orientation through education and awareness creation the Neuro-ophthalmology department decided that 'Synapse- 2019' would not only be a knowledge acquisition and dissemination event but help in spreading strong awareness on road safety. It also realized that reaching out a critical message to a large target audience cannot be a one day affair and has to be a multi approach communication spread over a period of time and space.



It was most appropriate that Synapse-2019 which witnessed the culmination of a year long communication effort on road safety with a strong emphasis on the threat to life and senses caused by head injuries was graced by the grandmaster of Neurology Dr G. Arjun Das. Dr S. Ambika, Director Neuro - ophthalmology department, SN and key architect of the symposium underlined how road accidents endangered life and how traumatic brain injury often led to permanent vision loss, adding that in most cases the victims were in the age group of 20-50 years and were often the bread winners of the family. The most interesting and absorbing event with a participation of 8 International speakers, 27 National speakers involving challenging case studies, debates latest innovations, best practices by a cross section of experts consisting of Neurologists, Neurosurgeons, Pediatricians, Pathologists and Neuro-ophthalmologists witnessed the honouring of Dr Arjundas one of the legends in the field of Neurology with a 'Lifetime Achievement Award' and the release of a 'Road Safety' video with commentary by Actor Madhavan.

SN celebrates its knowledge dissemination efforts in the graceful presence of a venerable Guru!



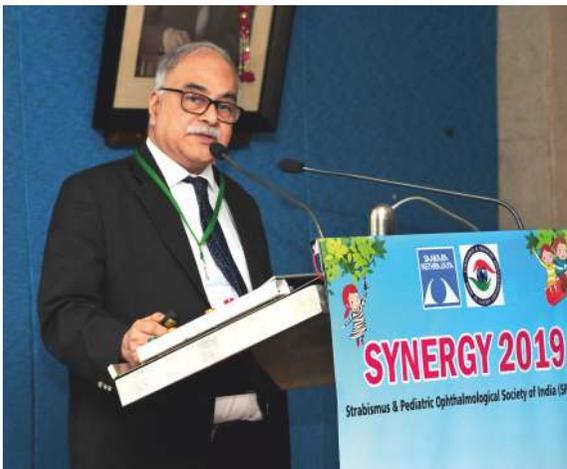
Sankara Nethralaya's annual celebration of knowledge sharing as enshrined in its tenets and acknowledging its achievers was celebrated with panache as the **"31st Graduation ceremony of the Medical Research Foundation"** on the 2nd of November 2019. The event assumed great significance as it marked the graduation of the last batch of students belonging to the ESO – BITS, Pilani academic collaboration and the fact that it was being held under the Aegis of a most respected guru, friend, guide, philosopher, generous supporter and the 1st Principal of the Elite School of Optometry, (ESO) Dr P P. Santanam, a man whose impeccable character, sterling virtues and lofty ideals made him the most ideal example to emulate, in the eyes of Dr SS.Badrinath and being chosen by him to lead the fledgling institution as a 'Role model for the students'. There was an air of confidence and pride in the voice of the institution's head of academics, Dr Meenakshi Swaminathan and there was good reason for the same, the institution's sterling achievements in 'knowledge acquisition and dissemination' one of its founding principles, came out loud and clear as she read out the 'Academic Report' filled with accomplishments of its stalwarts being conferred with Diplomates, Fellowships, Awards and other honours from the most prestigious seats of learning and professional bodies in India and abroad including the AAO. Royal College of Surgeons, Glasgow, Anglia Ruskin University, American Society of Retina specialists, IJO and the World's No-1 healthcare agency the WHO. The most awaited Chief Guest's address by Dr P P Santanam, held the audience in rapt attention. The loving and caring academician had a word of advice to the students gathered to keep their grey cells superior to gadgets by constantly exercising it and to practice their vocation/profession with ethics, compassion and commitment, which will eventually pave the way for rich rewards, instead of chasing short term and unethical gains. He closed his most absorbing talk with best wishes to the graduating students and a thoughtful observation that **'Learning is a journey, not a destination'!**

A dynamic civil servant and a media legend rise gloriously to a call for creating awareness on an eye care challenge effecting children



The **5th annual all India meet of the Strabismus & Pediatric Ophthalmology Society of India (SPOSI)**, the professional body of Pediatric Ophthalmologists, researchers and academicians committed to cultivate & promote the study, research and practice of Strabismology, Pediatric Ophthalmology, Fellowship, interaction among members and continuing education, was hosted by Sankara Nethralaya, a pioneer and leader in Pediatric Ophthalmology and correction of refractive errors and squint, on the 7th and 8th of December 2019. Organizing Chairman SPOSI and 'Lifetime achievement' award winner for his contribution to Pediatric Ophthalmology Dr TS Surendran, Director Pediatric Ophthalmology & Vice Chairman Sankara Nethralaya set the tone to the evening with a warm greeting and welcome to the dignitaries and attendees and a quick note on Sankara Nethralaya, the host institution with which he has been associated almost since its inception.

Presenting the annual report of the body, Professor Yogesh Shukla, Secretary – SPOSI explained how the Strabismus Society of India (SSI) became the 'Strabismus and Pediatric Ophthalmology Society of India' in due course to include other Pediatric specialties like Pediatric Cataract, Pediatric Glaucoma in addition to Pediatric Strabismus. Describing Pediatric Ophthalmology as an understudied, hard to pursue and low paying sub specialty, he hailed the SPOSI as a dedicated body in the forefront of advocacy, awareness creation and training of this niche field, a body which has grown from a strength of 500 to 940 in 5 years, making it the largest ophthalmic sub specialty society in the country, a professional body acclaimed in prestigious overseas journals, visited by the American Pediatric Ophthalmology Society, SAARC etc. Dr Pradeep Sharma, President SPOSI hailed the great work done by the body in terms of conducting awareness week, Kids I care week etc, he emphasized that squint was not a cosmetic problem and appealed that squint correction surgery should be covered by insurance companies like other vision reviving ophthalmic processes.



President elect SPOSI Dr S. Khokar, hailed as an outstanding Pediatric Cataract surgeon, Teacher, Pioneer, Author and speaker by Dr Pradeep Sharma, present President, emphasized that given the large numbers and sheer diversity of cases in this specialty handled in India, it should be the West which should look to us for a better understanding of the same, including training and pursuing Fellowships in India. The evening witnessed some major knowledge dissemination and awareness creation on the subject by way of the launch of the 'Atlas on Pediatric Ophthalmology', 'Atlas on Pediatric Cataract Surgery' and 'Visual and Related Anomalies in Children' a comprehensive compilation by Dr S.Khokar and a highly interesting and informative awareness teaser on 'Myopia Control' aimed at the common man by Shri Badri Surendran which was launched by the Guest of honour Shri N.Ram. It was also an evening of honouring and acknowledging all those who contributed to the cause of pediatric ophthalmology, major awards including the 'Lifetime Achievement award' were presented by the Chief Guest.



A deep involvement in the proceedings and initiatives and warm spontaneous gestures by a spirited health ministry official and a veteran from the Fourth estate, gracing the occasion underlined the collective effort and shared responsibility that made the State a preferred health care destination and raised the spirit of the evening. Delivering the guest of honour address, long time friend and well wisher of Sankara Nethralaya Shri N.Ram, Chairman, Hindu Group Publishing Pvt Ltd observed that it is Dr SS.Badrinath's vision that led to such wonderful things in the field of ophthalmology, it was an interesting paradox when the man hailed as a wordsmith and whose publication is credited with polishing the language skills of generations of Indians admired the conspicuous absence of 'Words' in the day's proceedings, a rich compliment to the achievers of the evening for the 'few words' that they deployed to describe the high levels

of training, advocacy, awareness and great achievements, which others would have made much more noise about. The senior journalist and thought leader expressed concern on the rising instance of Myopia in the country, terming it as a crisis in the offing he called for the young generation which was most vulnerable to the threat to spend more time outdoors and take healthy food, he emphasized that the electronic and print media have a moral and ethical responsibility to raise awareness on such neglected issues in society by dedicating free space for good awareness articles. Striking a different chord from the observation of the SPOSI secretary Prof Yogesh Sharma who rued that Pediatric ophthalmology was an underprivileged and understudied sub sect, Chief Guest of the evening Dr Beela Rajesh, IAS, Secretary to the TN Government, Health & Family Welfare Dept hailed it as a 'Super sub sect' of ophthalmology. Breaking from protocol the dynamic civil servant left her seat at the dais and took a quick walk all the way to the last row of the auditorium where Founder & Chairman Emeritus, Sankara Nethralaya Dr SS.Badrinath, had taken his seat along with the attendees, to join him in launching the SPOSI journal, adding that it was her honour to do so. The senior bureaucrat expressed relief that children who constituted 40% of those needing eye care were very safe under the care of SPOSI. Hailing Sankara Nethralaya as a legend and landmark of Chennai, she congratulated the SPOSI for its wholesome approach to the issue of Strabismus and overall children's eye care. Observing that lack of vision is worse than being blind she listed the trailblazing health care initiatives of the State government such as induction of 32 Tele ophthalmology units for tertiary care, focus on Pediatric Ophthalmology and ante natal care. Praising Sankara Nethralaya's extraordinary genetic mapping she invited the institution to collaborate with the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology and Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Chennai (RIOH) in tackling eye issues of the poor and needy. The proactive health dept official advised that nutrition and preventive care should be strongly emphasized in health care dispensing as today's busy life led to a neglect of the same and suggested that 'eye exercises' can also be popularized as a preventive measure, she closed her talk with a warm invite to the RIOH museum and a call for massive public-private participation in conducting a mega ophthalmic initiative.

The highly absorbing and enlightening two day conference covering the A to Z of pediatric ophthalmology in terms of panel discussions, quiz, pot pourri, 'Meet the Masters', interesting case presentations, videos, exchange of latest diagnostic and minimally invasive treatment modalities which started with a highly educative pre - conference workshop on the 6th of December, came to a close with a sincere vote of thanks to all those who made it a grand success, by Dr Sumita Agarkar, Organizing Secretary - SPOSI and Deputy Director, Pediatric Ophthalmology Department, Sankara Nethralaya.

India's Oil and Gas major energizes Sankara Nethralaya's cost free community service to the poor and needy!



Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is among Sankara Nethralaya's old supporters and friends, especially its cost free community services.

The Maharatna Oil & Gas giant gave a headstart to the institution's exclusive community care center coming up at its own premises at the Dr VG Appukutty campus, St.Thomas Mount, Chennai, by donating for the acquisition of critical equipment for the center's operation theatre, under its 'Corporate Social Responsibility' (CSR) initiative.

The contribution was formalized through an MoU signed on behalf of BPCL by Mr Mr M.V. Shenoy, GM (South)-HRS and presented to Mr T S Parthasarathy, In-Charge, CSR department, Sankara Nethralaya.

Sankara Nethralaya family thanks BPCL for this most timely and generous gesture, on behalf of the numerous indigent patients who would benefit from this critical input.

Reach us at

Sankara Nethralaya - Main Campus

Old No.18, New No.41, College Road, Chennai - 600 006.
Ph: 044-2827 1616, 4227 1500

Jagadguru Kanchi Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Nethra Nilayam

21, Pycrofts Garden Road, Chennai - 600 006. Ph: 044-2827 1616, 4227 1500

Elite School of Optometry & C.U. Shah Sankara Nethralaya

Dr. V. G. Appukutty Campus, No.8, GST Road, St. Thomas Mount, Chennai - 600 016.
Ph: 044-2234 9269 (ESO) / 044-2234 6022, 2234 4474

Navasuja Sankara Nethralaya

No.73, VenkataKrishna Iyer Road, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600028.
Ph: 044-2461 1273, 2495 1717

Smt. T.K. Lakshmi Ammal and

Smt. T.K. Alamelu Ammal Sankara Nethralaya

No. 39, 1st Main Road, East Shenoy Nagar, Chennai - 600030.
Ph: 044-2664 1913

The Sankara Nethralaya Academy (TSNA) Ph: 044-4908 6000

Jaslok Community Ophthalmic Centre

Dr. V.G. Appukutty Campus, No.8, GST Road, St. Thomas Mount, Chennai - 600 016. Ph: 044-4223 1500, 2827 1616, 2826 0477 / Extn. 2304

Aditya Birla Sankara Nethralaya, Kolkata

No.147, Barakhola, Mukundapur, E M Bypass, (Near Santhoshpur)
Ph: 033-4401 3000, 4401 3001, 4401 3002

Kamalnayan Bajaj Sankara Nethralaya

Premises No- 25- 3333, Plot No:DJ 16
Action Area -ID, New Town, Kolkata- 700156
Ph: 033- 44013000. email - snrajharhat@snmail.org

Sankara Nethralaya RSM Square

10, Raja Subodh Mallik Square, Kolkata - 700 013. Ph:033-64991196/ 97/98

Sri City Sankara Nethralaya

305, North, 2nd Street, Sector 3, Sri City, Vardhiapalem Mandal
Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh 517 541. Ph: 08576 308600

Sri Srinivasa Sankara Nethralaya (Tirupathi)

TTD Central Hospital, K.T.Road (Near TTD Administration Bldg.)
Tirupathi - 517 501. Ph : 0877-2264703

Suraj Sankara Nethralaya

TNo. 34, Dharmaraja Koil Street, Chetpet Post & Taluk,
Tiruvannamalai Dt, Pincode 606801, Tamil Nadu, India. Ph : +91-44-4227 1550

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For more details, contact

Mr. S Alagiri,

Deputy General Manager, Resource Mobilization

Sankara Nethralaya

e-mail: donation@snmail.org

Ph: 044-28202448, 044-28271616 (extn - 1438)

Websites : www.sankaranethralaya.org,

www.supportsankaranethralaya.org,

www.omlog.org, www.sankaranethralayausa.org

A loving and caring husband immortalizes his wife



Readers would recall the most touching story of a loving husband donating towards the creation of an operation theater at our institution in honour and memory of his beloved wife in this column in our last issue. We share with a sense of deep gratitude and respect that **Shri MSS Raghavan** the man with an undying love and regard for his wife and unshakable faith in SN has in a rare demonstration of generosity bequeathed his house, the premises which was the warm hearth and home where he spent the most joyous and memorable years of his life with his loving wife Komala Raghavan to Sankara Nethralaya!

We bow our heads in silence at such magnanimity in the face of great personal sorrow as we are at a loss for words!

Insight- A passion for compassion Read a great book, fulfill a greater cause!

We seek your kind patronage for 'Insight' the poignant narration of Sankara Nethralaya's growth to a world class humanitarian eye care institution and success of a social enterprise by noted biographers Shri. George Skarias, Shri. VV.Ranganathan and Ms Meera Prasad, with interesting inputs from eminent personalities. 'Insight' is a most enjoyable and informative book and a wonderful gifting option for all age groups and occasions. Entire sales proceeds go towards providing cost free eye care to the poor and needy. Please pick your copy of this great literary work of compassion at the SN main centre, Higginbotham's and Rasi Silk emporiums at Anna Nagar, Mylapore and Nanganallur.

