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An institution dedicated to Service honours a lifelong dedication to Service



Sankara Nethralaya salutes an old friend and supporter on his birth centenary



Recognitions & Awards

Best Hospital in Ophthalmology



Sankara Nethralaya was adjudged as the '**Best Hospital in Ophthalmology**' at the 'Mayan Awards- 2018' held in January 2019. The award was presented by Mrs Kiran Bedi, Lt Governor, Puducherry and received on behalf of the institution by Dr V. Jagdish, HOD, Department of Anaesthesiology, Sankara Nethralaya.

A white paper on the logMAR visual acuity chart wins recognition



A white paper titled '**Construction and Validation of logMAR visual acuity chart in seven Indian languages**' authored jointly by the SN team of Dr Kalpa Negiloni, Deepmala Majumdar, Dr Krishna Kumar, Dr Ronnie George and Biman Sen with assistance from Dr Aditya Neog, Dr Medhi J and Choudhary Mitalee was awarded the **AIOS-IJO Platinum Award for the 'Best Scientific Paper'** for year 2018 at the 77th Annual conference of the AIOS held at Indore.

A focussed study into the niche visual needs and challenges of the men who ensure our safety and comfort while driving / riding wins high recognition at major topical meet



Dr Rashima Asokan, Assistant Professor, ESO, researcher in optometry and Member - 'Indian Association of Occupational health' was awarded the '**Golden Jubilee Medal**' for her most insightful paper in the field of occupational optometry, titled '**Impact of Vision correction on the quality of life and productivity among automobile mechanics**' at the 67th State meeting of the Indian Association of Occupational Health (IAOH) TN chapter.

Senior Research Optometrist, Sankara Nethralaya awarded with a Doctorate by SASTRA University



Ms Kalpa Negiloni, Senior Research Optometrist, Sankara Nethralaya was awarded with a Doctorate by SASTRA University for her trailblazing finding and recommendation on the lighting and seating arrangement in school classrooms, titled "**Environmental factors and visual requirements in school classrooms and development of recommendation for classroom visual environment**".

Sankara Nethralaya's head of Binocular Vision becomes first Indian to be conferred with a 'Diplomate' in her niche field by the AAO



Dr Rizwana Husaindeen, Assistant Professor Elite School of Optometry was placed right at the top of the optometry ladder when the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) the world leader in the field conferred its coveted '**Diplomate in Binocular Vision, Perception and Paediatrics**' on her at San Antonio, Texas, USA.

Global leader in optical aids crowns SN researcher with a coveted title



Mehal P. Rathore 'Research Assistant' at Sankara Nethralaya's Cornea Department was awarded the title '**IVI Essilor Optometry Wizard of the Year**' by the renowned optical aids company at their National level Quiz competition held at Chennai.

Sankara Nethralaya's team 'AMMA' leads the premier league at major meet with their tender touch



Team 'AMMA' consisting of Dr Niveditha Narayanan, Dr Kavitha Kalaivani and Dr Nissar Sonam Poonam (Sankara Nethralaya) and Dr Vasumathy Vedantham (Radhatri Nethralaya) representing Tamil Nadu with the theme 'Tender Vision' was adjudged as the '**Best team in the Ophthalmology Premier League**' at the State level competition held at the 3rd annual conference of the 'Women's Ophthalmology Society' held at Hyderabad.

The grandmaster of Uvea scales another peak in his uphill climb



Dr Jyotirmay Biswas, Director of Uveitis and Ocular Pathology, Sankara Nethralaya was awarded the prestigious '**AIOS-Adenwala Award - 2018**' for his invaluable contribution to ophthalmology and the AIOS. The award was presented at the 77th Annual Conference of the AIOS held at Indore.

A dedicated surgeon and teacher honoured with prestigious award



Dr Nirmala Subramanian, Professor Emeritus Oculoplasty surgery and Senior Consultant at the Dept of Oculoplasty was honoured with the highly prestigious "**APSI-Plastic Surgeon for the year-2018 award**" instituted by the Dr KS Shekar Endowment, at the 53rd Annual Conference of the Association of Plastic Surgeons of India (APSICON-2018) held at Lucknow on November 2018.

An institution dedicated to Service honours a life of Service



The evening of the 26th of December 2018 would remain etched in the minds of the large number of Sankara Nethralaya family members assembled at the Sri V.D.Swami Auditorium, located at its main campus, a colourful and joyous moment when the legendary 'Pune Pagdi' the bright turban which adorned the heads of Lokmanya Balgangadhar Tilak the fiery freedom fighter and Gopal Krishna Gokhale the moderate freedom fighter and social reformer, the bright headgear which had become a proud symbol of India's nationalism and fight against foreign rule adorned the humble persona of the man who had been fighting all his life for freedom from blindness of his people, leading to a self reliant and independent life. The occasion was the awarding of the first '**Pune Netra Seva National Award**' instituted in honour and memory of Late G.M Shetty of Modern Cafe, Pune, a philanthropist who supported social causes generously, by the Pune Seva Netra Pratisthan a unique and pioneering service institution engaged in bringing back the light of vision and joy totally cost free to thousands of visually impaired in the rural parts of Maharashtra, for the past 40 years. The award was instituted to recognize and honour an outstanding personality working in the field of ophthalmology, as part of the institution's 40th anniversary celebrations and the members of the executive committee of the organization chose Dr SS. Badrinath, Founder & Chairman Emeritus, Sankara Nethralaya unanimously for the same. The fact that the award was being conferred by an institution governed by the same philosophy and values, an institution that has been serving a large number of indigent visually impaired for the same number of years as the institution started by the recipient of the award and the fact that it was being conferred by the first citizen of the State made it a special award. Dr Prema Padmanabhan's description of the lofty ideals and qualities of the man being honoured as the 'Quintessence of a Karmayogi' summed up the spirit of the day in a single sentence.

Sankara Nethralaya salutes its founding father on his birth centenary



Shri Chimanlal Ujamshibhai Shah the well known philanthropist and educationist had reposed his faith on a young Dr Badrinath and contributed a large sum of money which became the 'Seed Capital' for the initiative which would bring back the light of vision and smile to millions. The Sankara Nethralaya family paid its homage and gratitude to the great man to whom it owed its inception on the occasion of his birth centenary. The presence of Mrs Minal Shah his daughter and torch bearer of his noble work who is keeping his legacy alive made the event momentous, the invocation composed by her describing him as a 'Karmayogi' and 'Paropakari' summed up his personality and the admiration of a beloved daughter and set the tone for the day's proceedings. Dr TS Surendran, Vice Chairman Sankara Nethralaya and a man associated with it almost since inception described him as an epitome of Gujarati hospitality and charity and the seed he sowed having grown into a large banyan tree. Speaking on the occasion Dr Girish Rao described him as a 'Karmayogi' who made a difference to the world he lived through his massive funding of healthcare and educational institutions. Real time tribute came in the form of a large number of students receiving their Fellowship in their chosen areas of specialization, a fulfillment of his dream. A highly moved Minal Shah emphasized to the graduating Fellows that they were torchbearers of the rich Badrinath-CU Shah legacy of selfless service which they should imbibe and uphold.

Emphatic appeal by legendary ophthalmologist adds great value to Sankara Nethralaya's awareness creation drive on eye donation



The critical need to harvest human cornea for eye transplant surgeries is evident by the fact that the Union Health Ministry observes the period between September 25 to August 8th as 'Eye donation fortnight' culminating on the 8th of August being observed as 'eye donation day'. A period when it undertakes nationwide activities towards creating awareness on eye donation. As an institution in the forefront of creating awareness on eye donation almost since its inception Sankara Nethralaya leveraged the power and passion of youth power to spread the message of the fortnight. Senior doctors and optometrists and personnel from the eye bank joined hundreds of NSS students from the Women's Christian college and Loyola college, espousing the cause of eye donation, by holding aloft placards with messages to the effect and raising their voice as they marched and stood as a human chain. Speaking on the occasion Dr S Gayatri, Senior Cornea Fellow and Dr N.Radhika emphasized that corneal issues were the next biggest cause for blindness after cataract and glaucoma and the need for massive cornea harvesting. Describing eye donation as a true spirit of giving Dr Radhika added that corneal transplant was the most successful of all organ transplants. Making a surprise presense veteran ophthalmologist and founder of the LV Prasad Eye Institute, the legendary Dr Gulapalli N Rao hailed Dr SS Badrinath as the creator of a world class eye hospital and his wife as the moving force behind him, the distinguished doctor lauded Dr Radhika and Dr Prema Padmanabhan as outstanding examples of exhibiting the three 'h's namely heart, head and hand. Terming the large gathering of students assembled as the generation which has the power to change the world, the veteran doctor made a fervent appeal to them to spread awareness on eye donation adding that if each student could convince one family in one year, India would become a nation which exports cornea.

A Voice rises for equality and respect of women at the 70th Republic Day celebration of an institution committed to women's welfare and growth



The Nation's 70th Republic Day was celebrated with customary patriotic flavour at the Sankara Nethralaya main campus. The proceedings began with a powerful patriotic invocation by students of the TSNA followed by the hoisting of the tricolour, by the Chief guest Ms Letika Saran former DGP of Police Tamil Nadu, credited as the first woman to head a State's police force in the country. Addressing the gathering the lady often referred to as 'Super Cop' expressed her deep concern that the right to 'Equality' enshrined and guaranteed in the constitution of the Indian Republic, wherein all citizens are treated as equals is not being practiced in reality today. The former Police Chief observed that 'Women' as a group were not treated as equals and relegated to the status of second class citizens! a disparity that existed at home, workplace and society at large, she added that a small percentage of women who had achieved and reached top positions in their chosen fields did not reflect the ground reality of the status of women in the country where the majority of them continued to be exploited, harassed and suppressed on the basis of their gender. The eminent chief guest expressed that the only way the malaise of inequality in the treatment of women and their suppression could be overcome would be by sowing the seeds of equality of the genders early in the life of the nation's citizens, right at the kindergarten stage where little boys should be taught to treat girls with affection and as equals so that this quality grows in them as they mature into adults.

'An eye for safety' Sankara Nethralaya's drive towards ensuring safety on the road, kick starts on top gear



Chennai has the dubious distinction of being a city with one of the highest road accident rates in the world, the head being the most vulnerable part of the body to be hit leads to brain injury, nervous disorders leading to vision impairment, a grave fact that the 'Neuro-ophthalmology' department wanted to be communicated to the general public through a series of initiatives titled 'An eye for safety on the road' culminating in a short movie on road safety to be screened at the "Symposium in Neuro-Ophthalmology: Afferents plus Efferents -2019 'SYNAPSE-2019". The first of a series of awareness creation initiatives was the installation of the special vision evaluating logMAR charts developed by the ESO at 10 major Hindustan Petroleum outlets across Chennai city. The inaugural of the same was held at the COMCO HP, the company owned and operated bunk at Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai. The Vision chart was inaugurated and dedicated to the public by Mrs Subha Muthuraman, Senior Marketing Manager, HP. Dr Anuradha, Asst Professor, ESO gave a brief on the vision chart, its easy usage and the need for healthy vision while driving/riding on the road. The inaugural was graced by Ms Akila Ganesan, Director Administration, Mr. Suresh, DGM - Administration & Projects and Dr. Viswanathan - DGM, Optical Services. Five teams of Sankara Nethralaya employees spread themselves to 9 more petrol bunks in the city and carried out similar awareness creation activities including distribution of T Shirts with awareness messages to the employees, installing special vision charts and encouraging the employees and customers coming in to fill, to have their vision checked and distribution of eye screening handbooks. The first activity in the 'An eye for safety' initiative was very well received by the general public.

ESO's 'Occupational Optometry Services' take optometry optimization to the next level, with an insightful study into occupation based vision challenges



Raw base cutting



Drawing



Rough cutting



Fine cutting



Polishing

The Occupational Optometry Services team of the Elite School of Optometry joined hands with the Vision Impact Institute to carry out a detailed analysis of the specific visual acuity, light demand, and challenges of the large number of artisans/workmen who come under the unorganized sector titled "VISION CORRECTION IMPACT STUDY (VCIS) AMONG THE UNORGANISED SECTOR". The study helped in ascertaining the right visual acuity of the professions which it went into, helped in determining the right sitting, work postures, illumination, overcoming eye fatigue, enhancing vision, quality of production, spectacle usage and would be remembered as a landmark initiative in the history of vision care. 45% of the workers screened were provided free glasses matching their specific visual demand at work and the visual ability of the individual. Results of the follow-up carried out to ascertain compliance of spectacle usage, two months after prescription of the same showed a highly encouraging 88% compliance of spectacle usage both at the workplace and for other activities. A significant 76% of those screened were found to be needing eye care at varying levels and were referred for screening to nearby eye hospitals. The highlight of the study was the positive impact of the vision correction/enhancement initiative on the vision-related quality of life of the workers. We take great pleasure in sharing the name of the researchers who conducted this most novel and impactful study Dr. P P Santanam, Dr. R. Krishna Kumar, Dr. Rashima A, Ms. Raajamaheswari. KC, Dhanlakshmi.S, and Janani.S.

The Sankara Nethralaya academy conducts an extensive health check of the healthcare industry



The Sankara Nethralaya Academy conducted a high power seminar titled 'National Seminar on Emerging Paradigms in Healthcare Management' on the 9th of February 2019. The seminar could possibly be termed as a first of its kind as it dwelt in-depth into both the operational challenges of dispensing healthcare in terms of attrition of resource, branding, marketing and on the other hand on the healthcare delivery vis a vis the apportioning of costs, roles of the service provider, government bodies etc. Speaking on the occasion Dr R.Chandrasekhara Menon, Dean, Kalasalingam University, Srivilliputtur went into the basics of healthcare dispensing in terms of who should profit out of the entire operation, the hospital? the government? the insurance firm? Delivering the keynote address Dr TS. Selvavinayagam, Additional Director, Tamil Nadu Health System project, an arm of the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of TN emphasized the advantages of preventive care over curative care in terms of cost and avoiding human suffering, leading to better quality of life. The senior bureaucrat underlined the high 'advantages of scale' when the government procures healthcare (drugs, diagnosis and clinical care) from the private healthcare providers and dispenses it to the public which would drastically reduce the cost of consumption per patient. Dr Selvavinayagam concluded his keynote address with a high word of praise for the TSNA in terms of its infrastructure, trail blazing courses and quality of knowledge dissemination. The highlight of the seminar was a panel discussion by experts from different fields on the topic 'Healthcare – Quality Vs affordability'.

Talks by subject matter experts open the floodgates to better understanding and management of ophthalmic disorders



In-depth talks by Dr Mohamed Javed Ali, eminent Dacrylogist heading the Govind Sekasria Institute of Dacrylogy at the LV Prasad Eye Hospital and Dr Carlos Pavesio, Medical Retinal Director, Moorfields Hospital, UK helped in a broader understanding of their areas of expertise for participants from Sankara Nethralaya and external attendees. **Mirage-The Myth of Watering** a conference organized by the Department of Oculoplasty proved to be an oasis of knowledge with the world renowned expert on dacrylogy especially the lacrimal drainage system sharing his views on the subject. The eminent ophthalmologist underlined the need to be a good clinician and scientist to make an impact. The guest lecture by Dr Carlos Pavesio the highly acclaimed authority on the Retina began with a fulsome praise to the host institution boasting of one of the world's largest and well equipped and manned by experts Vitreo-Retina departments in the world, hailing Sankara Nethralaya as an amazing institution the eminent ophthalmologist observed that coming to the institution has always been a great learning and addition to his experience, The expert gave an elaborate talk covering topics like gluco therapy in treating uveitis, the reservation that purists in the field have to the usage of drugs which they term as 'toxic', macular edema, modalities for ocular dry syndrome, VEGF in Uveitis, anti VEGF perceptions, AMD etc. The talks helped in a healthy exchange of views and dissemination of knowledge.

Stalwarts join the SN family in recalling the greatness of a great friend and supporter of the institution



Members of the Sankara Nethralaya gathered in large numbers at the Sri VD.Swami auditorium to pay their homage and express their gratitude to to shri Iravatham Mahadevan, one of the institution's greatest friend and supporter, admirer and well wisher, a man whose generous contribution has special significance to its knowledge dissemination initiatives, as it laid the foundation for many young minds to acquire knowledge, skills and growth, the contribution also assumed significance as it was the life time saving of an upright civil servant, almost all that he could manage to set aside from his personal income. Dr Lily Therese and Dr Angayarkanni, from the institution's research wing spoke in glowing terms of the man who did not give lengthy sermons but translated his dream through actions, a man who embodied the adage 'Simple living and high thinking' a man who helped in creating and operating an educational institution (VIBS) which would create the building blocks of future India by imparting education and skills to a large number of students every year.

The presence of a diverse range of eminent personalities like Shri N.Ram, Managing Director, 'The Hindu', Mr AR Venkata chalapathi from the Madras Institute of Management Studies, Shri Tiruppur Krishnan, Editor, Amudhsurabhi, Swami Vimurthanandaji, Head-RK Mutt, Shri Venugopal, Chief Trustee, RK Mutt was a sign of the multifaceted personality and great man that late Iravatham Mahadevan was. The distinguished speakers spoke high about the different facets of his character, they hailed him as an intellectual with a scientific temperament, open to new ideas, a man who believed in evidence based approach, a researcher, administrator, philosopher, extraordinary litterateur a fearless commentator whose period was a golden age in Tamil journalism and above all a man who found great joy in the act of giving.

A ray of hope to those living in a world of darkness



As an institution committed to service and alleviation of suffering, Sankara Nethralaya has often ventured outside the confines of diagnosis and clinical care of ophthalmic ailments. Initiatives like starting a Computer Vision Clinic, developing the Train your eye software, Low Vision Clinic, Customized eye shell fabrication etc are relief measures that may not fall directly in the ambit of ophthalmology but nevertheless help patients in adapting to a normal life. The institution inaugurated the Vision Enhancement Clinic (VEC) at the Smt Lakshmi Ammal & Smt Alamelu Ammal Sankara Nethralaya complex at Shenoy Nagar as a major step towards alleviating pain and handicap of the visually impaired by rehabilitating them through enabling, educating and empowering in association with leaders in the field across the country.

The centre would strive towards enabling the visually impaired lead an

independent and safe life through a combination of well planned intervention processes consisting of counseling, education/vocational guidance, skill imparting, special skills training for students, assistive technology training. The intervention process is tailor made not only to address the challenges of the visually impaired but to help their families in making their life more comfortable. The facility equipped with State of the Art infrastructure and manned by an expert in training and guiding the visually impaired, offering comprehensive services to this section including educational and vocational guidance in sync with the Low Vision Clinic (LVC) at the Sankara Nethralaya main campus was inaugurated by Shri Ramakrishna Raju and Mrs Revathy Ramakrishna founders of 'Vision Aid' a Boston based charity engaged in serving the visually impaired through various measures.

Sankara Nethralaya family bids a tearful farewell to two of its great friends, supporters and well wishers



Jain Ratna Shri Surendra Manilal Mehta

Board Member
Medical Research Foundation
Attained the Lotus Feet of God
on 8th February 2019



Shri NDJ Renganath

Board Member
Medical Research Foundation
Attained the Lotus Feet of God
on 20th February 2019

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Please mail your feedback to us at
balas@snmail.org or eyelights@snmail.org

Join our Mission for Vision



DONATION SCHEME

AMOUNT IN INR

1. One time on a designated date

Single Cataract Surgery	Rs. 5,000
Single Major Surgery such as Retina, Glaucoma	Rs. 17,500

2. Single day free service

Approximately 40 Surgeries per day	Rs.2,00,000
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3. Year after year on a designated date for 12 years

Single Free Cataract Surgery	Rs.40,000
Single major Surgery (Retina, Glaucoma)	Rs.1,50,000

4. Tele-ophthalmology

Sponsoring the Tele-ophthalmology camp for one day	Rs.20,000
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5. Corpus Fund

For Community outreach program	Any amount
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6. Naming a room

Rs 10,00,000

7. Any other purpose

Any amount

Donations are exempt under Section 80G

For more details, contact

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Sankara Nethralaya

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Websites : www.sankaranethralaya.org,

www.supportsankaranethralaya.org,

www.omlog.org, www.sankaranethralayausa.org

Sankara Nethralaya seeks your support for its most ambitious cost free eye care initiative since inception!



We take pleasure in sharing that SN has embarked on its most ambitious cost free eye care initiative with the construction of a 46,274 sq ft exclusive community hospital. The facility is coming up at St.Thomas Mount, right at the entrance to Chennai on the highway leading to the city. It is a massive project involving a huge financial outlay and when functional it will dispense world class eye care totally cost free and revive the lost vision of a large number of poor patients from all over the country.

Your donations small or big will go a long way in completing this most noble and compassionate initiative.

Sankara Nethralaya
wishes you a bright
TAMIL NEW YEAR !
and joyous
UGADI !



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.

