

Patron Saints Visit SN **3**



ONGC Genetics & Molecular Biology Convention **4**



Lions Diabetic Retinopathy skills transfer training program **6**



Meeting with TN Government, University of Alabama **7**



The 'Temple of the Eye' is showered with blessings from its patron Saints on its 'Thanksgiving' day



Sankara Nethralaya rings true! Exalts the Mahatma's grandson at the centenary celebration of a Gandhian





Recognitions & Awards

Post graduate trainee's awesome performance wins her Gold!



Dr. K Padma Lakshmi, pursuing her postgraduate degree offered by the Diplomate National Board of examination at the CU Shah institute of Post graduate Science, Sankara Nethralaya won the "Divya Chaturvedi Gold Medal award" for her outstanding performance on the paper sub speciality of Uveitis and Inflammatory diseases, in the examinations held in April 2015.

Sankara Nethralaya Academy student excels in University examination



Elizabeth Vincy Thomas, a graduate in B.Sc (Cardio Pulmonary Perfusion Care Technology) and pursuing her 1st year MBA – Hospital & Healthcare Management programme at The Sankara Nethralaya Academy has been awarded as University Rank Holder for First Class with Distinction (86%) in the semester examination conducted by Hindustan Institute of Technology & Science (HITS), Hindustan University, Chennai.

Head of Sankara Nethralaya's Neuro-Ophthalmology department receives twin honours at prestigious topical meet



A Poster presented by Dr S.Ambika, Senior Consultant and Head - Neuro-Ophthalmology Department was ranked in the 1st place at the ICTRIMS-2015, held under the aegis of the Indian Academy of Neurology and the Madras Neuro Trust on the 14th and 15th of February 2015, to update on Neuromyelitis Optica Multiple Sclerosis and related disorders.



SN team's informative joint submission adjudged as 'Best Poster' for year 2015, at prestigious ophthalmic meet



An in-depth analysis of vascular abnormalities in the eye, authored by Dr. Nishat Bansal, Research cum Vitreo-Retina Fellow and co-authored by Dr. Muna Bhende, Senior Consultant and Dr. Jaya Prakash.V, Consultant, Vitro-Retinal Services, presented as a poster titled 'Peripheral Polypoidal Choroidal Vasculopathy' won the E.T Selvam award for the 'Best Poster' at the 73rd All India Ophthalmic Conference at New Delhi.

Senior Consultants from Sankara Nethralaya win high recognitions at nation's major ophthalmic meet.



A study on the impact of Foveal depression/thickness in Age Related Macular Diseases(ARMD), by Dr. Tarun Sharma, Director, Bhagwan Mahaveer Vitreo-retinal Services, titled "Foveal slope measurements in subjects with high risk of age related macular degeneration" was awarded the '1st Silver Award' by the 'Indian Journal of

Ophthalmology' and a paper titled "Polymerase chain reaction of intraocular fluid for mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB)" by Dr. Jyotirmay Biswas, Director, Uveitis and Ophthalmic Pathology Department was awarded "The best paper read at the UVEA session" and a paper titled "Diffusion weighted imaging- A predictor of visual outcome in acute optic neuritis" by Dr S.Ambika, Senior Consultant, Director - Neuro- Ophthalmology services, was awarded the "D.Athawale Award" at the 73rd All India Ophthalmic Conference (AIOC) held at New Delhi.

The Sankara Nethralaya Academy adds feather to its cap

The Sankara Nethralaya Academy(TSNA) Chennai has been affiliated to Healthcare Sector Skill Council, a unit of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Govt. of India, as an authorized Vocational Training Provider for the job role REFRACTIONIST and MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIAN.



'SWAN' Soars High

Volunteers at the Sankara Nethralaya Womens' Auxiliary reinforced their spirited empathy to brethren at the hour of crisis as they collected and despatched Clothing, Utensils, Medicine, Food essentials and Utility items to Earthquake Victims at Nepal.



The 'Temple of the Eye' is showered with blessings from its patron Saints on its 'Thanksgiving' day



Kanchi Pontiffs at the Thanks Giving Day

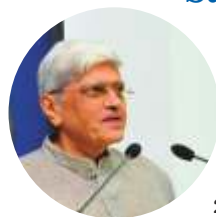
Divine intervention by a seemingly invisible benign 'Divine Hand' at work has been the hallmark of many of Sankara Nethralaya's achievements. This 'Divine Will' was evident in the fact that the Sage and Seer, who sowed the seeds for its inception with his emphatic appeal to an assembly of Doctors to serve their countrymen and blessed that Sankara Nethralaya will shine and serve humanity as long as the Sun and Stars shine in the sky was presiding over its 'Thanksgiving day' being observed by the institution in its 37th year of service on the 18th of April 2015.

A highly moved Dr. SS.Badrinath, Founder and Chairman Emeritus started the proceedings by paying humble pranams at the feet of the Kanchi Pontiffs. He recalled the inspiring words of the Seer made 37 years ago which laid the foundation for Sankara Nethralaya and declared with pride that Sankara Nethralaya has been adjudged as the 'Numero Uno' in the field of ophthalmic care in the country and

thanked his team of colleagues for their dedication.

Delivering the Anugraha Bhashanam His Holiness Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal recalled the role of noble souls like Shri Vaidhya Subramania Iyer and Shri V.D.Swami in making Dr SS.Badrinath's dream a reality, he remarked in lighter vein that if he had not restrained the young Badrinath from going back to the USA, he may have been an affluent doctor over there, sending his contributions to the institution from the USA. Delivering his Anugraha Bhashnam His Holiness Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal traced the noble tradition of delivering cost free eye care to the needy as being thousands of years old and evidence of the same being engraved in the stone inscriptions of ancient temples. The Seer underlined that vision was the most critical of all the human faculties and congratulated Sankara Nethralaya for the excellent work being done in the field of eye care, eye research and education in ophthalmology. The Swamigal enlightened the audience by observing that while it is natural for everyone to strive for a better 'Standard of life' such a pursuit should not be restricted to a good job, house and material comforts but a greater involvement in charity, compassion and service to fellow human beings. The day witnessed the honouring of Sankara Nethralaya associates for their great support and employees who had discharged their duties in an exemplary manner, by the Acharyas.

Sankara Nethralaya rings true! Exults the Mahatma's grandson at the centenary celebration of a Gandhian



The imposing edifice housing the Kamalnayan Bajaj Institute for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology came alive to a steady flow of visitors right from the early evening of Friday the 23rd of January 2015. The Sankara Nethralaya family was paying its homage to the memory of the great man after whose name its research facility was named.

Introducing the Chief guest Dr S.S.Badrinath, Chairman Emeritus started off with his sincere thanks to Shri Rahul Bajaj and Shri Neeraj Bajaj for choosing to celebrate the centenary of Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj at the place named in his honour. Warmly recalling his long association with Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi, he recalled his meeting when he was the Governor of West Bengal and receiving a copy of 'A Frank Friendship' the book authored by him.

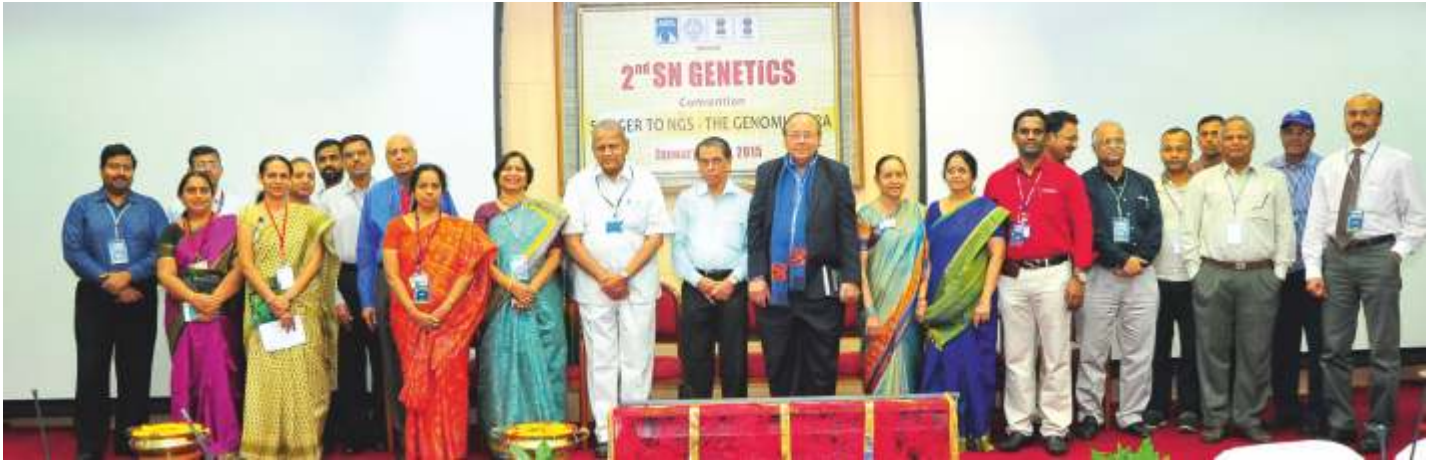


Sri Kamal Nayan Bajaj Centenary Celebrations

The distinguished chief guest of the day Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi a man with such high credentials as former governor of West Bengal, senior IAS officer and a man who served as India's ambassador to Sri Lanka, South Africa, Norway and Iceland, a man with a proud lineage of being the grandson of the Mahatma and the man whom he described as his 'conscience keeper' took the audience on an enchanting trip to a bygone era, a glorious era, where men could differ on issues, question their leaders and yet remain united for a common cause. The eminent speaker observed that the Bajaj family had a history of what he termed as "Intelligent philanthropy". Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi quoting an idiom from old world English "It rings true" which was derived from the practice of striking a coin with one's finger and ensuring its authenticity, he remarked that 'Sankara Nethralaya rings true'

This was followed by a highly charged Vote of Thanks by Shri Rahul Bajaj, Head of the Bajaj group.

High level recognition, participation and discussions mark the 2nd Annual Convention by the Sankara Nethralaya ONGC Genetics & Molecular Biology Department



Sanger to Next Generation Sequencing- The Genomics Era – SN ONGC Department of Genetics and Molecular Biology 2nd Annual Convention

The Sankara Nethralaya ONGC Department of Genetics and Molecular Biology engaged in the study of genes and their influence, for better diagnosis of ocular ailments by providing preventive/curative Medicare through gene mapping and candidate screening conducted its 2nd annual convention, as a symposium on 'Sanger to Next Generation Sequencing- The Genomics Era". The high power event was sponsored by the nation's major research regulating bodies namely the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and was attended by legends from the scientific and research community like Professor T. Ramasami, Former Secretary, Department of Science and Technology and Professor Samir. K.Brahmachari, Founder- Director, CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology.

Extending a warm welcome Dr Sripriya of the SN ONGC Department hailed the advent of newer technologies in the form of Next Generation Sequencing platform. Giving an overview of the symposium Dr A.Jayamuruga Pandian, Reader & Head SN ONGC Dept. of Genetics and Molecular Biology started off by reading a felicitation and greeting message from Prof. Vishwa Mohan Khatoch, Secretary, Department of Health and Director General of ICMR.

Dr. SS.Badrinath, Founder & Chairman Emeritus welcoming the gathering, gave a brief overview of how the support from the government, NGO's and philanthropic individuals and corporate bodies helped to carry out its research activities. Guest of Honour Professor Ramasami, observed that his presence along with Prof. Samir Brahmachari symbolized the title of the symposium 'from Sanger to NGS' as he belonged to the Sanger era and Prof Brahmachari belonged to the New Generation Sequencing era. A highlight of the session was a most touching and entertaining cultural program by 'Comaganin Ragapriya' an orchestra by the differently abled which helped participants to unwind and relax in the midst of the hectic proceedings.

Sankara Nethralaya opens new horizons in specialized ophthalmic care!

In a major rehabilitation initiative to the neuro-visually challenged patients, the departments of Binocular vision clinic and neuro ophthalmic services at Sankara Nethralaya came together to find novel techniques that offer remedial solutions through the Neuro- Optometry Clinic.

Delivering the welcome address, Dr. S. Ambika, Director, Department of Neuro Ophthalmology Services, remarked that the launching of the Neuro Optometry clinic heralded the beginning of an evolutionary chapter in blindness prevention.

Ms. Revathy Saravanan, Head, Neuro Opto Clinic enumerated the statistics and modalities on patient treatment while Ms. Jameel Rizwana, Head, Binocular Vision Clinic elaborated on the State of the art Binocular vision clinical services available to treat vision deficits through, perceptual, vestibular therapy and by administering binasal occlusions, prisms and addition of lenses to neuro visually challenged patients. The day witnessed the signing of an MoU between the Elite School of Optometry, the academic wing of Sankara Nethralaya and the University of Melbourne, by Dr. Trichur Vidyasagar, Head, Visual and cognitive neuroscience laboratory, University of Melbourne and Dr.SS Badrinath, Chairman Emeritus, Sankara Nethralaya.



Inauguration of Neuro Optometry Clinic and Signing of MOU with University of Melbourne

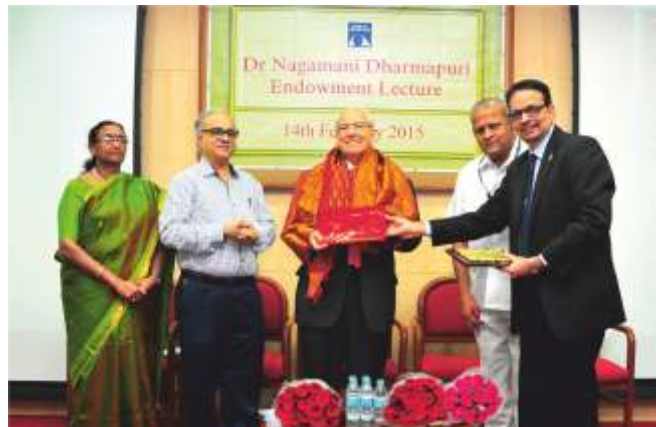
In his fascinating lecture, "Vision – A Key to unlock the brain", Prof. Vidya Sagar underlined their principle research studies on visual cortex involving spatial arrangements and mapping of the brain. The Chief Guest for the day Dr. Arjundas, hailed as "Father of Neurology", inaugurated the Neuro Optometry clinic, to the thunderous applause of the gathering. The day concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Shikha Talwar Bassi, Deputy Director, Department of Neuro- Ophthalmology.

A world renowned expert's insights on 'Paediatric ophthalmic disorders' throws new light on the subject

The 12th edition of the 'Dr. Nagamani Dharmapuri Endowment Lecture' dedicated to high level discourse on paediatric ophthalmology and facilitate a vibrant exchange of the latest developments in the field, was observed with great intellectual fervour at the Sri V.D. Swami Auditorium, Sankara Nethralaya main campus on the 14th of February 2015. Dr S.Meenakshi, Senior Consultant, Pediatric Ophthalmology and Director Academics introduced the esteemed the guest speaker of the day, Professor Gerald Shultz as a world renowned ophthalmic geneticist with special interest in anterior segment and gave an interesting account of his professional affiliations, books authored and lectures delivered. Giving a brief note on Dr. Mohan Rajan guest of honour of the day Dr T.S.Surendran thanked him for the great assistance by mobilizing substantial funds and introducing organizations like Cognizant Technologies.

Delivering the guest of honour address, Dr. Mohan Rajan paid rich tributes to his Alma Mater adding that ophthalmic history in the country will be chronicled as 'before Dr. Badrinath' and 'after Dr. Badrinath' the man who made it a reality.

The illustrious guest speaker of the day started his oration on 'Genetic and acquired paediatric disorders' an informative talk on the role of genes, chromosomes, inherited/acquired ophthalmic disorders, genetics of hereditary cataract, importance of prenatal screening, genomic infections and corneal opacities impact of sexually transmitted diseases in uveitis, embellished with real time case studies. The highly charged and momentous day came to an end with a vote of thanks by Dr. Srikanth, Consultant, Pediatric Ophthalmology Department.



Dr. Namitha K. Bhuvanewari, Director and Superintendent, Regional Institute of Ophthalmology and Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Chennai, Dr T S Surendran, Vice Chairman, Prof. Gerald Schultz, Associate Clinical Professor, Loma Linda School of Medicine, California, Dr SS Badrinath, Chairman Emeritus and Dr Mohan Rajan, Rajan Eye Care Hospital at the 12th Dr Nagamani Dharmapuri Endowment Lecture

An old friend and well wisher initiates and supports State of the Art eye care in a semi-urban pocket bordering Chennai



Mobile Eye Surgical Unit Camp at Tirutani

Tiruvallur District Blindness Control Society rose to the occasion and a comprehensive eye screening camp was conducted by Sankara Nethralaya's outdoor eye care team. The Mobile Eye Surgical Unit (MESU) camp was very well received and a total of 796 local people were screened, high quality cataract removal surgery followed by implantation of intra-ocular lens was carried out and vision revived for 155 patients.

The 'Geetham Hall', GRT Hotel, Tirutani, the venue of the valedictory function was packed to capacity on the 18th of February as Dr SS.Badrinath extended a warm welcome to the gathering and introduced the honourable Chief Guest of the day Shri K. Veera Raghava Rao IAS, District Collector, Tiruvallur. Speaking on the occasion, guest of honour Shri T.V Antony, former Chief Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Government recalled his more than 35 years association with Dr SS.Badrinath adding that Sankara Nethralaya looked like a sprawling university, attributing the stupendous growth to the enthusiasm and dedication of Dr SS.Badrinath and Dr. Vasanthi Badrinath.

Delivering the Chief Guest's address Shri K.Veera Raghava Rao, IAS, Collector of Tiruvallur observed that he considered it an honour to be a part of such a noble initiative and thanked the organizers for the same. The chief guest closed his talk with the observation that there was no retirement for service minded people like Dr SS.Badrinath and Shri T.V Antony which was richly illustrated by their enthusiastic participation.

Lions Club and Sankara Nethralaya take a giant step towards a common ideal and cherished cause



His Excellency Shri K.Rosaiah, the Honourable Governor of Tamil Nadu, Lions' Club Dignitaries at the Lions' Diabetic Retinopathy skills transfer training program

The Lions Club launched its 'Lions Diabetic Retinopathy skills transfer training program' aimed at providing the required expertise and special knowledge to diagnose and treat diabetic retinopathy the second largest cause of blindness after cataract in the country, with its old and trusted ally Sankara Nethralaya on 7th of April 2015, observed as 'World Health Day' at the Sri VD.Swami Auditorium, Sankara Nethralaya. Lion M.V Raghunathan one of the chief architects of the initiative extended a warm welcome to the distinguished Chief Guest of the day His Excellency Shri K.Rosaiah, the Honourable Governor of Tamil Nadu, fellow Lions, dignitaries and participants.

Senior Vitreo-Retinal Consultants Dr. Rajiv Raman and Dr. Suganeswari gave interesting inputs on the ailment against which the initiative was being launched, they had a high word of praise for Lion Dr. Chandrasekhar Shetty and Lion S.N.Harinarayanan for their critical role in evolving the program. Dr SS.Badrinath expressed his deep gratitude to Lion Raghunathan, Lion Lady Mrs. Raghunathan and their son living in New York for their most generous monetary and moral support of Sankara Nethralaya's community eye care initiatives.

Delivering the guest of Honour address Lion 'Bob'E.Corlew expressed his joy at being a part of such a great training initiative as the 'Lions Diabetic Retinopathy Skills Transfer Training Programme'. Delivering the Chief Guest's address His Excellency the governor of Tamil Nadu Shri K.Rosaiah underlined the criticality of the skills and knowledge transfer program with his observation that only 7 to 8% of vitreo-retinal surgeons in the country are thoroughly trained in diagnosing and treating diabetic retinopathy. He complimented the Lions Club for choosing Sankara Nethralaya as its partner in the program.

Elite School of Optometry re-defines eye screening methodology for school children



School Children undergoing Eye screening at ESO's Vision screening program

School children undergo an eye examination at least once in 2 years under the aegis of the National Programme for control of Blindness. Sankara Nethralaya's Elite school of optometry completed vision testing for a large number of school children studying in corporation schools on January 6th 2015. A total of 39 schools under Corporation Zone 9 spread over the localities of Alwarpet, Teynampet, Royapettah, Nungambakkam, Thousand lights, Triplicane and Mylapore were covered.

The students underwent an examination for refractive errors and also their binocular vision status and the general health of their eyes. Vision testing involved a three-phased structured protocol consisting of basic vision screening, detection of refractive errors and referral for other ocular problems. A total of 2862 children were tested in one day across 39 schools. Elite School of optometry's screening programs aim to eliminate all barriers and create a unique model in the school children vision testing observed Ms. N. Anuradha, Vision Screening Coordinator, Elite School of Optometry. Creating awareness among all the stake holders and involving them as part of the screening, especially parents and teachers would create an impact on the school vision screening models" added Dr R Krishnakumar, Principal, Elite School of Optometry.

Noted rationalist and social activist makes a clarion call for social democracy at Sankara Nethralaya's R-Day celebration



Republic Day celebrations at Sankara Nethralaya

The Nation's Republic day was celebrated with great fervor by Sankara Nethralaya, a huge gathering comprising Consultants, Researchers, Fellows and staff members, their families, including jubilant kids selected for recognition for their good academic performance.

The esteemed Chief guest of the day, noted rationalist, social thinker and orator Shri Suba Veerapandian unfurled the national tricolor which was followed by the rendering of the national anthem by the entire gathering. Shri Subaveera Pandian held the audience spell-bound with rapt attention with his legendary oratory. Sharing interesting snippets on the national flag he observed that it was the image of the 'Spinning Wheel' the Mahathma's symbol of self reliance which was

originally planned to be in the centre of the national flag but it was replaced by the 'Ashoka Chakra' the national emblem to differentiate it from the congress flag, adding that interestingly the place where India's tricolor was first hoisted by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is currently outside India (Lahore, Pakistan). Shri Subaveera Pandian closed his speech with the rich compliment that the real greatness of Sankara Nethralaya laid in the fact that it had treated 1/3 of the total patients, belonging to the socially/economically backward sections totally cost free, to the thunderous applause of the audience. The day witnessed the honouring of staff members who had competed long years of service with the institution and distribution of merit certificates and scholarships to wards of staff members who had excelled in their academics.

Sankara Nethralaya Academy opens up a Wealth of career choices in health care

A career counselling session was organized by The Sankara Nethralaya Academy (TSNA), a unit of Medical Research Foundation, Chennai on its College road main campus, Chennai on 12.04.2015, to facilitate students completing their schooling to discover exciting academic options in the healthcare sector.

Addressing the plus two students and their parents during the Healthcare Career Counselling, Prof. Irungovel, Manager-Counselling, stressed the need for skill development. Earlier, welcoming the gathering, Mr. A Mahalingam, Deputy Registrar briefed on the educational facilities and collaborations of the academy. Prof. Ramani, Principal, underlined that employability can be enriched only by acquiring knowledge, skills and attitude reinforcing the uniqueness of the academy which is approved by Healthcare Sector Skill Council (NSDC). He also detailed about the extensive scholarship schemes offered by Sankara Nethralaya for the meritorious and economically weaker students. The Sankara Nethralaya Academy offers several courses like BSc (Medical Laboratory Technology), BSc (Ophthalmic Dispensing), Fellowship of Dispensing Opticians, BBA (Hospital & Healthcare Management) and Diploma in Ophthalmic Nursing Assistant.



TSNA's Healthcare career counselling session

High level meeting between TN Government, University of Alabama and SN explores collaboration in research and innovation

A high profile team consisting of senior health ministry officials Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Dr. S. Geethalakshmi, Director of Medical Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Richard Marchese, Vice-President Research and Dr. Jason Nichols, Associate Vice-President, Research and Mr. David Springer who facilitated the meeting with the members



Visit of faculty from the University of Alabama

of the University of Alabama, visited the Sankara Nethralaya main campus on the 12th of February 2015. The distinguished members were taken on a tour of the research and clinical facilities after which an elaborate presentation of the institution's clinical services including community ophthalmology was made by Dr. Tarun Sharma, Director, Bhagwan Mahaveer Department of vitreoretinal services and Director-Fund Raising. This was followed by a meeting to discuss collaboration in the field of advanced research diagnostics including rapid diagnostics tests for retinoblastoma, stem cell research and other key areas in addition to developing a portable operation theatre.

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

Jaslok Community Ophthalmic Centre

38/159 Sri Rama Building, Greams Road, Chennai - 600 006
Ph: 044-28271616/ 42271500

Sankara Nethralaya Rameshwaram

R S Falor Hospital, 45 West Street, Rameswaram-623526. Ph: 04573-222004

Aditya Birla Sankara Nethralaya, Kolkata

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

Sankara Nethralaya RSM Square

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

Sankara Nethralaya Lasik Centre

No.41, AJC Bose Road, Diamond Prestige Complex, Kolkata - 700 014
Ph: 033-65461201/02, 64991200

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

You may kindly send your comments to

balas@snmail.org or eyelights@snmail.org

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Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust Inc.

DONATION SCHEME

AMOUNT IN INR

1. One time on a designated date

Single Cataract Surgery Rs. 3,750

Single Major Surgery such as Retina, Glaucoma Rs. 10,000

2. Single day free service

40 Surgeries per day Rs.1,50,000

3. Year after year on a designated date

Single Free Cataract Surgery Rs.40,000

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

4. Tele-ophthalmology

A single day screening

of 200 rural poor for vision care Rs.15,000

5. Corpus Fund

For Community outreach program Any amount

Donations are exempt under Section 80G and 35AC

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.omtrust.org

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Image of A.Sivasailam Block, Chennai

Sankara Nethralaya your cherished institution needs your direct support and assistance through your valuable friends and contacts to fulfill its eye care initiatives at Chennai and Kolkata which would be two giant steps in its journey towards a blindness free world. Donations to Medical Research Foundation are 50% tax exempt under Section 80G and 100% under Section 35AC of the Income Tax Act. Donations to Vision Research Foundation are 175% exempt under Section 35(I) (ii) of the Income Tax Act.



Image of Rajar Haat project, Kolkata

**Happy
Guru
Poornima**
July 31, 2015

**Happy
Ganesha
Chaturthi**
September 17, 2015

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.

