



WELCOME TO OUR **eyelights**

Top news:

- 47th Foundation Day of Sankara Nethralaya was commemorated on September 14, marking another year of service, growth, and institutional milestones
- Surgical Simulation Suite was formally inaugurated at Padma Bhushan Dr. S.S. Badrinath Campus, Chennai
- Four senior doctors from SN have been recognized among the world's top 2% researchers.
- The community mourns the loss of Dr. Vasanthi Badrinath, whose passing marks the end of an era and leaves behind a legacy of dedication and compassion.

From the Chairman's Desk



As Sankara Nethralaya enters its 47th year, I find myself thinking less about numbers and more about the people who have carried this institution on their shoulders. We are now moving closer to our 50th year, and that nearness brings with it a certain tenderness. Half a century is not just an organisational milestone. It is a lifetime of human effort.

When we opened the Surgery Simulation Suite, or launched Occupational Optometry Services in Rajarhat, or conducted headline-making conferences, what struck me most were the faces behind these initiatives. The trainees who finally have a safer space to learn, the workers who can access timely care. These are small details, but they carry real human weight. Our academic achievements have also been a source of pride. When four of our doctors were named among the world's top researchers, I thought of the long evenings, the missed celebrations, the lives spent balancing clinics with study.

We also had moments of loss that felt deeply personal. We said goodbye to individuals who shaped this institution long before many of us even arrived. Among them was Dr. Vasanthi Badrinath, wife and the support system of our founder, Dr. S.S. Badrinath. Her life was one of service, warmth, and uncommon strength. Besides being a distinguished pediatrician and hematologist, she was also a pillar of support in the legacy of Sankara Nethralaya. Her passing reminds us how intertwined we are with the people who gave their lives to build this institution.

To our donors and well-wishers: I want to say this plainly. What we do would not be possible without you. Your support is not just financial; it is emotional. It tells us that you believe in the idea of Sankara Nethralaya, one that was built on dignity, affordability, and compassion. Every outreach camp, every research breakthrough, every child who receives sight-saving care carries a part of your kindness.

As we walk towards our 50th year, my hope is simple: that we continue to grow, but never lose the warmth and sincerity that brought us this far. The science will evolve, the infrastructure will expand, but what must remain constant is our humanity.

Thank you for standing with us in our achievements, in our challenges, and in our purpose.

With warm regards,

Dr. T. S. Surendran

Chairman, Sankara Nethralaya

From the President's Desk



The journey of Sankara Nethralaya into one of India's most respected eye-care institutions is a story woven from clinical excellence, compassionate service, scientific vision, and community spirit. This growth was not the achievement of a single individual but the collective outcome of numerous dedicated contributors who strengthened the institution in meaningful and enduring ways. Among them - Dr. Vasanthi Badrinath, Ms. Bala Ragunathan, and Prof. S. Ramakrishnan—stand out for their profound and lasting impact on the ethos, functioning, and academic stature of the institution.

Dr. Vasanthi Badrinath played a pivotal role in shaping both the clinical and humanitarian character of Sankara Nethralaya. As a VRF member and distinguished clinician, her vision extended far beyond medical practice. She nurtured an environment where compassion, integrity, and patient-centered care became inseparable from clinical excellence. Her contributions established a strong foundation of service-oriented SWAN that continues to guide the patients and help the staff carry out their work thus ensuring the institution's values and practices are upheld.

Ms. Bala Ragunathan was a devoted SWAN volunteer whose selfless commitment brought warmth and humanity into the daily life of the hospital. Her service exemplifies the vital role volunteers play in bridging the gap between clinical care and human comfort. Efforts of SWAN highlight that a healthcare institution is shaped not only by its doctors and researchers but also by those who bring heart, compassion, and community engagement into its corridors.

In the realm of scientific advancement and academic growth, the contributions of Prof. S. Ramakrishnan were transformative. As the founder of the Biochemistry & Cell Biology Department, he laid the groundwork for cutting-edge research and helped integrate basic sciences with clinical ophthalmology, fostering an environment where scientific inquiry and innovation could thrive.

Together, these three individuals represent the triad of strengths that define Sankara Nethralaya: compassionate patient care, humanitarian service, and scientific excellence. Dr. Vasanthi Badrinath strengthened its clinical soul, Ms. Bala Ragunathan enriched its humanitarian heart, and Prof. S. Ramakrishnan fortified its scientific backbone. Their combined efforts helped shape the institution into a model of holistic healthcare - one where research, service, and compassion coexist harmoniously.

Sankara Nethralaya is expanding its services through a new facility at Tondiarpet (North Chennai), additional space for clinical services at the Mukundapur unit, and the ESO-SNK centre at Rajarhat. In addition, the launch of the Ettayapuram MESU will take eye care to the doorsteps of communities in southern Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

All of this possible due to the wholehearted support of our donors and well-wishers.

Advance New Year wishes to all.

Dr Girish Rao
President

Institutional Milestones

Sankara Nethralaya marks 47th Foundation Day

Sankara Nethralaya celebrated its 47th Foundation Day, Roshni 2025, with a grand event on September 14 at Kamarajar Arangam, Teynampet. The event brought together staff and members to commemorate the institution's founding vision and continued commitment to service.



Surgery Simulation Suite inaugurated

A Surgery Simulation Suite was inaugurated on June 14 to enhance surgical training through hands-on, structured learning. Two simulators – one for Vitreoretinal and one for Cataract are presently installed in the suite. Our heartfelt gratitude to Madhukanta Gunvant Seth Charitable Trust and Ms. Bharti Ashwinkumar Dhank for donating the VR simulator to our institution



Occupational Optometry Services launched at Rajarhat campus

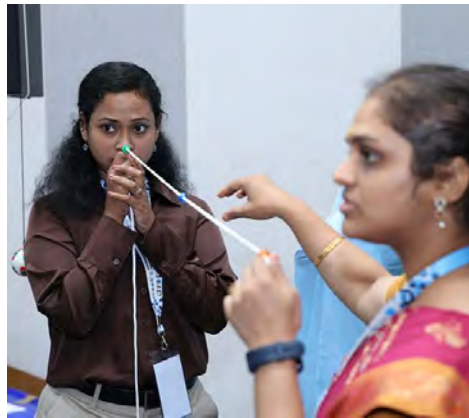
On May 17, the Rajarhat campus in Kolkata inaugurated Occupational Optometry Services to address the growing need for workplace-related vision care and digital eye health.

Breastfeeding cubicle launched under Project Ayushman

On August 6, a breastfeeding cubicle was inaugurated under Project Ayushman at the Mahyco Block in partnership with Ladies Circle India.

Academic & Clinical Achievements

EIVOC 2025 Conducted at Chennai Trade Centre



Kolkata Retina Conclave May 17 to 18 at Taj Taal Kutir, Eco Park



AIOS ARC Postgraduate Refresher Course



IERG 2025 Conference



Retina Summit



TSNA Graduation Ceremony



Refractive Surgery – Wet Lab, JKCN, 27th July 2025



Dr. G. Sitalakshmi remembered

Dr. G. Sitalakshmi Remembrance Day was observed on August 28 at the CSR, Sri A. Sivasailam Block, recalling her pioneering work in corneal research and surgery.



Outreach & Public Health

Retinoblastoma awareness program conducted



On May 12, the pediatric oncology and ophthalmology teams conducted Kanmaniyan Kagal, a Retinoblastoma Awareness Program focused on early detection of childhood eye cancer. Parents, caregivers, and medical professionals participated in discussions on early signs, treatment, and timely diagnosis.

Myopia Awareness Week observed

Sankara Nethralaya observed Myopia Awareness Week across its Chennai and Kolkata branches with educational sessions, demonstrations, and counselling for patients and families. The program emphasized preventive lifestyle habits and regular screenings for children and young adults.



Eye Donation fortnight



National Eye Donation Fortnight with a series of awareness rallies across the city, engaging students and the public on the importance of pledging to donate eyes.

The campaign began on August 26 with awareness programmes at Sri Sankara Matric Higher Secondary School, Thiruvanmiyur, and Rani Lady Meyyammai Higher Secondary School, Adyar. Students participated in marches and interactive sessions highlighting how corneal donation can restore sight.

On September 3, an Eye Donation Awareness Rally was held at L.M. Dadha Senior Secondary School, Choolaimedu, followed by a campus rally at Women's Christian College on September 4. ESO conducted its awareness rally on September 6, continuing the effort to reach diverse communities.

The series concluded on September 8 with a rally at Queen Mary's College, drawing strong participation from students and faculty.

Noor Dubai Partners with Sankara Nethralaya, Sponsors 500 Cataract Surgeries in its First India Collaboration



For the first time, the Dubai government-backed Noor Dubai Foundation has partnered with an Indian institution, joining hands with Sankara Nethralaya to support community eye-care services. As part of this collaboration, the foundation has sponsored 500 free cataract surgeries, marking a significant step in extending its mission of preventing avoidable blindness to India.

The Noor Dubai Foundation team also visited the Jaslok Community Ophthalmic Center during their visit to Chennai, where they interacted with patients benefiting from Sankara Nethralaya's community service initiatives. They toured the main campus, gaining a closer understanding of the hospital's outreach efforts and its commitment to accessible eye care.

Awards & Recognitions



- Dr. Jyotirmay Biswas received the David BenEzra Award



- Dr. Ronnie George was inducted into the Glaucoma Research Society.



- Dr. Pramod Bhende received the Presidential Award from the American Society of Retina Specialists



- Chairman Dr. T.S. Surendran delivered the Asu Biswas Memorial Gold Medal Oration in Kolkata.



- Dr. Chetan Rao received the Honor Award from the American Society of Retina Specialists

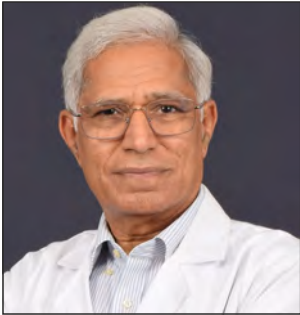


- President and Executive Medical Director Dr. Girish Rao received the Appreciation Award and Gold Medal at the Bombay Ophthalmologists' Association Focus 2025 in Mumbai and the Appreciation Award at MOSCON 2025 in Goa.



- Dr. Lingam Vijaya delivered the Dr. N.N. Sood Oration, the highest honour from the Glaucoma Society of India.

Four SN Doctors Named Among World's Top 2% Researchers



- Dr. Lingam Gopal, Dr. Jyotirmay Biswas, Dr. Ronnie Jacob George, and Dr. Parthoprattim Dutta Majumder have been named among the world's top 2% of researchers in a global ranking compiled by Elsevier and Stanford University.

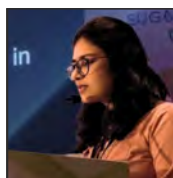


- Dr. Lingam Gopal was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Vitreo-Retinal Society of India.



- At the 35th Annual Conference of the Oculoplastics Association of India, Kolkata. Drs. Kirthi Koka, Vivek Singh, Priyanka Saini, Bristi Majumdar, Prerana Patil, and Minal H. Lulla were recognized for excellence in papers, photographs, and video presentations.

- At Retina Summit 2025, Dr. Bristi Majumdar, Dr. Astha Bansal, Dr. Aarzoo Juneja, and Dr. Rakshita Deepak Kene received top prizes for their papers and presentations.



- At the Tamil Nadu Ophthalmic Association Conference (TNOA 2025), Dr. Padmalakshmi K won the Best Poster Award, and Drs. Rakshita Deepak Kene, Shamika, and Anjana were recognized in the Uvea category.



- Dr. Sudharshan S and Dr. Parthopratin Dutta Majumder were elected Vice President and Secretary of the Uveitis Society of India. Dr. Ambika S was elected Vice President of the Indian Neuro-Ophthalmology Society.

- Drs. Veena Baskaran, Suganeswari G, Niveditha Narayanan, Dhanashree Ratra, and C.K. Parameswari received the Elizabeth Blackwell Award for Excellence in Teaching.



- Ms. S. Madhumathi (Contact Lens) named Hospital Optometry Practitioner of the Year by the British Contact Lens Association (BCLA)
- Thirty-six nurses from Sankara Nethralaya were honoured with the Einstein World Record certificate for participating in a synchronized national training program on preventing medication errors.

Institutional Awards

Sankara Nethralaya received the Institutions of Excellence Award from Rotary International District 3234 on Doctors’ Day, the Honours for Healthcare Excellence Award at the 5th CII TN MedClave Edition, and the Economic Times Healthcare Award under Hospital of the Year – Ophthalmology, South Zone.

Independence Day



International Nurses Day



Sports Day



Ayudha Pooja



Women's Day



In Memoriam

Dr. Vasanthi Badrinath passes away



Dr. Vasanthi Badrinath, noted pediatrician and hematologist and wife of founder Dr. S.S. Badrinath, passed away in Chennai on August 20 at the age of 85. A condolence meeting was held at the Shri V.D. Swami Auditorium the same day.

Ms. Bala Ragunathan remembered for two decades of service



Ms. Bala Ragunathan, long-time SWAN volunteer and Trustee, passed away on June 1. She served Sankara Nethralaya for over two decades with dedication.

Prof. S. Ramakrishnan remembered for academic contributions



Prof. S. Ramakrishnan, former Director of the Department of Biochemistry, passed away on June 27. He founded the Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology in 1985 and laid the foundation for its academic excellence. His eyes were donated to Sankara Nethralaya.

Memorial held for Dr. P. Namperumalsamy



A memorial program in honour of Dr. P. Namperumalsamy was held at the institution, attended by Dr. Gullapalli Nageswara Rao and members of the ophthalmic community.

Available Now:
“Vizhikalil Oliyetttrum Sankara Nethralaya”



Receive your complimentary
copy of the book with a donation of
₹600/- towards ANNADHANAM
for our **Community Service Patients**



Join our Mission for Vision



DONATION SCHEME

Support Towards

Minimum Amount in Rs.

One cataract surgery	Rs.5,000
One major surgery like Glaucoma, Vitreoretinal, etc	Rs.17,500
Mobile rural teleophthalmology camp (Per Day)	Rs.25,000
Cost free eye screening of needy children in a rural school	Rs.45,000
One cataract surgery, which will be performed annually on an indigent patient on a date specified by the donor. The surgery will be performed for 12 years	Rs.50,000
One major surgery, like Glaucoma, Vitreoretinal, which will be performed annually on an indigent patient on a date specified by the donor. The surgery will be performed for 12 years	Rs.1,50,000
Free services for one day (approximately 40 surgeries per day)	Rs.2,00,000
Urban/Rural Comprehensive Eye Screening Camp	Rs.3,00,000
MESU - Mobile Eye Surgical Unit. Hospital on wheels	
MESU Adopt a village (Distance upto 200 km radius from Chennai)	Rs. 10,00,000
MESU Adopt a village (Distance upto 300 km radius from Chennai)	Rs. 12,50,000
MESU Adopt a village (Distance upto 500 km radius from Chennai)	Rs. 15,00,000
Other donation schemes @ Sankara Nethralaya	
Naming a work-up (optometry) Room	Rs.10,00,000
Naming Consultant Room	Rs. 15,00,000
Paediatric Treatment	Any Amount
Corpus fund for community outreach programme	Starting from Rs. 2,00,000

*Note: We have suggested the lowest amount for each procedure/programme though the operational costs are much higher.

Kindly draw your cheques in favour of "Medical Research Foundation"

Donations are exempt under Section 80G

For more details, contact

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Manager, Resource Mobilization

Sankara Nethralaya

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Websites : www.sankaranethralaya.org | www.supportsankaranethralaya.org |

www.omlog.org, www.sankaranethralayausa.org