



# eyelights



Number:88

April 2024

## Dr. S. S. Badrinath Oration



## Padma Bhushan Dr. S. S. Badrinath's Bust Unveiling & Campus Naming



## From the Chairman's Desk



Dear Readers,

This is my great pleasure to meet you through Eye Lights.

Sankara Nethralaya completed 45 years of service to society and being associated from day one fondly remembers all our achievements with our founder's direction.

We are proud of our heritage and remember all the consultants past and present with each and every members of the employees for the growth of our organization and brought it to this stage.

With an inspiring past and strong present we continue to grow and march toward a brighter tomorrow.

Let the world know our performance and that we excel in what we do leading to excellence.

**Dr T S Surendran**

*Chairman*

## From the President's Desk



Hello Friends,

Greetings from Sankara Nethralaya.

As I write this column from the President's desk, I acutely feel the absence of my Guru, Padmabhushan Dr S S Badrinath. Eye Lights and Insight magazines have been his brainchild and very dear to him. With these periodicals he connected with the philanthropists, well-wishers, corporates, our Alumni and the Ophthalmology community.

Dr Badrinath used media to propagate the Vision, Mission and Philosophy of Sankara Nethralaya. Over the past 4 decades' countless people joined him in his mission to provide comprehensive eye care to every individual walking into this 'Temple of Eye' besides imparting knowledge and conducting India centric eye research.

The foundation continues to grow on all the 4 fronts which are its pillars, namely tertiary eye care, Community outreach, Academics and Research. We pledge to tread unwaveringly on the path shown by Chief.

We are excited to announce our new establishment of Agasthya TNK Family Sankara Nethralaya, a forthcoming annex dedicated to providing comprehensive eye care services. What sets this initiative apart is our commitment to ensuring that 50% of the treatments will be offered free of charge at this facility. Your generous contributions to this project will enable us to reach more individuals in need and make a meaningful impact on their lives.

This issue of Eye Lights highlights the milestones achieved by the Consultants & staff, the Community services in TN, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and WB. We salute our donors for their steadfast support to our cause and sharing our vision.

Looking forward to your continued guidance and support.

**Dr Girish Rao**

*President*

## Dr. S S Badrinath Oration: Sankara Nethralaya Pays Respect to Visionary Founder with Speech by Gopalkrishna Gandhi



In a tribute to Sankara Nethralaya's visionary founder late Dr. S S Badrinath, an oration was conducted on Saturday, February 17, 2024 at Sankara Nethralaya Eye Hospital in Chennai. The event, held merely a few months after his passing, was marked by heartfelt reminiscences and reflections on Dr. Badrinath's life and contributions to society.

Mr. Gopalkrishna Gandhi, former West Bengal Governor and distinguished diplomat, took center stage to deliver a stirring speech on the topic, "Gandhi's Glasses." In a deeply personal address about the glasses of Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. Gopalkrishna Gandhi also recounted his interactions with Dr. Badrinath, revealing that the late ophthalmologist had previously requested him to speak on the same topic during an international gathering.



## Birth Anniversary of our Guru Padma Bhushan Dr S S Badrinath

**Padma Bhushan Dr. SS Badrinath's Bust Unveiled; Sankara Nethralaya Campus in College Road Names as "Padma Bhushan Dr. S S Badrinath Campus"; "Vizhikalil Oliyetttrum Sankara Nethralaya" Book Released.**



- Sankara Nethralaya honored the legacy of Padma Bhushan Dr. S S Badrinath on his 84th birth anniversary. A bust of Dr. Badrinath was unveiled in recognition of his invaluable contributions to the field of ophthalmology and healthcare. Mr. R Rajaji, one of the earliest beneficiaries of the services rendered by Dr. Badrinath, unveiled the bust.

- Alongside the unveiling of the bust, main campus of Sankara Nethralaya in Nungambakkam College Road, Chennai was named as Padma Bhushan Dr. S S Badrinath Campus. The name board was inaugurated by Ramadurai, former CEO of TCS.



- In addition to these tributes, 'Vizhikalil Ollyettrum Sankara Nethralaya', a Tamil book that chronicles the institution's journey and the hospital's founder, S.S.Badrinath's, pioneering work, was released at Sankara Nethralaya in the city on 24.02.2024.



Speakers took a walk down the memory lane and recalled their association with Dr. Badrinath for several decades and about his pioneering contributions to eye care and research. Shri G. Rajendran, Chairman, GRT Jewellers, released the book and Dr Nirmala Subramanian, emeritus professor, oculoplasty department, Sankara Nethralaya, received the first copy.

The book was authored by Shri A.P. Irungovel, Manager Medical Sociology with Dr T.S. Surendran, Chairman.

Smt Sivasankari, Tamil novelist and social activist, whose literary works have captivated readers and inspired generations said the book was thought provoking and loaded with interesting anecdotes and inspiring incidents about the dedicated services of the hospital. Lauding the lucid style of the book, she said it also talked about the simplicity and humaneness of Badrinath.

Recalling his association with Badrinath since his childhood days, industrialist Dr Nalli Kuppusami said the book with 30 chapters was a treasure that documented the life of Badrinath and the hospital. He suggested that readers must read epilogue first for better understanding.

Felicitating the hospital, lyricist Sri Vairamuthu said the book had a narrative style of a novel. Such institutions dedicated to community service would be nurtured by the society.

Dr. T S Surendran, recollecting his memories with Dr Badrinath, spoke on the proposed expansion of Sankara Nethralaya at Tondiarpet, Chennai. The book is priced at ₹600 and the proceeds would go towards social cause.

## Sri M K Stalin, Honorable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Lays Foundation Stone for Agastya TNK Family Sankara Nethralaya



In a significant move to address the pressing need for quality and affordable eye care in North Chennai, Sankara Nethralaya is extending its patient care services to the region. The foundation stone for this transformative project was laid on March 8, 2024, with Honorable Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Shri. M K Stalin officiating the ceremony virtually. Medical Research

Foundation and Agastya Charitable Trust have joined hands to establish a state-of-the-art ophthalmic facility in Tondayarpeta, a much-needed resource for the local community. The new facility is situated at New number 231 & 232, Thiruvottiyur High Road, Periyar Nagar, Tondiarpet, Chennai – 600081.

## Pycrofts Garden Road Renamed as Dr. S S Badrinath Road



Honouring the legacy of Sankara Nethralaya's founder Padma Bhushan Dr. S S Badrinath, Pycrofts Garden Road in Chennai was bestowed with a new identity, reverently renamed as Dr. S S Badrinath Road from March 8, 2024. The inauguration of the new name was also virtually done by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Shri. M K Stalin.

## Bringing Eye Care to Your Doorstep: Sankara Nethralaya's Initiative for Elders and Differently Abled Individuals

In a ground breaking endeavor to extend quality eye care services beyond hospital walls, Sankara Nethralaya has launched the Sankara Nethralaya Doorstep Eyecare for Elders and Differently Abled (SN DEED) program. This innovative initiative is specifically designed to cater to the unique needs of elderly individuals and those differently abled, bringing comprehensive eye care services right to their doorsteps.

The primary aim of SN DEED is to enhance eye care accessibility and convenience for individuals who face challenges in accessing traditional healthcare facilities due to mobility issues or other limitations. By reaching out to these communities directly, SN DEED strives to bridge the gap between healthcare services and those who need them the most.



### Services Offered by SN DEED

**Vision Check:** Thorough assessments to determine visual acuity and identify potential issues.

**Eye Power Check:** Assessing the refractive power of the eye to prescribe appropriate corrective measures.

**Eye Pressure Check:** Screening for conditions like glaucoma, where intraocular pressure plays a crucial role.

**Handheld Slit Lamp Exam:** Utilizing portable equipment to examine the eye's anterior segment, aiding in diagnosing various eye conditions.

**Fundus Exam:** Assessing the back of the eye for signs of diseases affecting the retina or optic nerve.

Moreover, the program extends beyond assessments and diagnostics. SN DEED also focuses on primary eye care management, including:

**Spectacle Dispensing:** Providing suitable eyewear based on the assessment results.

**Primary Low Vision Care:** Offering specialized care for individuals with reduced vision.

**Counselling:** Providing guidance and support to patients and their families regarding eye care and management.

**Tele-consultation:** Facilitating remote consultations with eye care experts for continued support.

**Referral for Fast Track Eye Care:** Streamlining the process for those needing further specialized care at hospitals.

The SN DEED program was formed to keep our community more inclusive and to promote proactive healthcare, ensuring that the most vulnerable populations receive timely and quality eye care services. By prioritizing accessibility, convenience, and expertise, this initiative not only addresses immediate needs but also promises a healthier future for elders and differently abled individuals.

**For more details contact: 9380240750 (9.00 am to 5.00pm)**

## Elite School of Optometry Celebrates 34th Institutional Award Ceremony: Honoring Graduates' Achievements and Inspiring Future Success



The 34th Institutional Award Ceremony held at the Elite School of Optometry was a momentous occasion, marking the culmination of an educational journey for the graduating students. This ceremony, held jointly with the Vidyasagar Institute of Technology and Biomedical Sciences (VIBS), took place at the VD Swamy Auditorium within Sankara Nethralaya on November 18, 2023.

The ceremony recognized 27 undergraduate optometry students, 8 postgraduate optometry students, and 2 PhD recipients, who were presented with their degree completion certificates by the Chief Guest. Additionally, the highest achievers across various disciplines within the institution were acknowledged and honored.





## Sankara Nethralaya's Year End Quiz 2023

Sankara Nethralaya hosted its highly anticipated Annual Year End Quiz at the Sri V D Swami Auditorium on December 14, 2023. Teams competed for titles like Best Team Name, Best Team Costume, YEQ Champion, and Runner-up. Audience members also had chances to win prizes, making for an engaging evening of fun and camaraderie. The event highlighted both intellectual prowess and creativity, with participants showcasing their knowledge across various topics. Congratulations to all winners and participants for making this year's quiz a memorable success!

## Sankara Nethralaya USA Presents Music for Charity - Margazhi Concert

Mr. Sowmiya Narayanan, representing Sankara Nethralaya USA, orchestrated a mesmerizing musical event, "Music for Charity - Margazhi Concert," held at Sankara Nethralaya's VD Swami Auditorium on December 24. The day-long concert featured a multitude of budding musicians, showcasing their exceptional talents to support a noble cause.

The grand event was graced by the legendary Sangita Kalanidhi Padma Shri A Kanyakumari, whose soul-stirring violin concert captivated the audience, leaving an indelible impression.



## ESO-VISTA Lecture Series: Exploring Advances in Optometry and Technology

Dr. P P Santanam, the visionary pioneer and first Principal of the Elite School of Optometry (ESO), revolutionized the field by introducing Occupational Optometry courses and spearheading related initiatives. In honour of his enduring legacy, the Santanam family instituted the ESO-VISTA endowment lecture series.

The recent ESO-VISTA session, themed "Image Processing and Technology," convened esteemed professionals and scholars at the V D Swami Auditorium in Sankara Nethralaya on January 7, 2023. Dr. Girish Kumar, a distinguished expert in Physiological Optics, delivered a captivating lecture on "Introduction to Digital Image Processing for Optometrists." Following suit, Dr. Richa Verma, Chief Scientific Officer at the Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre in IIT Madras, elucidated on "Technology-enabled Neuro-Anatomy."

Culminating the event, Dr. N Anuradha, Principal of ESO, announced the endowment awards. Ms. Janani was honored with the Judge Shri P V Parameswara Iyer and Smt Kamal Bai Endowment Award for her ground breaking PhD research in Colour Vision. Additionally, she received the Dr. S Ramakrishnan and Smt Bhagavathy Endowment Award for her remarkable contribution to Occupational Optometry services, specifically benefiting Thanjavur Veena workers. This gathering exemplified ESO's commitment to advancing optometric knowledge and technology, guided by Dr. Santanam's enduring legacy.

## Sankara Nethralaya Marks 30th Sri Maha Periyava Aaradhana on January 9, 2024



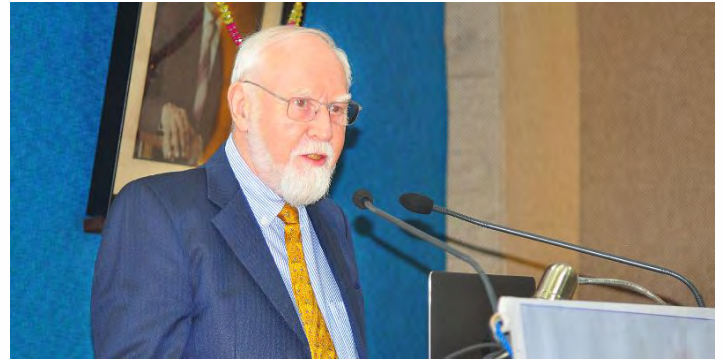
Sankara Nethralaya recently celebrated the 30th Sri Maha Periyava Aaradhana on January 9, 2024. The event, held at the VD Swami Auditorium on Sankara Nethralaya's main campus, was graced by Dr. Sudha Seshayyan as the chief guest. Dr. Seshayyan, Director of Sastra University, Chennai, and former Vice Chancellor of The Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University, delivered a religious speech, motivating attendees.

The occasion held special significance as it marked Sankara Nethralaya's first event for Maha Periyava following the demise of our Chief, Dr. SS Badrinath, renowned for his religious reverence towards His Holiness Maha Periyava. His devotion, values, and principles continue to shape the ethos of Sankara Nethralaya.

## DR RKR XI Triumphs in Sankara Nethralaya Kolkata Cricket Tournament

In a fiercely contested cricket tournament organized by Sankara Nethralaya Kolkata, DR RKR XI emerged as the winning team in a thrilling cricket tournament. The final match was held on January 14, 2024. Led by Captain Dr. Rupak Roy and Vice-Captain Bappa Pramanik, DR RKR XI displayed exceptional teamwork, securing their well-deserved victory. The runner-up, DR SOY XI, led by Captain Dr. Soumik Roy and Vice-Captain Suvajit Dey, also showcased commendable performances, adding to the excitement of the event. Congratulations to DR RKR XI and to all the teams for their spirited participation.

## Dr. Nagamani Dharmapuri Endowment Lecture Shed Light on Advances in Pediatric Ophthalmology



In a distinguished event at the Sri VD Swami Auditorium, Sankara Nethralaya, on January 20, hosted the 17th Dr. Nagamani Dharmapuri Endowment Lecture, featuring Professor Graham Edwin Holder from the Department of Ophthalmology at the National University of Singapore. The lecture, titled "Role of Electrophysiology in Pediatric Retinal Disorders," delved into the latest advancements in the field.

## Sankara Nethralaya Commemorated 75th Republic Day with Grand Celebration



Sankara Nethralaya celebrated the 75th Republic Day with pride at the quadrangle of the Mahyco Block, situated at the main campus in Chennai. The ceremony, which commenced at 7:45 am, was graced by R.W. Bro T. N. Manoharan, The Regional Grand Master of the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India, who served as the Chief Guest.

The highlight of the event was the flag hoisting ceremony at 8 am, which was conducted by R.W. Bro T. N. Manoharan. The Chief Guest, R.W. Bro T. N. Manoharan, delivered an inspiring address. A significant part of the celebration included the distribution of service awards to employees who inspired the whole Sankara Nethralaya family with their dedication.

The event also witnessed the distribution of Dhingra Trust awards by R.W. Bro T. N. Manoharan. Smt. Sita Mittal presented the Circle of Excellence Awards in Patient Care, recognizing outstanding contributions. Merit Scholar Ship Awards to the children of employees, acknowledging academic excellence were also presented during the ceremony.

Further, employees who rendered commendable service during the Michaung Cyclone and Flood were honored by Dr. Pramod Bhende, Director of Shri Bhagwan Mahavir Vitreoretinal Services.

## The Sankara Nethralaya Academy's "From School to Campus" Career Fest Inspires Student Excellence



The Sankara Nethralaya Academy recently hosted a career fest titled "From School to Campus" on February 2 and 3, 2024, catering to students of classes 10, 11, and 12. The event featured an array of activities including a science expo, motivational talk by Dr. K Vipinendran from Anna University on "Emotional Intelligence - the Need of the Hour," essay and oratorical competitions, adzap, ideathon, and quiz, providing a platform for holistic development and career guidance.

## Sankara Nethralaya Launches MESU Unit in Telangana

Sankara Nethralaya marked a milestone with the launch of its Mobile Eye Surgical Unit (MESU) in Telangana in February, aiming to extend quality eye care services to underserved communities. The inaugural MESU camp held on February 19, 2024. Sankara Nethralaya USA orchestrated the camp, showcasing their commitment to support the noble cause. The occasion was graced by the presence of Honorable Minister Sri. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Garu, who inaugurated the camp and delivered an inspiring speech.



## Sankara Nethralaya's Women's Day Bash: Celebrating the Strength of Womanhood!



On March 8, 2023, to mark the occasion of International Women's Day, Sankara Nethralaya organized a vibrant celebration to honor the accomplishments and contributions of women within the organization. The day was marked with creativity, camaraderie, and insightful discussions, all centered on the theme "Wonders of being a woman."

Later in the evening, Sankara Nethralaya family gathered for a special evening event filled with laughter and engaging activities. The highlight of the evening was the presence of esteemed guest speaker Dr. Sivaranjani Arun B, a distinguished Gynecologist and Obstetrician from Bharath Hospital.

## Elite School of Optometry conducts 22nd Dr. E Vaithilingam Memorial Scientific Session

The Elite School of Optometry hosted the 22nd Dr. E Vaithilingam Memorial Scientific Session from March 9, 2024 to March 10, 2024, a tribute to the esteemed Late Dr. E Vaithilingam, former principal of ESO, renowned for his scientific prowess and clinical expertise. Since its inception in 2002, this annual event has served as a vital platform for fostering scientific discourse and advancing clinical practices within the optometry community across India. This year's conference, held at the Dr. V D Swami Auditorium, T S Santhanam VII Floor, KNBIRVO Block, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai, focused on the theme "Evidence-based Optometry," drawing attention to the importance of empirical research in shaping optometric practices.'



## Glaucoma Screening Camp for Employees Conducted During World Glaucoma Week



In commemoration of Glaucoma Week from March 10th to March 16th, 2024, Sankara Nethralaya dedicatedly organized a free Glaucoma screening camp at its campus, exclusively for its employees.

## Family and well-wishers commemorate VD Swami's contributions to Sankara Nethralaya

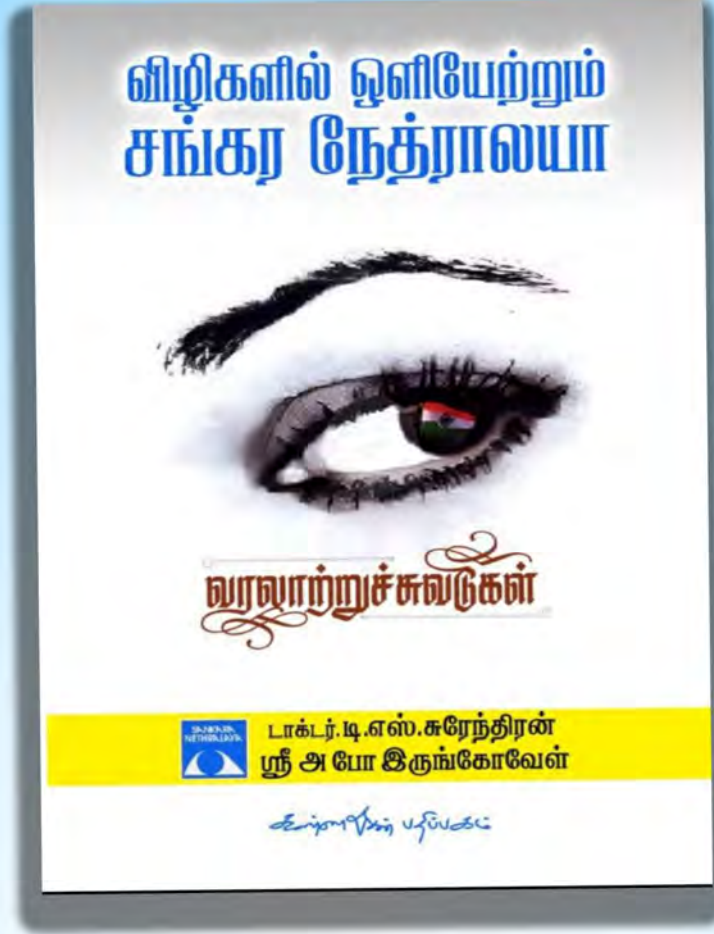
Sankara Nethralaya unveiled the bust of its co-founder, late Shri. V D Swami, who served as the Honorary Secretary in the primitive years of Sankara Nethralaya. The bust was unveiled in a ceremony held on March 23 at the hospital's Padma Bhushan Dr. S. S. Badrinath campus in College Road, Chennai.

Mr. M Sukumar, the respected Director of V D Swami & Co Pvt Ltd and elder brother of Shri. VD Swami, honored Sankara Nethralaya by unveiling the bust. VD Swami's dedication and leadership have left a mark on Sankara Nethralaya as he played a huge role in shaping it into the renowned institution it is today.

The ceremony, held at Dr. S. S. Badrinath campus, was attended by dignitaries, members of the Sankara Nethralaya family, and well-wishers.



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**

## Medical Experts Shine at WOS-2023 Conference in Varanasi

Dr. Dhanashree Ratra, Dr. Durga Priyadarshini, and Dr. Suganeswari.G represented Sankara Nethralaya at the recent WOS-2023 Conference held from December 15th to 17th. Dr. Suganeswari.G clinched the Annual WOS Award for Surgical Skills. Additionally, the collaborative efforts of Dr. Suganeswari, Dr. Durga Priyadarshini, and three other participants from Yenapoya Medical College secured the First Prize in OPL as the captain team representing Tamil Nadu.



## Dr. Md Shahid Alam Honored with Best External Reviewer Award by Oman Journal of Ophthalmology



Dr. Md Shahid Alam was conferred with the esteemed 'Best External Reviewer' award by the Oman Journal of Ophthalmology for the year 2023.



## Sankara Nethralaya Shines at TRAUMACON 2023



**Dr. Ruhi Jange**



**Dr. Snigdha Mishra**

Dr. Ruhi Jange was honored with the Best E Poster award for her exceptional presentation titled "Traumatic Globe Subluxation - Management and Outcomes." Dr. Snigdha Mishra's work on a rare case of "Orbital Cholesterol Granuloma following Gunshot Injury" earned her the distinction of Best Physical Poster at the TRAUMACON conference.

## Dr. L Vijaya to Deliver Thom Zimmerman Memorial Lecture at 12th International Congress on Glaucoma Surgery in Abu Dhabi



Dr. L Vijaya has been invited to deliver the 'Thom Zimmerman Memorial Lecture' at the upcoming 12th International Congress on Glaucoma Surgery. The event is set to take place in Abu Dhabi from April 18 to April 20, 2024.

## Sankara Nethralaya's Glaucoma Team Shines at IPGS - 2023 Conference

The Glaucoma Team from Sankara Nethralaya made a remarkable impact at the IPGS – 2023 Conference held on December 2 and 3 in New Delhi. The team, comprised of Dr. Vijaya L, Dr. Shantha B, Dr. Parivadhini A, Dr. Mona Khurana, and Dr. Rathini Lilian David, showcased their expertise and commitment to advancing knowledge in the field of glaucoma. One of the highlights of the conference was the recognition received by Dr. Mona Khurana, who was honored with 1st prize for a poster presentation.





## Dr. Parthoprattim Dutta Majumder Honored as AIOS National Resource Teacher; Receives Gold Medal at GuruSangam



Dr. Parthoprattim Dutta Majumder has been conferred the prestigious title of All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS) National Resource Teacher and awarded a Gold Medal at the AIOS GuruSangam event. AIOS also recognized Dr. Majumder's expertise by appointing him as a National Resource Teacher, highlighting his role as a guiding force in advancing knowledge and skills within the ophthalmic community.

## Consultants of Sankara Nethralaya Shine at All India Ophthalmological Society Awards

Sankara Nethralaya has once again proven its excellence on a national stage with several of our consultants clinching prestigious awards at the All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS) Awards ceremony.

Dr. Jyotirmay Biswas, a stalwart in the field of ophthalmology, was honored with the esteemed Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing his outstanding contributions and dedication to the field over the years.

Adding to the institution's glory, Dr. Pramod Bhende was awarded the Dr. Michel Trese Oration, while Dr. Dhanashree Ratra was bestowed with the Honorary Fellow of the All India Collegium of Ophthalmology (FAICO) by Selection. Dr. Radhika N received the appreciation certificate as one of the top 25 cited papers of Indian Journal of Ophthalmology (IJO) for the year 2021.

Furthermore, Dr. Muna Bhende, Dr. Shikha Bassi, and Dr. Bhaskar Srinivasan received the IJO Reviewer Honor Award, underscoring their commitment to maintaining the highest standards of academic excellence. Dr. Geetha Iyer, Bhaskar Srinivasan, and Shwetha Agarwal were honored with the IJO Certificate Award.

Dr. Niveditha Narayanan's exemplary work was acknowledged with the Best of IJO Award. Meanwhile, Dr. Parthoprattim Dutta Majumder was recognized for his article for receiving the Top 10 Citation, highlighting his impactful research contributions that have garnered significant attention within the ophthalmic community.

Dr. Sudharshan S was appreciated with the AIOS Proceedings Appreciation Certificate, recognizing his valuable contributions to the AIOS proceedings. Additionally, Dr. Bhaskar Srinivasan and Dr. Parthoprattim Dutta Majumder were honored with the IJO Reviewer Commendation award.

## Sankara Nethralaya wins patient safety Award



Sankara Nethralaya won the 11th International Patient Safety Award in 2024 under the category of "Award for Futuristic & Sustainable Innovation for Patient Safety" from Apollo Hospitals Group. Dr. Jaichandran V V, Chairperson of the Hospital Safety Committee (HSC), received the award from Dr. Preetha Reddy, Vice Chairperson of Apollo Hospitals Group, on February 23, 2024, in Bengaluru, India. It should be noted that Sankara Nethralaya also won the International Patient Safety Award in 2023 for "excellence in the culture of safety design."



One Nation  
Many Celebrations  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



### Happy New Year

Tamil New Year's Day, is the first day of the new Tamil calendar year and traditionally celebrated as a festival by Tamil Hindus. The festival date is set with the solar cycle of the solar Hindu calendar, as the first day of the Tamil month Chithirai. It falls on 14 April every year on the Gregorian calendar. The same day is observed in South and South East Asia as the Traditional New Year, but is known by other names such as Vishu in Kerala, and Vaisakhi or Baisakhi in central and northern India.

Tamil New Year is celebrated by Tamils in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, and in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Mauritius and Reunion. The Tamil diaspora also celebrates it in countries such as Myanmar, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States, Canada and Australia.

The same date is observed as the traditional newyear in Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tripura, Bihar, Odisha, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Nepal, and Bangladesh, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand. Tamils in Sri Lanka also celebrate it. Likely influenced by shared culture in the 1st millennium CE. Early Tamil literature references April new year. The Tolkaapiyam divides the year into six seasons, with Chittirai marking the start of Ilavenil season. Inscriptions in Pagan, Burma, and Sukhothai, Thailand, from 11th and 14th centuries CE, mention South Indian courtiers defining the traditional calendar starting in mid-April. New Year's Day is celebrated across India under different names: Vishu, Vaisakhi, Pana Sankranti, Pohela Boishakh, Rangoli Bihu, among others. In neighboring countries, it's celebrated with cultural events, religious observances, and media events. It's not the universal New Year for all Hindus, with Ugadi, Gudi Padwa, and Diwali in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Goa, and Gujarat respectively.

## திருமதி சிவசங்கரி அவர்களின் வாழ்த்துரை



24.02.2024 அன்று ”விழிகளில் ஒளியேற்றும் சங்கர நேத்ராலயா - வரலாற்றுச் சுவடுகள்” – நூல் வெளியீட்டு விழாவில் பிரபல எழுத்தாளர் திருமதி சிவசங்கரி அவர்கள் வழங்கிய வாழ்த்துரையின் சில பகுதிகள்.

சமுதாயத்தில் பலருக்கும் நல்லதையே செய்யும் சங்கர நேத்ராலயாவின் விழிகளுக்கு ஒளி தரும் சேவைகளைப் பற்றி மிக விளக்கமாக பேசும் இந்த புத்தகத்தைப் பற்றி பேசுவதற்கு முன்னால் என் மனம் நிறைய நிறைந்திருக்கும் டாக்டர் பத்ரிநாத் அவர்களைப் பற்றி ஒரு சில வார்த்தைகள் கூற விரும்புகிறேன்.

1981 ஆம் வருடம் உடல் ஊனமுற்றோர் ஆண்டாக அறிவிக்கப்பட்டு உலகம் முழுவதும் விழிப்புணர்வை ஏற்படுத்தும் வகையில் பல சேவைகள் செய்யப்பட்டன. அப்போது ஆனந்த விகடன் கண் பார்வையற்றோர் பற்றி ஒரு கள ஆய்வு செய்து, டாக்டர் பத்ரிநாத், அரசு கண் மருத்துவமனையின் டாக்டர் ஈ.டி.செல்வம் என பலரையும் நேரில் சந்தித்து பேட்டி கண்டு “ஒளி படைத்த கண்ணினாய் வா வா” என்ற தலைப்பில் ஒரு கட்டுரை எழுதினேன். அதில் கண் தானம் பற்றிய விழிப்புணர்வின் தேவையின் அவசியத்தை வலியுறுத்தினேன்.

அந்த கட்டுரை வெளிவந்த பிறகு 10000 க்கும் மேற்பட்டோர் தங்கள் கண்களை தானமாக அளிப்பதாக உறுதி மொழி எடுத்துக் கொண்டனர். அந்த கட்டுரை வெளி வந்த இரண்டு வாரங்களுக்குப் பிறகு டாக்டர் பத்ரிநாத் என்னை தொலைபேசியில் தொடர்பு கொண்டு, பல ஆண்டுகளாக என்னால் செய்ய முடியாத சேவையை உங்களுடைய ஒரு கட்டுரை சாதித்து விட்டது என்று பாராட்டி பேசினார். இந்த மாதிரி தன்னுடைய சாதனைகளை ஒதுக்கி வைத்துவிட்டு, அடுத்தவர் சாதனைகளை உயர்த்தி பேசுவது என்பது மனித உணர்வல்ல, தெய்வீக உணர்வே.

இருங்கோவேள் இங்கே ஒரு காட்சியை பதிவு செய்கிறார். அப்போதுதான் அவர் சங்கர நேத்ராலயாவில் சேர்ந்திருக்கிறார். சேர்ந்த இரண்டு நாட்களிலேயே ஒரு கண் காட்சி. அப்போ அவருக்கு சிறு வயது, தரையிலே உட்கார்ந்து கொண்டு போஸ்டர்களை யெல்லாம் அடுக்கி பார்த்து பார்த்து பின் பண்ணிக்கிட்டு இருக்கும் போது, அவர் பக்கத்திலே ஆஜானுபாகுவாக ஒருவர் வந்து உட்கார்ந்து கொண்டு, நான் ஹெல்ப் பண்ணட்டுமா என்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு, அந்த பேனலை தூக்கி நிறுத்துவதற்கெல்லாம் உதவி செய்திருக்கிறார். அதன் பிறகு அவரிடம் நன்றி சொல்வதற்காக, ”நான் இருங்கோவேள், சங்கர நேத்ராலயாவில் மெடிக்கல் சோஷியல் ஒர்க்கராக சேர்ந்திருக்கிறேன்” ன்னு சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்.

அதற்கு அவர் “நான் டாக்டர் பத்ரிநாத்” என்று சொன்னவுடன் இவர் அதிர்ந்து போயிருக்கிறார். இவர் அப்போதுதான் வேலைக்கு சேர்ந்திருக்கிறார். சேர்மனை இதுவரை பார்க்கவே இல்லை. இனிமேல்தான் பார்க்க வேண்டும். அதற்குள் இப்படி ஒரு சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் ஒரு சந்திப்பு. அப்படி ஒரு எளிமை டாக்டர் பத்ரிநாத்திடம். அவருக்கு சங்கர நேத்ராலயா தான் சுவாசம், வாழ்க்கை. அதனாலே அவர் நம்மை விட்டு போய்விட்டார் நான் நினைக்கலை. இதோ இங்கே தான் இந்த நிகழ்ச்சியிலே உட்கார்ந்துகிட்டு இந்த நிகழ்ச்சியை பார்த்துக்கிட்டு, இங்கே பேசுவதை எல்லாம் கேட்டுக்கிட்டு இருக்கிறார். இன்னும் இந்த சங்கர நேத்ராலயா எப்படி எல்லாம் வளரப்போகிறது சாதிக்கப்போகிறது என்று பார்த்துக்கொண்டு ஆசீர்வதிப்பது போலத்தான் நான் நம்புகிறேன்.

558 பக்கம் கொண்ட இந்த புத்தகம். இதை எப்படி க்ளாஸிஃபை பண்ணுறதுன்னு தெரியவை.

இது என்ன சங்கர நேத்ராலயாவின் வரலாறா? டாக்டர் பத்ரிநாத்தின் வாழ்க்கை சரிதமா? நேத்ராலயாவின் தூண்களாக இதனைத் தாங்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கும் டாக்டர்களைப் பற்றிய அறிமுகங்களா? இதன் வளர்ச்சியில் பங்கு பெற்ற நபர்களின் விவரங்களா? உலக அளவில் சிறந்து விளங்கும் இதன் சாதனைகளா? அல்லது வித விதமான கண் நோய்களுக்கு சிகிச்சைப் பெற்று சந்தோஷமாகச் செல்லும் பயனாளிகளைப் பற்றிய விவரங்களா? எத்தனையோ சிரமங்களுக்கு இடையில் குடும்பத்தில் இறந்தவர்களின் கண்களை தானம் செய்தவர்களைப் பற்றிய வாழ்க்கை சம்பவங்களைச் சொல்வதா? எதைச் சொல்வது? எதை விடுவது? எப்படி விவரிப்பது?

கவிஞர் வைரமுத்து சொன்னது போல, இது நிஜமாகவே பல இடங்களில் இந்த புத்தகத்தை படிக்கும் போது ஒரு கதையைப் படிக்கும் சுவாரசியத்தைத் தருகிறது.

தேவி சரண்யா தேவி லாவண்யா, பள்ளிக்கூடத்தில் படிக்கும் குழந்தைகள். இருங்கோவேள் கண் தானம் பற்றி பல பள்ளிக்கூடங்கள் உட்பட பல இடங்களிலும் கண் தானம் பற்றி விழிப்புணர்வு ஏற்படுத்துவதற்காக சொற்பொழிவு நிகழ்ச்சிகள் பல இடங்களிலும் நடத்திக்கொண்டிருந்தார். அவர்கள் பள்ளியிலும் அவர் பேசி இருக்கிறார். அவங்க அப்பா காலையில் நடைபயிற்சி முடிந்து வீட்டுக்கு வந்து ஓய்வு எடுத்தபோது மாஸ்ஸில் அட்டாக். காலமாகி விட்டார். அந்த நேரத்திலும் தன் தாயார் உறவினர்கள் எல்லோரிடமும் பேசி, இருங்கோவேளுக்கு ஃபோன் செய்து அப்பாவின் கண்களை தானமாக அளித்திருக்கிறார்கள்.

அதே மாதிரி கண் தானம் மூலமாக கண் பார்வை பெற்றவர் அனுபவம்.

இப்படி பல சம்பவங்களை இந்த நூல் சொல்கிறது.

ஒரு புத்தகம் எப்படி இருக்க வேண்டும். கையில் எடுத்தால் அதனை தொடர்ந்து படிக்க வேண்டும் என்ற எண்ணத்தை ஏற்படுத்த வேண்டும். இந்த புத்தகம் அந்த எண்ணத்தை அதிகமாகவே ஏற்படுத்துகிறது.

சங்கர நேத்ராலயாவுக்கு வருகின்ற நோயாளிகளின் எண்ணங்களையும் பிரதிபலிக்கிறது.

சங்கர நேத்ராலயாவுக்கு நன்கொடை வழங்கிய பெரியோர்களின் உணர்வுகளையும் பிரதிபலிக்கிறது.

எனக்கு இலவசமாக சிகிச்சை வழங்கிய சங்கர நேத்ராலயாவுக்கு ஏதாவது செய்யவேண்டுமே என்று நான்தோறும் தனக்கு வெற்றிலை பாக்கு போடுவதற்காக கிடைத்த ஐந்து ரூபாயைச் சேர்த்து வைத்து சங்கர நேத்ராலயாவுக்கு நன்கொடை வழங்கிய ஒரு ஏழை விவசாயக்கூலியை அறிமுகம் செய்து வைக்கிறது.

சங்கர நேத்ராலயாவின் ஊழியர்களின் குடும்பம் போன்ற உணர்வு, அனுபவங்கள் இப்படி பல தகவல்களை சொல்கிறது.

அது மட்டுமல்ல, ஒரு வேடுவ அரசன் திண்ணன் எப்படி கண்ணப்ப நாயனாரானார் என்பதை சங்கர நேத்ராலயாவின் நதிமூலத்தை டாக்டர் பத்ரிநாத்தின் அனுபவங்களோடு அழகாக சொல்கிறது.

மகா ம்ருத்யஞ்ச மந்திரத்துக்கும் சங்கர நேத்ராலயாவுக்கும் ஏற்பட்ட ஒரு பிணைப்பு, குருவுக்காக பார்வையை இழந்து மீண்டும் பார்வை பெற்ற கூரத்தாழ்வார் வரலாற்றையும் கூரம் கிராமத்தில் சங்கர நேத்ராலயாவின் சேவைகளையும் குறிப்பிட்டு கிராமங்களில் சங்கர நேத்ராலயாவின் சேவைகளை அழகாகச் சொல்கிறது.

இருங்கோவேளும் நானும் 30 வருடங்களில் பல சமூக நிகழ்ச்சிகளில் நல்ல காரியங்கள் செய்திருக்கிறோம்.

ஒரு அற்புதமான நூலை டாக்டர் சுரேந்திரனின் வழிகாட்டலில் திரு இருங்கோவேள் மிக அற்புதமாக எழுதியிருக்கிறார்.

இது வாசித்து, சேவையை நோக்கமாகக் கொண்டவர்கள் பின்பற்ற வேண்டிய புத்தகம்.

உங்கள் சேவை மேன்மேலும் சிறப்பாகத் தொடர வேண்டும் என்று உங்கள் அனைவரையும் வாழ்த்தி வாய்ப்புக்கு நன்றி கூறி விடைபெறுகிறேன். நன்றி! வணக்கம்!.

# 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.20,000
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
<b>MESU - Mobile Eye Surgical Unit. Hospital on wheels</b>	
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
<b>Other donation schemes @ Sankara Nethralaya</b>	
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	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**

**Ms. Kavitha B,**

Manager, Resource Mobilization

**Sankara Nethralaya**

e-mail: [donation@snmail.org](mailto:donation@snmail.org) | Ph: 044-28202448, 044-28271616 (extn - 1438)

Websites : [www.sankaranethralaya.org](http://www.sankaranethralaya.org) | [www.supportsankaranethralaya.org](http://www.supportsankaranethralaya.org) |

[www.omlog.org](http://www.omlog.org), [www.sankaranethralayausa.org](http://www.sankaranethralayausa.org)