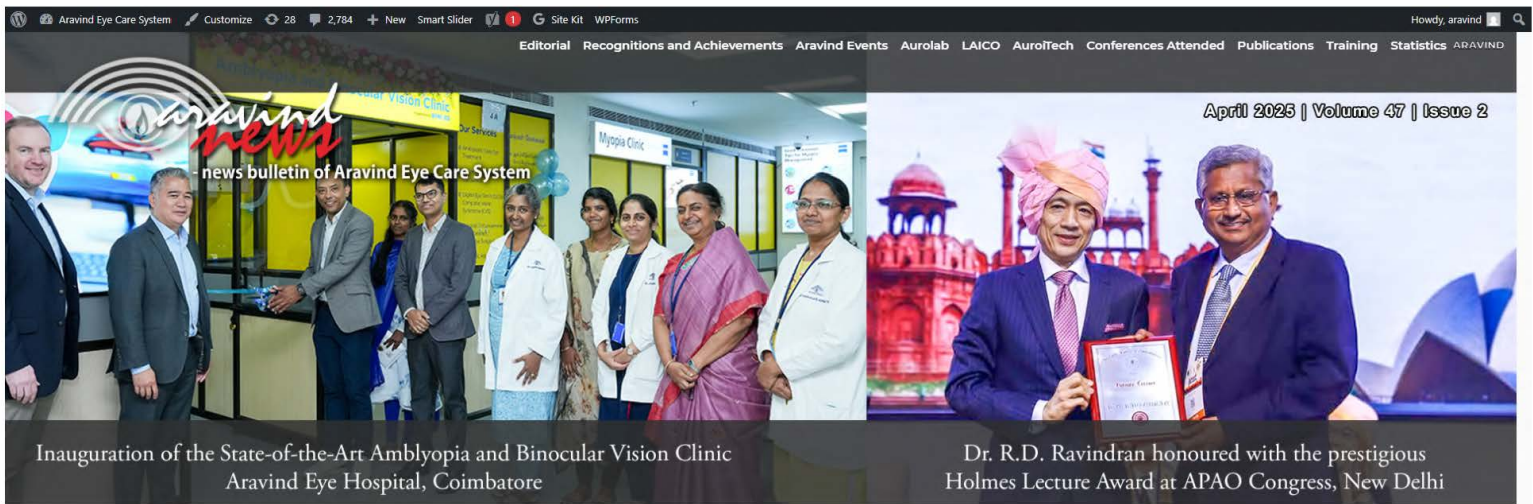




Editorial

The month of April arrives with renewed spirit as the Aravind family celebrates the commencement of Aravind's 50th year, marking a remarkable journey that began with the vision of Dr. Govindappa Venkataswamy on 4th April 1976. Stepping into its golden jubilee year, Aravind has laid out extensive plans for yearlong celebrations that reflect both gratitude and growth. To kick start the celebrations, a jubilee logo contest was held, attracting over 140 submissions. The winning design, created by a doctor, was chosen for its thoughtful representation of Aravind's core principles. This commemorative logo was officially launched on 7th April 2025, setting the tone for the jubilee year and sparking a festive spirit among staff across all centres.

This milestone year offers a special opportunity to reflect on Aravind's inspiring journey, from its humble beginnings in an 11-bedded rented building to becoming a global model of compassionate and sustainable eye care. It is also a time to reaffirm our commitment to the founding vision of Dr. V, who dreamed of eliminating needless blindness.

A variety of events are unfolding throughout the jubilee year, engaging not just employees but also patients, reinforcing trust and strengthening the bond between Aravind and the communities it serves.

Notable highlights this month include the opening of the state-of-the-art Amblyopia and Binocular Vision Clinic at Aravind-Coimbatore, inaugurated by international guests, the opening of the new Frame Division, at Aurolab, and the launch of Aurolab's several new products at the APAO Conference, all of which add new spirit to Aravind's initiatives.

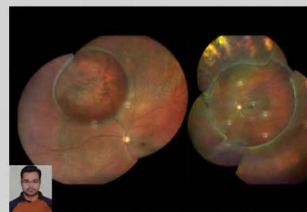
The month was also filled with a series of CME programmes and workshops, highlighting Aravind's ongoing commitment to continuous learning and staying update of the latest advancements in eye care.

This edition captures the highlights of events that took place between 15th March and 15th April 2025 and much more.

Recognitions and Achievements

VRSI Image Competition

Dr. Rajiv Pardasani, Retina Fellow, Aravind-Madurai, won first place in the Vitreo-Retinal Society-India (VRSI) Image Competition – February 2025, for his image titled "*Managing chronic retinal detachment with Cyst: The efficacy of scleral buckling*", while Dr. Jigu S. Krishn, Retina Fellow, Aravind-Madurai, secured second place with his image titled "*Spotlight on sight*".



Dr. Rajiv Pardasani winning the first prize at the VRSI-Image competition



Dr. Jigu S. Krishn winning the second prize at the VRSI-Image competition

Ronald G. Michels, MD Lectureship Award in Cornea, Cataract and External Disease USA, 20th March 2025

Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna was honoured with the Ronald G. Michels, MD Lectureship Award during his visit as an invited guest speaker at the Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, USA. He delivered the prestigious Ronald G. Michels Lectureship in Cornea, Cataract and External Disease, marking a significant recognition of his contributions to the field.



Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna receiving the Ronald G. Michels, MD Lectureship Award



Delivering a lecture on Cornea, Cataract and External Disease

Asia's Top Private Hospitals 2025

Aravind-Madurai

Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai, was recognised as one of Asia's Top Private Hospitals 2025 for cataract surgery by Newsweek and Statista, based on peer recommendations, accreditations, and certifications.



Asia's Top Private Hospitals 2025 certificate to Aravind-Madurai

Awards at the 40th Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) Congress

New Delhi, 3-6 April 2025

Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman, Aravind Eye Care System (AECS), was honoured with the prestigious Holmes Lecture Award, named in memory of William J. Holmes, the founding Secretary-General of APAO. This highest award recognises his exceptional contributions to preventive ophthalmology, especially in the prevention of blindness in the Asia-Pacific region. He delivered the Holmes Lecture on "*Improving cataract surgical quality through monitoring and benchmarking: An improvement*" at the Celebrating Excellence in Ophthalmology Plenary Session.

Aravind-Madurai

Dr. R. Kim, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Madurai

Dr. K. Naresh Babu, Dr. Avik Dey Sarkar, Medical Consultant, Retina & Vitreous Services, Aravind Madurai, Dr. Muthukrishnan V, Medical Consultant, Retina & Vitreous Services, Aravind Madurai

- Certificate of appreciation for the "Best Publication in the Indian Journal of Ophthalmology (IJO)" for the year 2024
Title: A retrospective analysis of surgical outcome in sutureless glueless scleral fixation of foldable intraocular lens (Paper IJO 72: PS658 S663- July 2024)

Dr. Sharmila, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Madurai

- International Honorary Award at APOS New Delhi for winning the best idea award on cataract

- S.S. Badrinath Endowment Lecture Award

Dr. Usha Kim, Chief, Orbit & Oculoplasty, Aravind-Madurai

- Best Paper Award
Title: *Vision salvage in retinoblastoma: A ten-year clinical review (Session: Community/Social Ophthalmology – II)*
- Best Free Paper Award
Title: *Our SMS Strategy for molecular diagnosis of retinoblastoma*
- Best Poster Podium Presentation Award
Title: *Genetics and Retinoblastoma: All you need to know*
- International Hero Award
Title: *Rapid and cost-effective molecular diagnosis of retinoblastoma*

Dr. K. Naresh Babu, Chief, Retina Services, Aravind-Madurai

- Achievement Award

Sanil Joseph, Senior Faculty, LAICO

- Best Scientific Paper Award
Title: *Enhancing AI-based diabetic retinopathy diagnosis through universal cro-camera image adaptation (Category: AI, Innovations, and Virtual Health)*

Dr. Sameer Chaudhary, Medical Officer, General Ophthalmology, Aravind-Madurai

- Runner up at the Asia Pacific Ocular Imaging Society (APOIS)-APAO imaging competition
- Best paper of session – Strabismus and Neuro Ophthalmology in PG Capsule
Title: *Sudden visual loss in pineal gland tumour*

Two teams from Aravind-Madurai were among the eight shortlisted finalists out of 80 teams from across the country in the Teachers of Tomorrow event. The finalists from Aravind Eye Hospital were:

Team: Jed-Eyes (Winners)

Dr. Sahithya Bhaskaran, Medical Consultant, Paediatric Services, Aravind-Madurai (Mentor)
Dr. Priyadarshini PV, Resident, MS Ophthalmology, Aravind-Madurai
Dr. Smriti Sony Thampi, Resident, MS Ophthalmology, Aravind-Madurai

Team: Eye-Vengers

Dr. Sameer Chaudhary (Mentor)
Dr. Nishwath Balakrishnan, Resident, MS. Ophthalmology, Aravind-Madurai
Dr. Vedant Sharma, Resident, MS. Ophthalmology, Aravind-Madurai

Dr. P. Sundaresan, ICMR Emeritus Scientist, AMRF

- Certificate of appreciation for the “Best Publication in the Indian Journal of Ophthalmology (IJO)” for the year 2024
Title: *Genotypic and phenotypic diversity in X-linked retinoschisis: Findings from a South Indian patient cohort*



Dr. R.D. Ravindran receiving the Holmes Lecture Award at the APAO Congress



Dr. R. Kim receiving the S.S. Badrinath Endowment Lecture Award

• International Hero Award at IJO for winning the best free award on quadruple procedure

Aravind-Chennai

Dr. Haripriya Aravind, Chief, Cataract Services, Aravind-Chennai

- Best Paper Award
Title: *Endothelial cell loss following phaco in eyes with Pseudoexfoliation: A ten-year comparative study (Session: Cornea – II)*
- APAO Achievement Award

Dr. Prabhu Baskaran, Medical Consultant, Retina-Vitreous Services, Aravind-Chennai

- IJO Silver Award
Title: *Closure rate and recovery of subfoveal microstructures following conventional internal limiting membrane peeling versus per fluorooctane-assisted inverted flap for large macular holes: A randomised controlled trial (In Flap Study)*
- IJO Reviewer Commendation Certificate
- Appreciation certificate for two IJO Papers
Title 1: *Comparative analysis of outcomes of two (popular) techniques of haptic exteriorisation in scleral fixation intra-ocular lens surgery: A retrospective study*
Title 2: *S-FIX: A sutured way of doing suture less SFIOL surgeries beyond X-NIT!*

Dr. Eliza Anthony, Medical consultant, Uveitis services

- Best Poster podium presentation – Uvea
Title: *Paracentral acute middle maculopathy like lesions associated with ocular and systemic inflammation.*

Dr. Anand Rajendran, Chief, Retina Vitreous Services

- IJO Reviewer Commendation Award

Dr. Vikas Menon, Orbit, Oculoplasty, Ocular Oncology and Ocular Prosthetics Services

- IJO reviewer commendation award certificate

Dr. Anamika Paul, Glaucoma fellow

- First Prize in Think under the apple tree
Title: *Perkins Aplanation: An ergonomic approach.*

Aravind-Pondicherry

Dr. Hari Bhadari Anand, Medical Consultant

- Best Poster Podium Presentation Award
Title: *Comparing post-operative endophthalmitis in operating rooms with and without laminar airflow & HEPA filtration (Session: Comprehensive Ophthalmology)*

Dr. Anahita Shroff, DNB Resident

- A Trophy for being a finalist
Title: *Ab interno stenting (Presenter)*



Dr. Haripriya Aravind receiving the APAO Achievement Award



Dr. Usha Kim receiving the International Hero Award



Dr. Naresh Babu, Dr. R. Kim, Dr. Avik Dey Sarkar, and Dr. Muthukrishnan V. with their awards



Dr. Usha Kim and Dr. Sharmila holding their awards



Dr. P. Sundaresan being honoured with the Certificate of appreciation for the Best Publication in IJO for the year 2024



Dr. Sahithya Bhaskaran, Dr. Priyadarshini PV, and Dr. Smriti Sony Thampi receiving the winners award at the Teachers of Tomorrow event

Aravind Events

Refraction Department – Skill Development Workshop

Aravind-Coimbatore, 14th April 2025

Organised by Aravind-Coimbatore, a skill development workshop was conducted for first-year trainees, focusing on enhancing eight key skills essential for their professional growth. These included hand hygiene, instilling eye drops, objective refraction using an autorefractometer, measuring visual acuity, lens power neutralisation using a digital lensometer, camp preparation and refraction cubicle arrangement, objective refraction using streak retinoscopy, and muscle balance evaluation.

To ensure effective engagement and interaction, participants were divided into eight groups, each focusing on a specific skill. This allowed them to explore, practise, and develop their assigned skills through interactive activities and discussions.

The trainees also gained valuable insights from one another through teamwork, promoting a collaborative learning environment. The programme also served as an opportunity to build confidence, showcase talent, and strengthen bonds between seniors and juniors. At the end of the workshop, the three best-performing teams were selected and rewarded.

CME on Retina Investigations Decoded -2025

Aravind-Madurai, 11-13 April 2025

As part of the jubilee celebrations, the Dept. of Vitreo-Retinal Services, Aravind-Madurai, conducted a three-day internal CME, offering in-depth insights into the latest advancements and best practices in



An MLOP explaining her concept to the Judges



Participants of the Skill Development Workshop

retinal investigations. The programme featured informative theoretical sessions covering essential topics such as OCT, FFA, OCTA, ERG, EOG, OCT RNFL, B-Scan and ASOCT. A specialised session on FFA emergency handling was also conducted, along with detailed discussions on report interpretation.

Participants gained hands-on experience in uploading images to the EMR system, enhancing their skills in digital documentation. An assessment exam was held to evaluate participants' understanding. Further, practical sessions on tips and tricks for conducting investigations, instrument maintenance, as well as a group discussion were held. A total of 50 MLOPs from across all Aravind centres actively participated in the CME.



Ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Prof. J. Danrita in the presence of Dr. P. Namperumalsamy and Dr. R. Kim



MLOPs, along with Prof. Rachel, lighting the ceremonial lamp



Dr. P. Namperumalsamy offering an insightful reflection



Dr. G. Natchiar sharing an insightful reflection during the CME



Dr. R. Kim delivering the inaugural address



Dr. Usha Kim delivering the welcome address



Dr. R. Kim, Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Dr. T.P. Vignesh observing the exhibits



Participants of the Retina CME along with the senior leadership members

Training Programme for Tamil Nadu Health Project Coordinators

Aravind-Salem, 12th April 2025

Aravind-Salem conducted a training programme in support of the Tamil Nadu Health Project, an initiative by the Government of Tamil Nadu under the Directorate for the Welfare of the Differently Abled.

The session was organised to equip 17 newly appointed coordinators who will be working across the Salem district. Their primary role is to identify individuals with visual impairments and refer them to appropriate services and schemes offered by the government.

The training focused on clarifying the coordinators' roles and responsibilities, addressing their queries, and enhancing their capacity to engage and motivate potential beneficiaries. The attendees were provided with practical insights into eye care services and the importance of early intervention, with the aim of ensuring effective outreach and maximum utilisation of government benefits by the visually challenged community.



Aravind MLOPs along with Tamil Nadu health project coordinators at the training programme

Inauguration of Aravind Jubilee Celebration Logo

AECS, 7th April 2025

Aravind's jubilee celebrations commenced on 4th April 2025. As part of the celebrations, the official launch of the jubilee logo was held on 7th April 2025 across all Aravind centres. Chief Medical Officers and leadership members unveiled the logo at their respective centres. To mark the occasion, tree saplings were planted at each centre following the logo launch.



Official launch of jubilee logo at all centres

Inauguration of the State-of-the-Art Amblyopia and Binocular Vision Clinic

Aravind-Coimbatore, 7th April 2025

Aravind-Coimbatore inaugurated the state-of-the-art Amblyopia and Binocular Vision Clinic with support from Bynocs, a global leader in AI-based digital therapies for vision. The clinic aims to provide advanced, non-invasive, and patient-friendly treatment options for individuals of all age groups suffering from amblyopia (lazy eye), intermittent squint, and digital eye strain/computer vision syndrome.

This first vision clinic of its kind in India was inaugurated by distinguished international guests from the USA, Dr. Paul Chan, Department Head & Professor of Ophthalmology, Illinois Eye & Ear Infirmary, Chicago, Dr. Peter Macintosh, Associate Professor, Department of Neuro-Ophthalmology, University of Illinois, and Dr. Peter Campbell, Edwin and Josephine Knowles Professor of Ophthalmology, Casey Eye Institute, Oregon Health & Science University. A press meet was organised to mark the occasion, and the event received wide media coverage.



Dr. Paul Chan inaugurating the Amblyopia and Binocular Vision Clinic

Cataract Retreat

Aravind-Chennai, 7th April 2025

Aravind-Chennai organised the Cataract Retreat, bringing together key stakeholders to reflect on, evaluate, and reimagine the future of cataract care. The programme was graced by Dr. David Chang, whose presence added significant value to this meaningful exchange of ideas and insights. Through interactive sessions, panel discussions, and breakout groups, participants engaged in in-depth conversations on best practices, emerging technologies, and innovative care models. The retreat served as a platform to critically review current practices, assess performance, and explore opportunities for standardisation and innovation, strengthening the commitment to high-quality, accessible cataract care. The programme was participated by doctors from Aravind across Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, Tirupati, Tirunelveli, Pondicherry, Salem, Udumalpet, Tirupur, Tuticorin, and Dindigul, fostering a spirit of collaboration and shared learning.



Dr. R.D. Ravindran delivering the felicitation address



Dr. David Chang engaging in a meaningful exchange of ideas and insights



Participants of the cataract retreat

CME for Vision Centres

Aravind-Chennai, 30th March 2025

Aravind-Chennai organised a Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme for vision centres and city centre teams to enhance their knowledge and professional skills. Topics included basic skills, patient care, efficiency of vision and city centres, common eye diseases, optical care, medical practices, and counselling. Around 25 MLOPs participated.



Vision Centre and City Centre team attending the CME session

Eye Donation Awareness Programme

Theni, 10th & 20th March 2025

In collaboration with the Private Ambulance Drivers Association, Theni, an eye donation awareness programme was held on 10th March 2025. Saravanan, Manager, Eye Bank, Aravind-Madurai, highlighted the importance of eye donation and the vital role ambulance drivers play. Eye donation contact number stickers were distributed. A total of 30 ambulance drivers participated.

Similarly, on 20th April 2025, a session on Eye Donation, Hospital Cornea Retrieval Programme, and the role of healthcare professionals in eye donation was conducted for doctors and nurses at Government Hospital, Chinnamanur, Theni. A total of 22 personnel attended.



D. Saravanan interacting with Ambulance drivers



An eye donation session at Government Hospital, Chinnamanur, Theni

Smart Vision Glass Pro Distribution Programme

Aravind-Tirunelveli, 28th March 2025

Organised by Aravind-Tirunelveli, the smart vision glasses (SVG) Pro were provided to 75 patients with severe visual impairments. As part of a CSR initiative, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) sponsored these SVGs – assistive AI devices, developed by Smart Health Global, who provide them at an affordable cost.

The programme began with a welcome address by Dr. R. Meenakshi, CMO, Aravind-Tirunelveli. Jinu James, Assistant Manager, IOCL, gave a talk about IOCL and their CSR initiatives. Gomathi Nayagam, representing the Rotary Club of Madras East, spoke about the project DRISTI. Following this, Dr. R. Ramakrishnan shared insights on Aravind's services.

Ibrahim, an AI engineer from Smart Health Global, Bengaluru, registered the devices with the beneficiaries' smartphones and trained them on how to use various features of the SVG Pro. Siva Perumal, one of the beneficiaries, shared his experience and the benefits of using the SVGs.



Ceremonial lamp lighting during the Smart Vision Glass Pro Distribution Programme



Dr. Fathima highlighting the services offered at the LVA Unit of Aravind-Tirunelveli



Beneficiaries of the SVGs along with Aravind-Tirunelveli team and representatives from Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Rotary Club of Madras East

AKSHIVIKAS – Aravind Advanced Cataract Programme

Aravind-Chennai, 25-26 March 2025

Aravind-Chennai hosted the 3rd batch of AKSHIVIKAS – Aravind Advanced Cataract Course in collaboration with ALCON Phaco Development at ARCORE. The two-day programme aimed at enhancing cataract surgical skills, including lectures, live surgeries, video discussions, and wet lab sessions. A total of 24 ophthalmologists from across India participated.



Dr. Haripriya delivering the welcome address



A hands-on training session



Participants of the AKSHIVIKAS – Aravind Advanced Cataract Programme

Glaucoma Conclave – Demystifying Secondary Glaucoma

Aravind-Pondicherry, 30th March 2025

Aravind-Pondicherry hosted the Glaucoma Conclave focused on extending the boundaries of glaucoma management & surgical excellence. The conclave featuring talks by renowned faculty, case-based discussions, wet lab, and Video Assisted Skill Transfer, covered all the aspects of secondary glaucoma, including post-vitreo-retinal surgery glaucoma, PXF, steroid-induced, neovascular, traumatic glaucoma, neurocutaneous syndromes, and more. Surgical videos on AADI, MIGS, AGV, MP, and TSCPC were discussed. The programme was participated by 98 delegates from various hospitals.



An attractive welcoming participants of the Glaucoma Conclave



A ceremonial lamp lighting marking the commencement of the event



Dr. R. Venkatesh welcoming the gathering

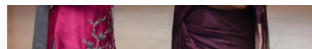


Dr. Neethu Mohan presenting on Behind the surgical curtain-glaucoma following vitreo-retinal surgeries





A wet lab session



Dr. S. Kavitha presenting the prize to the winner of the Kahoot Quiz



Participants of the Glaucoma Conclave

CME on Optometry – From Basics to Advanced

Aravind -Tirunelveli, 30th March 2025

Organised by Aravind–Tirunelveli for optometry faculty, students, and postgraduates, the CME fostered mutual understanding between the two pillars of children's health namely paediatrics and ophthalmology.

Dr. R. Meenakshi gave the welcome address, followed by Dr. Ramakrishnan setting the context. Senior refractionists presented on recent developments in the field. Morning sessions were theoretical while afternoon sessions were hands-on. Additionally, a quiz was conducted by E.S. Ayirathammal and prizes were distributed to winners. The programme saw 182 participants, including 2 postgraduates, 13 faculty members, 15 hospital optometrists, and 152 students.



A senior refractionist highlighting recent developments in the field



Hands-on training session on optometric techniques



Participants of the CME on Optometry

Internal Auditor Certificate Programme

Aravind-Coimbatore, 20-21 March 2025

Aravind-Coimbatore organised a two-day Internal Auditor Certificate Programme, a practical and interactive training session that included pre- and post-evaluations.

Prof. Dr. Akilan Arunkumar, Associate Director, Joseph Eye Hospital, served as the external faculty, while Dr. D. Chandrasekhar, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Coimbatore, and Dr. S. Lalitha Prajna, Chief Microbiologist, Aravind-Madurai, led the internal training. The first day saw the participation of 24 individuals representing various Aravind centres. On the second day, 22 participants from Aravind-Coimbatore attended the training session.



Participants of the Internal Auditor Certificate Programme



Internal participants from Aravind on day 2 of the programme

2nd Batch of Ikshana – Comprehensive Capsule for Postgraduates (Advanced Course)

Aravind-Chennai, 19-23 March 2025

Conducted by Aravind-Chennai, the second batch of the five-day Advanced Course at ARCORE, began with a pre-assessment test and concluded with a post-assessment, and feedback session.

The first two days featured comprehensive ophthalmology lectures, OSCEs, a quiz contest, and a panel discussion on key highlights of the fellowship. The latter half of the programme focused on surgical training, including demonstrations and hands-on sessions in both dry and wet labs. Live cataract surgeries were performed by Dr. Haripriya, followed by discussions on surgical videos submitted by participants. Dr. Parag K. Shah, Medical Consultant, Paediatric Retina and Ocular Oncology Services, Aravind-Coimbatore, delivered a lecture on Retinoblastoma and ROP.

The programme was attended by 15 postgraduate students from Aravind Eye Hospitals in Salem, Tirupati, and Chennai, as well as from institutions across India.



Dr. Parag K. Shah delivering a lecture on Retinoblastoma and ROP



Hands-on training session



Participants of the second batch of Ikshana

CME on Refraction in Clinical Practice

Aravind-Madurai, 21-23 March 2025

Aravind-Madurai conducted an Internal CME on refraction in clinical practice, led by Dr. P. Vijayalakshmi, Advisor, Paediatric Ophthalmology & Vision Rehabilitation Services, Aravind-Madurai, to equip participants with the latest knowledge and techniques in refraction. The first two days featured informative theory sessions, covering a wide range of topics relevant to refraction, helping participants deepen their knowledge. On the third day, the event concluded with a practical, hands-on training session, allowing attendees to apply their theoretical knowledge in real-world scenarios. A total of six training tracks were arranged for hands-on practice, and participants were divided into six groups focusing on, PG Power Neutralisation, Progressive Lens Marking with Layout Card, Binocular Vision Assessment and Binocular Balancing, Duochrome Test, and Central Fields. Additionally, an assessment exam was conducted to evaluate the knowledge gained by participants. The event saw the participation of 55 MLOPs.



Lighting of the ceremonial lamp



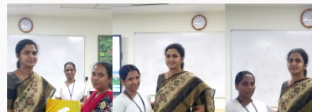
Dr. G. Natchiar sharing her insights



Dr. P. Vijayalakshmi discussing the role of refractionists



Dr. Usha Kim offering her insights





Dr. G. Natchiar and Dr. P. Vijayalakshmi observing the exhibits



Dr. Usha Kim presenting mementos to top three winners of the knowledge assessment



Participants of the CME on Refraction in Clinical Practice

Visitors from Zeiss

Aravind-Chennai, 3rd March 2025

Andreas Pecher, CEO of Zeiss, along with Miguel Gonzalez, Managing Director of Carl Zeiss India, Dipu Bose, Head of Medical Technology, and other team members from Zeiss, visited Aravind-Chennai. They engaged in discussions with the hospital team and were taken on a tour of the facility, where the genesis of Aravind Eye Care System was presented to them.



Dr. S. Aravind welcoming international guests from Zeiss with a bouquet



International guests on a guided hospital tour



Team members from Zeiss along with the Aravind-Chennai team

Aurolab

Inauguration of the New Frame Division: A Clear Vision for Young Eyes

Aurolab, 7th April 2025

Aurolab marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of its new frame division, dedicated to producing affordable, high-quality, flexible frames for children. The new facility was inaugurated by P. Ramachandran, Business Advisor, Eyewear, and Fellow, Institute of Directors. The event was also graced by several distinguished guests, including philanthropist Balbir Mathur, whose vision was instrumental in conceptualising this initiative, R.D. Thulasiraj, Director-Operations, AECS & Executive Director Emeritus, LAICO, Dr. P. Vijayalakshmi, and Kannamma, HOD, Optical & Medicals.



P. Ramachandran inaugurating the new frame division



Display of flexible frames designed for children

Aurolab's Product showcase at APAO-AIOC 2025

Delhi, 3-6 April 2025

Aurolab showcased its diverse products at the 40th Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) Congress, held in conjunction with the 83rd Annual Conference of the All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS) in New Delhi, marking an opportunity to enhance brand visibility. The following products were launched and introduced during the occasion, attracting considerable attention from attendees and industry professionals:

- ESee Pro – An advanced Auto Refractometer, introduced for the first time at APAO 2025.
- QuickSee Pro – A handheld Auto Refractometer with keratometry (K) functionality. Its portability and efficiency were well received by the ophthalmic community during the event.
- Retisil 1500 PF – For the first time in India, Aurolab introduced Retisil 1500 PF (Silicon Oil 1500 cSt) in a pre-filled syringe variant, a premium ophthalmic product.
- Flexikids – A brand of durable and flexible optical frames specially designed for children, known for their child-friendly design, comfort, and resilience.

As part of Aurolab's commitment to continuous innovation in ophthalmic care, a sneak preview of the upcoming IOL range was unveiled through exclusive brochures at AIOC 2025:

- Aurolab Essence Toric – A hydrophobic aspheric toric IOL that offers clear, comfortable vision starting from 75 cm onwards, designed for precision and patient comfort.

- AceVision – An advanced hydrophilic phakic IOL tailored to correct high refractive errors, providing excellent clarity and stability for spectacle-free vision.
- AceVision Toric – A toric phakic IOL combining refractive correction with astigmatism management, engineered for sharper and more stable outcomes.

Aurolab also showcased its flagship equipment such as the Hummingbird Lite Phaco System and Phoenix Green Laser at its experience booth. Live demonstrations of both devices drew active engagement from attendees, who were impressed by their features, performance, and design. The interactive setup allowed doctors to get hands-on experience.

Additionally, Aurolab conducted a hands-on wet lab session, providing ophthalmologists with practical exposure to its latest surgical technologies. The Hawki Slit Lamp Imaging System was praised for its image clarity and ease of use. Retisil 1500 PF, I-Nova, Litropine, and Lidclean also received strong positive feedback for their performance and value.

During a session, Dr. Jebintha Brayan, Medical Consultant, Paediatric Ophthalmology & Adult Strabismus Services, Aravind-Coimbatore, delivered an engaging talk on "The new generation pupil expansion device: Aurolab i-Nova," highlighting the device's innovative features and its role in improving surgical outcomes.



Aurolab's exhibition stall at the APAO conference



Children experiencing the features of Flexikids frames



Hands-on showcase of the latest devices from Aurolab at the APAO-AIOC conference

LAICO

Vision Building Workshop for Aravind-Thanjavur Team

LAICO, 8-10 April 2025

The Vision Building Workshop for Aravind-Thanjavur team was organised at LAICO featuring various activities. The first day featured an outbound learning session at Aurolab, conducted by Pegasus Academy, focusing on team dynamics and leadership.

Day two began with the inauguration, followed by sessions on institution building, patient-centred care, setting Year 1 targets, and understanding the service area population. Participants engaged in group exercises to finalise protocols and improve patient flow.

Day three focused on finalising functional policies, outreach planning, and receiving guidance and inputs from Aravind's senior leadership team. The workshop concluded with a summary presentation and a roadmap for moving forward.





Thulasiraj Ravilla setting the context of the event



Dr. S. Aravind elaborating on institution building



Dr. Karthick Srinivasan presenting updates on the project implementation



Participants of the Vision Building Workshop

Small Incision Cataract Surgical Training

Aravind–Madurai/Chennai, 13–20 March 2025

Organised by LAICO with support from the Cure Blindness Project, twelve ophthalmologists from eleven eye hospitals in Ethiopia and Ghana attended the training programme in two locations, the sessions at Aravind–Chennai and Aravind–Madurai. The primary goal of the week-long orientation was to help the participants enhance their understanding of clinical protocols in cataract surgery, improve SICS training methods, and review standard operating procedures (SOPs) for better implementation in their own institutions.

During the course, the team actively participated in outreach surgical programmes and hands-on training. The participants explored outpatient care processes, pre-operative procedures, operating theatre and sterilisation protocols, trainer responsibilities, curriculum design for effective SICS training, infrastructure, teaching tools, evaluation methods, and adult learning principles. They also discussed managing complications and strategies for efficient and sustainable outreach models.

The team also had the opportunity to observe and engage in wet lab sessions, experience hands-on training at various stations, and use the HelpMeSee Simulator for SICS training. In addition, they visited an IT-enabled Vision Centre in Mudichur, Chennai, and attended an outreach eye screening camp.



Dr. R.D. Ravindran elaborating on the underlying principles of Aravind's patient care model



Participants of the Small Incision Cataract Surgical Training programme



Dr. Haripriya sharing her expertise



Participants interaction session



Participant queries being addressed



A hands-on session



Participants of the SICS training along with Dr. Haripriya at Aravind-Chennai

Vision Building and Strategic Planning Workshop

LAICO, March 2025

As part of LAICO's ongoing capacity-building initiative, a six-day Vision Building and Strategic Planning Workshop was organised to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of eye care services highlighting the key management principles. The focus areas include, demand generation, quality assurance, optimal resource utilisation, and financial sustainability. Presently, LAICO conducted the workshop for three hospitals, namely, Northern Community Eye Hospital, Tamale, Ghana, Bahirdar Speciality Eye Hospital, Bahirdar, Ethiopia, and Thulsi Eye Hospital, Nashik, Maharashtra, India.

Participants worked on setting actionable strategic plans tailored to their local community needs, while also benefiting from peer learning. The workshop also featured exposure visits, input sessions, panel discussions, interactive group work, and presentations.



Participants of the Vision Building and Strategic Planning Workshop

AuroTech

Promotion Desk for "Dhrishti" App (Patient Care App)

Aravind Eye Hospitals, 7th April 2025

Promotion desks have been set up at all tertiary centres and Aravind-Theni to increase the uptake of Dhrishti, Aravind's patient care mobile app, starting from 7th April 2025. These desks operate daily from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm, managed by MRD teams and supported by IT staff, assisting patients in downloading and using the app.

Dhrishti now features a new mobile pre-registration option, enabling patients to pre-register via their phones, reducing wait times, eliminating paperwork, and streamlining the registration process.



MRD team assisting patients in downloading and using the patient care app



Promotion desk at the entrance of Aravind-Tirupati

Conferences Attended

International Seminar on New Horizons in Plant Science

Kariavattom, 8–10 April 2025

Prof. K. Dharmalingam, Director–Research, Aravind Medical Research Foundation (AMRF), delivered an invited talk on "Microbiome science and applications" at the international seminar on "New Horizons in Plant Science (NHPS-2025), Harnessing Bio-Resources: Opportunities in Prospecting, Sustainable Utilisation and Bioresource-based Entrepreneurship," organised by the Department of Botany, Kerala University Business Innovation and Incubation Centre (KUBIIC).



Prof. K. Dharmalingam being honoured with a memento at the International Seminar on New Horizons in Plant Science

World Cornea Congress (WCC) IX

USA, 20–22 March 2025

Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna, Chief, Cornea & Refractive Surgery Services, Aravind-Madurai, delivered an invited talk on Management of fungal keratitis: Rose Bengal Electromagnetic Activation with Green Light for Infection Reduction (REAGIR) during the Infection Symposium in the World Cornea Congress (WCC) IX, held at Westin Washington, DC.

40th Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) Congress

New Delhi, April 3–6, 2025

Doctors and faculty from Aravind participated, served as resource persons, at the 40th Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) Congress, held at New Delhi, in conjunction with the 83rd Annual Conference of the All-India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS).

Aravind-Madurai

Dr. R. Kim, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind–Madurai

- *Gaps and Challenges in Diabetic Retinopathy Management* (Talk)

Dr. K. Naresh Babu, Chief, Retina Services, Aravind-Madurai

- *Management of PVR in Traumatic RD* (Talk)

Dr. S.R. Krishnadas, Senior Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Madurai

- Faculty Member at the National Symposium on Glaucoma

Dr. George Varghese Puthuran, Chief, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Madurai

- *GP–Glaucoma Surgery, GP–Advancement Innovation, IC–Optimising GDD Outcome* (Talk)

Dr. Manju R. Pillai, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Madurai

- Presented a free paper on glaucoma
- Faculty at the National Symposium on IPGS

Dr. R. Sharmila, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Madurai

- Title: *NPDS vs MIGS PHACO* (Free Paper)
- *MIGS Complications* (Instruction Course)
- *Tube Complications* (Instruction Course)
- Mentor – Teacher of Tomorrow

Dr. S. Vidya Raja, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Madurai

- *Advances and Innovations in Optimising GDD Outcome* (Instruction Course: Glaucoma Surgery)

Dr. Indira Durai, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Madurai

- Faculty (Instruction Course on AADI)

Dr. Ann Mary Mathews, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Madurai

- FAICO

Dr. T.P. Vignesh, Medical Consultant, Retina Services, Aravind-Madurai

- *Curcumin in the treatment of CSCR* (Talk)

Dr. V. Muthukrishnan, Medical Consultant, Retina Services, Aravind-Madurai

- *Outcomes of surgical management of retained Subfoveal PFCL in Vitrectomy* (Talk)

Dr. Avik Dey Sarkar, Medical Consultant, Retina Services, Aravind-Madurai

- *Torpedo Maculopathy: Diving deep in search for a newer classification system* (Free Paper)
- *Long Term outcome of intravitreal expansile gas and bevacizumab for CNV induced subfoveal hemorrhage*
- *Intravitreal clindamycin with dexamethasone as 1st line therapy for ocular toxoplasmosis* (E poster)
- *Vein overriding arteriole in branch vein occlusion – Is it the bisser evil?* (Physical poster)

Dr. Vignesh E, Medical Consultant, Retina Services, Aravind-Madurai

- *Crabtree Effect as a Parallel Pathogenic Pathway in DR*

Dr. Madhu Shekhar, Chief, Cataract Services, Aravind-Madurai

- *Eye Opener: Managing Unexpected Bleeding After Cataract Surgery* (Co-Author – Physical poster)

Dr. Gopal Archana, Medical consultant, Cataract Services

- *Systemic Emergencies: A Roadblock to Cataract Surgery* (Paper)
- *Unveiling Diabetic Retinopathy in Newly Diagnosed Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus* (Physical poster)

Dr. Kriti Bhatt, IOL fellow, Cataract Services

- *Inherited Bilateral Absorbed Cataracts: A Family-Based Study of Management and Outcomes* (Physical poster)
- *Restoring Vision: Successful Surgical Outcomes for Bilateral Anterior Polar Cataracts* (E poster)
- *Behind the cloud: A case of ocular and systemic manifestation in Mucopolysaccharidosis* (E poster)

Dr. Gariyashee, IOL fellow, Cataract Services

- *Diabetic Retinopathy and Medical Retina; Ocular Blood Flow as a Pre-Clinical Marker in Diabetic Retinopathy* (Free Paper)

Dr. P. Sundaresan, ICMR Emeritus Scientist, AMRF,

- *Mitochondria and wound healing* (Paper – session: Cells Talk: Innovations in Cell-Based Ophthalmology)

- *Translational genomics of eye diseases* (Paper – session: Advances in Multi-Omics Approaches to Understanding Eye Diseases)
- *A journey in glaucoma genetic research* (Paper –session: Genetics in Ophthalmology: Current Methods of Genetic Analysis and Potential Genetic Treatments)

Aravind-Chennai

Dr. Haripriya Aravind, Chief, Cataract Services, Aravind-Chennai

- *Is my trainee surgically competent to step into the real world? Assessment of surgical skills and OSCAR practice-*
- *Delivering safe Cataract Surgery*
- *How do I deal a rotating nucleus of a Hyper mature Cataract when I am not able to crack?*
- *Techniques of Paediatric capsulorhexis (anterior and posterior), enlarging a capsulorhexis.*
- *Complications – PCR and vitrectomy*
- *Management of Subluxated Hard Cataracts*
- *IOL placement when capsule support is compromised*

Dr. Vikas Menon, Orbit, Oculoplasty, Ocular Oncology and Ocular Prosthetics Services, Aravind-Chennai

- *Pigmented conjunctival tumours*
- *Ocular Surface Tumors* (Co-Instructor in IC)

Dr. Prasanna Venkataraman, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Chennai

- *Learning Not to Penetrate: A Beginners Guide to Deep Sclerectomy* (Theatre E-Video – Presenting Author)
- *Transcameral Ab-Interno Tube Occlusion* (Theatre E-Video – Presenting Author)
- *Hot topics in glaucoma: The Grand Glaucoma Debate- Whats next after a tube fails? 2nd Tube* (Speaker)
- *Retrospective Study of Intraocular Pressure Outcomes After Iris Claw Intraocular Lens Implantation* (Theatre E-Poster – Glaucoma – I – Presenting Author)
- *Safety and Efficacy of Non-Penetrating Deep Sclerectomy in Eyes with Open Angle Glaucoma* (Theatre E-Poster – Glaucoma – II – Presenting Author)

Dr. Aditya Maitray, Retina Services, Aravind-Chennai

- *Rare sequelae of peripheral avascular retina: A case series* (Free paper in Vitreoretina)

Dr. Anamika Paul, Glaucoma fellow, Aravind-Chennai

- *Topic -Out of the blue when trauma hits you indirectly* (Video presentation)

Dr. Anahita Shroff, DNB Resident

- Think under the Apple tree
- Title: *Insight VR IOL Simulator* (Presenter)
- *PG capsule- Junctional Scotoma* (Presenter)
- *When the going gets tough: Spherophakia* (Presenter)
- Teachers of Tomorrow: *Yoke muscles*
- Scotoma Saga: *When the Pituitary plays tricks* (Physical Poster)

Dr. Rohan Arora, Fellow, Aravind-Pondicherry

- *Functional and Psychological Impact of Ethambutol Induced Toxic Optic Neuropathy* (Free paper – Presenting Author)
- *Clinically Confounding Unilateral Dysthyroid Optic Neuropathy* (Physical Poster- Presenting Author)
- *Beating the Curve: Cataract Surgery for a Patient with Kyphosis Using a 2-Way Adjustable Fowler Bed* (E-Poster – Presenting Author)
- *Compliance to Atropine for Myopia Progression and It's Socioeconomic and Behavioral Determinants* (E-Poster – Presenting Author)
- *Retrospective Study of Intraocular Pressure Outcomes After Iris Claw Intraocular Lens Implantation* (E-Poster – Co-author)

Dr. Prasanna Venkatraman, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Chennai

- *Post Cataract Non-Arteritic Anterior Ischemic Optic Neuropathy: An Emulated Target Trial* (E-Poster – Co-author)

Dr. Madhumita Gopal, Medical Consultant, Neuro Ophthalmology Services, Aravind-Chennai

Dr. Anand Rajendran, Chief, Retina Vitreous Services, Aravind-Chennai

- **Symposium** – Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and Related Diseases – Chairperson
- **Symposium** – Subthreshold Laser for Macula Diseases (SOLS) – Chairperson
- **Speaker** – Subthreshold Laser for DME
- **Instruction Course**– OCT Angiography- Navigating the Teenage Tantrums
- **Speaker and Panellist** – Macular and Widefield OCTA in Diabetic Retinopathy
- **Instruction Course**– Fundus Signs: Catch Them, Interpret Them, Differentiate Them!
- **Speaker and Panelist** – Macular Subretinal Fluid – is it CSR?
- **Instruction Course**– My Approach to Treatable Macular Disorders
- **Speaker and Panellist** – My Approach to Centre Involving DME
- **Instruction Course**– Central Serous Chorioretinopathy: Case-Based Discussion on Imaging Findings and Management Challenges
- **Speaker and Panellist** – CSCR – A Melange

Dr. Eliza Anthony, Medical Consultant, Uveitis Services, Aravind-Chennai

- Title: *Unravelling the Mysteries of Uveal effusion syndrome associated with Uveitis* (E- poster:)

Publications

1. Sethu Nagarajan R, Kim U, Shanthy R, Vanniarajan A. **Investigation of GD2 synthase as a potential marker for retinoblastoma poor prognosis.** Mol Biol Rep. 2025 Apr 9;52(1):372. [View More](#)
2. Aadhiithiya Gr T, Bhavani S, Kuppuraj S, Sen S, Udaya P, Babu Kannan N, Ramasamy K, Dharmalingam K, Banerjee D. **Retinol-Binding Protein 3 in Vitreous and Plasma-Derived Small Extracellular Vesicles Is Reduced in Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy.** Exp Eye Res. 2025 Apr 8. [Epub] [View More](#)
3. Ganesh SC, Lusobya RC, Jogitha, Rao SG, Uduman MS, Devi R, Narendran K. **An Analysis of Treatment Success of Acute Acquired Comitant Esotropia with a Single Injection of Botulinum Toxin A: An Observational Case Series Study.** J Pediatr Ophthalmol Strabismus. 2025 Feb 19;1-8. [Epub] [View More](#)
4. Ram Sudarshan R, Nayagam G, Syed Mohideen Abdul K, Maharajan P. **Perioperative/Postoperative visual loss (POVL) following non-ocular surgery.** Eye (Lond). 2025 Apr 9. [Epub] [View More](#)
5. Sen S, Damodaran S, Udaya P, Mallidi R, Chandrasekar C, Vallinayagam M, Rajan RP, Kumar K, Shekhar M, Kannan NB, Ramasamy K. **Risk factors and incidence of Macular Edema in eyes with retinal Vein Occlusion after uneventful cataract surgery: The MEVO study.** Indian J Ophthalmol. 2025 Apr 17. [Epub] [View More](#)
6. Anitha V, Christy JS, Vanathi M, Manohar D, Tandon R, Ravindran M. **Current perspectives on infections following refractive kerato-lenticule extraction (KLex) surgery.** Indian J Ophthalmol. 2025 Apr 17. [Epub] [View More](#)
7. Hinge S, Tagare S, Sindal MD. **Unrecognized chronic myeloid leukemia manifesting as hemorrhagic complications in proliferative diabetic retinopathy: A case report.** Eur J Ophthalmol. 2025 Apr 15. [Epub] [View More](#)
8. Tagare S, Sindal MD. **Systemic biomarkers predictive of anatomical and functional outcomes of macular edema secondary to retinal vein occlusion following a single injection of intravitreal bevacizumab.** Nepal J Ophthalmol. 2024;16(31):31-43. [View More](#)
9. Shukla D, Kalliath J, Dhawan A; **VRSI Study Group:** Alok Sen, Anand Rajendran, Anuradha Dhawan, Chetan Rao, Deepanshu Agrawal, Dhairat Shah, Dhananjay Shukla, Garima, Gvn Rama Kumar, Jatinder

- Singh, Jay Kaliath, Jayanti Singh, Kim Ramasamy, Manavi Sindal, Maneesh Bapaye, Mihir Vaidya, Mudit Tyagi Muna Bhende, Naresh Babu, Neethu Mohan Neha Goel, Parveen Sen, Preethi Singaravel, Priyanka Gandhi, Ramesh Venkatesh, Ratnesh Ranjan, Renu P Rajan, Shalini Singh, Toshit Varshney, Veer Singh, Vidhi Bajpai, Vinod Kumar. [Optic pitlike maculopathy with clinically occult optic disk pit diagnostic imaging, clinical features, and management](#). Retina. 2025 May 1;45(5):961-970. [View More](#)
10. nivasan K, Maitray A, Deb D, Paul A, Amin M. [A novel intraocular foreign body locking forceps](#). Retina. 2025 May 1;45(5):1022-1026. [View More](#)
11. Sharanya R, Habeeba C, Kumar K, Shah VM. [Clinical and radiological presentation of meningiomas](#). Indian J Ophthalmol. 2025 May 1;73(5):691-694 [View More](#)
12. Maheshwari D, Gupta S, Pillai M. [Microspherophakia: Kugel Fountain Presentation](#). Ophthalmol Glaucoma. 2025 Apr 25. [Epub] [View More](#)
13. Tulasi Reddy Y, Ravindran RS, Abdul Khadar SM. [Combined Occlusion with Cilioretinal Sparing and Optic Neuropathy after Trauma](#). Ophthalmol Retina. 2025 Apr 25. [Epub] [View More](#)

Training

Enrolments for April 2025		
Course title	Training Centre	No. of enrolments
Long Term Fellowship Programmes - For Ophthalmologists		
Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery	Madurai	1
Fellowship in Cornea	Madurai	2
Fellowship in Medical Retina	Coimbatore	1
Fellowship in Retina	Madurai	1
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Coimbatore	1
Short-Term Training Programmes - For Ophthalmologists		
Phacoemulsification	Tirunelveli	1
	Coimbatore	2
	Madurai	2
Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity and Paediatric Retinal Disorders	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	1
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Coimbatore	1
	Tirunelveli	2
	Chennai	1
HelpMeSee Simulation-based Training in MSICS	Madurai	2
Instrument Maintenance Courses		
Instrument Maintenance - For Technicians	Madurai	3
Eye Bank Courses		
Training in Eye Bank Techniques	LAICO	1

Statistics

Patient Statistics – March 2025															
Hospitals	Total	Madurai	Tirunelveli	Theni	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Tirupur	Dindigul	Salem	Tuticorin	Udumalpet	CbeCC	Chennai	Tirupati	Kovilpatti
Hospital Out-patient visits															
Paying (New & Review)	2,64,183	56,535	29,919	8,804	32,512	28,551	4,895	9,831	13,095	6,313	4,539	5,169	46,383	14,329	3,306
Free: Direct walk-in (New & Review)	1,02,844	23,313	9,001	2,904	10,890	10,906	3,224	2,490	7,064	1,831	2,674	-	14,026	12,413	1,308
Outreach Out-patients															
Comprehensive Eye Camps	14,005	3,105	1,275	234	2,730	2,934	323	-	1,019	-	27	-	2,233	-	125
Diabetic Retinopathy Camps	999	114	-	296	422	-	-	-	111	-	-	-	-	56	-
Glaucoma Camps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refraction Camp	6,022	961	707	787	737	418	105	-	1,006	-	-	-	762	336	201
Mobile Refraction Unit	363	-	-	-	328	-	-	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	-
School Screening	6,614	5,897	-	24	693	-	-	-	-	-	65	-	-	-	-
Paediatric Eye screening camps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RoP Screening	1,492	199	179	93	770	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	197	14	-
Vision Centres	92,650	30,037	16,543	6,693	6,960	19,248	2,055	-	4,757	-	1,962	-	4,395	-	-
Community / City Centres	20,045	9,685	2,892	2,309	-	3,025	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,157	597	-
Total OP Examinations	5,08,417	1,29,846	60,516	22,144	56,042	65,122	10,602	12,321	27,089	8,144	9,202	5,169	69,381	27,897	4,942
Total number of camps	82	16	9	2	18	14	2	-	7	-	1	-	12	-	1
Surgeries															
Cataract	42,465	9,606	3,760	1,179	5,160	5,964	846	850	3,141	744	1,180	332	6,247	3,051	405
*Other Surgeries	24,114	6,322	2,932	158	4,757	2,891	90	187	822	59	125	172	3,896	1,628	75
Total Surgeries	66,579	15,928	6,692	1,337	9,917	8,855	936	1,037	3,963	803	1,305	504	10,143	4,679	480

Other surgeries include major surgeries, minor surgeries, intra-vitreous & other injections and laser procedures.