SANKAR FOUNDATION EYE HOSPITAL
Committed to the Community

VISIONARY INSIGHTS

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Chairman's Message



I am proud and privileged to be associated with Sankar Foundation, an institution that stands as a beacon of compassionate service and excellence in eye care. Having witnessed first-hand the remarkable dedication, commitment, and teamwork of its doctors, paramedical staff, and employees, I am deeply impressed by their unwavering efforts to serve society. Attending the Founder's Day celebrations marking the 95th Birth Anniversary of Sri Atmakuri Sanka Rao further revealed the strong values, discipline, professionalism, and ethical culture ingrained in the organization. I was truly honoured and humbled by the warm felicitation extended to me by the doctors and employees on this memorable occasion. My heartfelt compliments and sincere appreciation go to the entire workforce of Sankar Foundation for their outstanding service and commitment.

M Ramdas
Chairman, Board of Trustees

MT & CEO's Message



I am deeply touched by the gracious presence of a large number of supporters, corporate partners, and well-wishers who have been an integral part of the successful journey of Sankar Foundation. The Founder's Day celebrations, commemorating the 95th Birth Anniversary of my late father, Sri Atmakuri Sanka Rao, filled the campus with a truly festive and inspiring atmosphere.

I am humbled by the heartfelt tributes and speeches of the distinguished guests, who graciously acknowledged the Foundation's unwavering commitment to compassionate and patient-centric eye care. Their appreciation is a reflection of the trust and confidence that Sankar Foundation has earned over the years.

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A Krishna Kumar
Managing Trustee & CEO



Sri A. Krishna Kumar, Managing Trustee & CEO, accompanied by his wife Smt. Usha Atmakuri, pays floral tributes by garlanding the statue of Founder Late Sri Atmakuri Sankar Rao on the occasion of his 95th Birth Anniversary.



Sri M. Ramdas, Chairman, Board of Trustees, is felicitated during the 95th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Founder Late Sri Atmakuri Sankar Rao.

(Details in Page 5)

LEAD VIEW

(K Bangar Raju)

SPOTLIGHT ON SIGHT: HOW SURGICAL INNOVATION IS REDUCING BLINDNESS WORLDWIDE

Over the past three decades, remarkable advances in eye care have significantly reduced avoidable blindness across the world. Improved cataract surgery, expanded access to treatment, public health initiatives, and emerging technologies have helped millions retain or regain their sight. Globally, the age-standardized prevalence of blindness among people aged 50 years and above declined by nearly 28.5% between 1990 and 2020, reflecting the success of coordinated blindness control efforts.

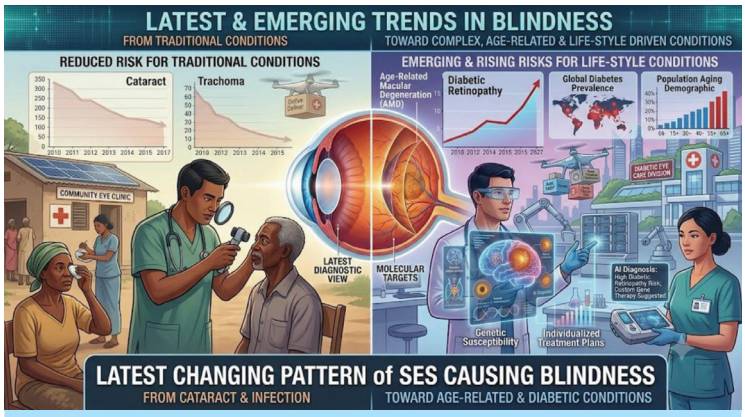


Illustration created by using AI Tools

India, home to one of the world's largest populations at risk of vision loss, has made remarkable progress in reducing blindness. According to the latest nationwide Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) Survey 2015-19 conducted under the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI) shows that the prevalence of blindness in India among people aged 50 years and above declined significantly to about 1.99% during 2015-19, compared with much higher levels reported in earlier

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Performance at a Glance

Total Eye Surgeries : 5,29,114 Since Inception
Total Outpatients Screened : 30,71,352 Since Inception

LEAD VIEW

SPOTLIGHT ON SIGHT : HOW SURGICAL INNOVATION IS REDUCING BLINDNESS WORLDWIDE

decades. India is emerging as a leader in leveraging technology-driven outreach. The latest national survey revealed that blindness prevalence has declined to just 0.36% in the overall population (all ages), a significant achievement compared with earlier decades.

A key pillar of this achievement is the steadfast commitment of corporate partners through their CSR initiatives. Their generous support and trust has enabled Sankar Foundation to take comprehensive eye care services to remote villages through extensive screening camps, strengthening its relentless efforts to eradicate avoidable blindness and restore sight to thousands of lives.

Cataract, once the leading cause of avoidable blindness, is increasingly being tackled through large-scale surgical programmes, community outreach initiatives under the National Programme for Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI), and advances in diagnostic technologies. This sustained public health effort has led to a dramatic reduction in blindness, making India a notable example of how focused interventions can effectively combat avoidable blindness despite a shortage of specialists.

Among Indians aged 50 years and above, cataract remains by far the leading cause of blindness, accounting for 66.2% of all blindness cases. Other significant causes include corneal opacity (8.2%), cataract surgical complications (7.2%), posterior segment and retinal disorders (5.9%), and glaucoma (5.5%).

"Three decades ago, India was regarded as the blind capital of the world. Today, through sustained public health interventions, outreach programs, advanced surgical techniques, tele-ophthalmology, the country has demonstrated how innovation can dramatically reduce avoidable blindness even amidst a shortage of ophthalmologists."

A major contributor to this success has been continuous innovation and advancements in surgical techniques. Modern cataract surgery, optical coherence tomography (OCT), retinal imaging, laser treatments, and minimally invasive glaucoma procedures enable earlier diagnosis and more effective treatment. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is further transforming eye care by detecting diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and other sight-threatening diseases within seconds, extending specialist expertise to underserved regions.

The National Programme for Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI) and studies coordinated by institutions such as AIIMS-Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences provide compelling evidence of India's success in reducing blindness.

Changing Pattern of Diseases Causing Blindness

The pattern of blindness is also changing worldwide. While cataract and infectious eye diseases have declined, chronic conditions such as diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration (AMD), and uncorrected refractive errors are becoming increasingly prominent. Consequently, the focus of blindness control has shifted toward early detection, regular screening, long-term management, and technology-enabled care.

The World Health Organisation in its recent reports stated that over the past three decades, the World Health Organization has spearheaded a global movement against avoidable blindness through Vision 2020 and subsequent universal eye health initiatives. Western countries have complemented these efforts through universal access to eye care, regular screening programmes, integrated healthcare systems, and widespread adoption of advanced technologies.

Although nearly 43 million people were living with blindness globally in 2020, the future offers renewed hope. portable diagnostics, robotic-assisted procedures, and data-driven public health strategies are reshaping eye care delivery. India's success demonstrates that a combination of strong policy support, community outreach, skilled professionals, and innovation can dramatically reduce blindness and bring the gift of sight to millions.

Global Burden of Blindness

Despite significant progress in eye care, blindness remains a major public health challenge, particularly in countries with large populations, ageing demographics, poverty, and limited access to ye care services. According to the Global Burden of Disease Study and the IAPB Vision Atlas, the largest numbers of people living with blindness are concentrated in India (0.36%) China, (0.2 to 0.3%), Nigeria (1.5 to 2%), Pakistan (0.7 to 1.0%) Indonesia (0.5 to 0.7%) Bangladesh (0.6 to 0.8) and Ethiopia (1.0 to 1.6%).

While India has substantially reduced blindness to about 0.36% of the total population, the burden remains considerably higher in countries such as Nigeria, Ethiopia and Pakistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh. China currently reports one of the lowest blindness prevalence rates among major developing nations, reflecting strong investments in eye care services, screening and cataract surgery programmes.

Regions Most Affected

The highest prevalence of blindness is reported in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and parts of the Middle East and North Africa, where access to timely eye care services remains a significant challenge.

Vision 2020's core strategy is simple: Prevent, Detect, Treat, and Rehabilitate. By combining community outreach, trained manpower, modern infrastructure, and accessible treatment, the initiative has helped millions retain or regain sight and has significantly reduced the burden of avoidable blindness globally.

How Western Countries Address Blindness Control

Western nations focus on a prevention-first approach, emphasizing screening, universal access, technology adoption, and integrated healthcare systems. As a result, most blindness today is prevented, detected early, or effectively managed before it becomes irreversible. Integrated healthcare systems ensure access to cataract surgery, glaucoma care, and vision correction, while public awareness campaigns promote eye health and routine check-ups.

The story of the past three decades is therefore not merely one of medical progress. It is a story of how innovation, human expertise are working together to reduce avoidable blindness, restore sight, and improve the quality of life for millions around the world. The challenge of limited specialist manpower remains, but technology is ensuring that the light of vision reaches more people than ever before.

The success of India's cataract programme has substantially reduced cataract blindness. However, the next frontier in blindness control lies in tackling chronic and complex eye diseases such as glaucoma, retinal disorders, corneal diseases and uncorrected refractive errors, which require specialised care, continuous follow-up and advanced technology for timely diagnosis and treatment.

Looking ahead, the future of blindness prevention will depend on early detection, advanced diagnostic technologies, telemedicine, portable screening devices, and stronger public health outreach. While the demand for eye care continues to rise due to ageing populations and diabetes, innovations in screening, diagnosis and treatment are helping make quality eye care more accessible, accurate and effective.

(The author of this exclusive story is the Editor of Visionary Insights)

"Donate Eyes, Give the Gift of Sight."

Paediatric Eye Care: A Vision Revolution

As screens replace playgrounds and near-work becomes a daily norm, childhood myopia is emerging as a silent epidemic across India. Urban centres are witnessing a sharp surge in short-sightedness driven by prolonged screen time, intensive near-work, and diminished outdoor activity. With visual development occurring primarily during early childhood, early detection is no longer just about clear sight-it is a critical public health priority to prevent lifelong, sight-threatening complications.

The Demographic Imbalance

According to **National Institute of Health** (NIH), With nearly 407 million children under 16, India carries one of the world's largest paediatric populations, yet the availability of paediatric ophthalmologists remains limited. The ratio works out to only one specialist for every 3 Lakh to 5.7 lakh children, underscoring the urgent need to strengthen specialised eye care services for children. Estimates indicate there are only 700 to 1,300 paediatric ophthalmologists or dedicated practices nationwide.

A nationwide survey published in the Indian Journal of Ophthalmology highlighted this structural gap: out of 668 responding eye-care institutions, only 192 (28.7%) provided paediatric eye care services, with an even smaller fraction maintaining dedicated paediatric units. While major tertiary health networks-such as Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Aravind Eye Care System, Sankara Nethralaya, Centre for Sight, Narayana Nethralaya, Shroff Eye Hospital, and Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospitals-offer specialized paediatric care, these institutions remain heavily concentrated in metropolitan areas. Rural and underserved regions face significant diagnostic delays.

Evolving Challenges & Modern Interventions

Beyond simple refractive errors, specialists are tasked with managing complex paediatric conditions, including:

- **Squint (Strabismus) & Amblyopia (Lazy Eye):** Requiring early realignment and therapy to preserve binocular vision.
- **Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP):** Crucial screening needed for preterm infants to avoid incurable blindness.
- **Congenital Conditions:** Paediatric cataracts and congenital glaucoma demanding urgent surgical intervention.



Remarkably, experts estimate that 60% to 70% of childhood blindness is avoidable or treatable with timely intervention. Modern management of myopia has shifted from mere correction to active progression control through advanced therapeutics:

- **Low-Dose Atropine Therapy (0.01%-0.05%):** Proven to significantly slow axial length elongation with minimal side effects.
- **Myopia-Control Lenses & Orthokeratology (Ortho-K):** Specialty eyeglasses and overnight corneal-reshaping contact lenses that manage optical defocus.
- **AI-Assisted Screening:** Digital health tools and automated imaging enabling rapid community-level screening.

Government Initiatives & The Road Ahead

Under the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI), the Government of India is expanding school eye screening, providing free spectacles to eligible students, and running community campaigns to build parental awareness and the strengthening of paediatric ophthalmology services



As stated by **Dr T Suparna,** Head of Paediatric Ophthalmology at Sankar Foundation, "Childhood myopia is no longer just a vision problem; it is a public health challenge that requires early detection, timely intervention and preventive care. With advances in myopia control and paediatric ophthalmology, we can help protect the vision of the next generation."

She emphasises that parents should ensure that children with suspected vision problems are examined by a qualified paediatric ophthalmologist rather than relying solely on optical shop assessments. Comprehensive eye examinations, including cycloplegic refraction, are essential because children may sometimes be incorrectly diagnosed with myopia due to conditions such as pseudo-myopia. Regular eye screening is equally important for detecting amblyopia (lazy eye), where vision in one eye is reduced while the other eye remains normal.

Therefore, every child should undergo a comprehensive eye check-up at least once a year to ensure early diagnosis and timely treatment of vision-threatening conditions.



K. Ranjan Rao
EDITOR

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"Eye donation is the greatest gift of vision.

EYE DONATION RALLY BY SANKAR FOUNDATION



Doctors, Heads of Departments (HODs), and employees of Sankar Foundation participate in an awareness rally to mark Eye Donation Fortnight.

Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital, Naidutota today organised an awareness rally on "Eye Donation" from the hospital premises to Gopalapatnam petrol bunk via Prahladapuram and returned back to the hospital on 5th September, 2026. The rally witnessed slogans raised on the importance of the noble cause of eye donation.

The rally was flagged off by Dr Nasrin, Director, Medical Administration and Training & HOD, Cornea in which Dr Yasaswini, Dr Pravalika, DNBs, Sri KV Venugopal, Sri SKL Rao, employees and students from the hospital actively took part in the rally.

The message was "Eyes can be donated only after death, but the gift of sight lives on forever."

Sankar Foundation expresses its gratitude to the Police Department for according the permission for the rally.

Eye Donation Fortnight is observed every year from 25 August to 8 September across India to create awareness about the importance of eye donation and encourage people to pledge their eyes after death.



Dr. P. Jagadeeswar Rao, DM&HO; Dr. V. Meenakshi, Superintendent, Regional Eye Hospital; and the District Project Manager lead the Eye Donation Fortnight awareness rally at Ramakrishna Beach on August 30 in which Sankar Foundation actively participated.

BDL TEAM VISITS SANKAR FOUNDATION



Sankar Foundation expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Sri T. Narasimham, GM (HR), and Sri P. Srinivasa Rao, DGM (HR), of BDL for visiting the Foundation on 18 September and for taking the time to see the Humphrey Field Analyzer machine, generously sponsored by BDL under its CSR initiative at a cost of Rs. 23.23 lakh.

Sri K. Bangar Raju, Deputy General Manager (PR, CR & Liaison), welcomed the BDL team and highlighted the advanced features and clinical advantages of the Humphrey Field Analyzer machine in enhancing the diagnosis and management of eye diseases.

The Foundation sincerely appreciates BDL's steadfast support and valued association in furthering the cause of quality eye care.

L&T-SPONSORED EYE SCREENING CAMP AT CITY POLYCLINIC



Sri N.J. Murthy, Captain C.G. Raju, and other dignitaries witnessing the eye screening of beneficiaries at the camp

L&T (Larsen & Toubro Limited), in association with Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital, conducted a comprehensive eye screening camp on 19th September for retired defence personnel at ECHS Polyclinic-I, near the railway station. The camp was sponsored by L&T under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.""The camp was inaugurated by Sri N.J. Murthy, HOD, Fi & Accounts, L&T, in the presence of Captain C.G. Raju, Officer In-charge, CGHS Polyclinic, Sri R.K. Rao, Manager (CSR), L&T, Sri K. Bangar Raju, Deputy General Manager (PR, Corporate Relations & Liaison), Sankar Foundation, Sri N. Appala Raju, Senior Manager (Outreach), Smt Ch. Sruthi, and other dignitaries.""A total of 130 patients were screened by Dr Sri Lakshmi during the camp. Following the examinations, 80 beneficiaries were prescribed and provided quality spectacles free of cost.""Speaking on the occasion, Sri N.J. Murthy expressed satisfaction with the community eye care services being rendered by Sankar Foundation and assured L&T's continued support towards the mission of eliminating avoidable blindness and improving access to quality eye care.



Sri Yadwinder Singh, CSR Head, L & T distributing spectacles to the retired defense personnel on 26th September sponsored by L & T at ECHS Polyclinic.

"When life ends, let sight begin. Donate your eyes and light up two lives."

SANKAR FOUNDATION EYE HOSPITAL
Committed to the Community

CORPORATES, PARTNERS LAUD SANKAR FOUNDATION'S JOURNEY IN RESTORING SIGHT

Sankar Foundation Celebrates 95th Birth Anniversary of its Founder Late Atmakuri Sankar Rao

Sankar Foundation celebrated the 95th Birth Anniversary of its visionary founder, Late Sri Atmakuri Sankar Rao, with a grand Founder's Day Celebration and Partners' Meet. The event brought together corporate leaders, partners, trustees, doctors and employees, who applauded the Foundation's enduring contribution to eliminating avoidable blindness and delivering quality eye care.



Sri **M. Ramdas,** Sri **A. Krishna Kumar,** along with corporate representatives and Heads of Departments (HODs), lights the ceremonial lamp to mark the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Sri M. Ramdas, Chairman, Board of Trustees, urged employees to pursue excellence, uphold ethical practices, embrace innovation, and strengthen teamwork to achieve sustainable growth and service excellence. On the occasion, he was felicitated by Sri A. Krishna Kumar, Managing Trustee & CEO, in the presence of Clinical Heads of Departments and senior staff.

In his address, Sri A. Krishna Kumar expressed gratitude to corporate partners and supporters whose continued encouragement has played a vital role in the Foundation's growth and outreach. He commended the doctors, paramedical staff, outreach teams and employees for their dedication in advancing clinical services and community eye care.

Sri A Vijay Kumar, Trustee Participated in the celebrations.

As a tribute to the founder, trustees, clinical heads and senior officials garlanded the statue and paid floral tributes to Late Sri Atmakuri Sankar Rao, recalling his vision and selfless service to humanity.

Corporate representatives Sri Yadwinder Singh from L&T, Sri KJ Kiran Raju and Sri SVSSN Raju from INOX Air Products, Sri MVS Murthy and Sri GNB Rao from GAIL and Sri Divakar Rao and Sri Srinivasa Murthy from LIC were honoured during the programme and they praised Sankar Foundation's impactful work in combating avoidable blindness through advanced treatment, outreach initiatives and community eye health programmes. They reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the Foundation's future healthcare and outreach efforts.

Around 250 active partners who are always journeyed with Sankar Foundation participated with keen interest. 21 best supporters were felicitated with certificates of recognition and mementos for their outreach activities in achieving avoidable blindness in this region.

The celebration also featured presentations by the Departments of Glaucoma, Cornea, Retina, Orbit and Paediatrics, highlighting key clinical achievements, technological advancements and ongoing developments in specialised eye care. Corporate partners were presented with certificates of recognition and mementos in appreciation of their invaluable contribution to the Foundation's success.



Sri **A. Krishna Kumar,** along with the Heads of Clinical Departments and senior officials, poses for a group photograph in front of the commemorative hoarding of **Sri Sankar Rao** and **Smt. Yeshoda.**

The programme was coordinated by Sri K.V. Venugopal, DGM; Sri K. Bangar Raju, DGM (PR); and Smt. Bhuvana Kalyani, Faculty Head. Sri N Appala Raju, Senior Manager (Out Reach) and his team successfully coordinated the partners meet. The event concluded with a renewed commitment to carrying forward the noble vision of the founder and expanding the Foundation's service to humanity.

HONOURING FOR TRUE SUPPORT



Sri **V. Divakar Rao, Senior Divisional Manager, LIC, being felicitated by Sri M. Ramdas and Sri A. Krishna Kumar during the Founder's Day celebrations.**

"A single eye donor can restore vision to two people, turning darkness into hope."

Impressive Performance by Sankar Foundation

Sankar Foundation recorded an outstanding performance during the first half (H1) of the financial year 2026-27, achieving significant growth across its clinical, outreach, and patient-care services. The Foundation registered notable achievements in conducting a large number of eye surgeries, expanding community outreach activities, and implementing patient-centric initiatives, thereby strengthening public trust and confidence in its services.

A key highlight of this performance was the substantial increase in surgeries performed under the Dr. NTR Vaidya Seva Scheme, enabling quality eye care for economically disadvantaged sections of society across the region.

All branches of the Foundation, including Srikakulam, Madhurawada, Maddilapalem, and Gajuwaka, delivered commendable results during the period. In particular, the Srikakulam Centre demonstrated exceptional performance by recording a high number of surgeries under the Dr. NTR Vaidya Seva Programme of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, reaffirming its commitment to accessible and affordable eye care.

Commending the collective effort, Sri A. Krishna Kumar, Managing Trustee & CEO, Sankar Foundation, congratulated the doctors, paramedical staff, employees, and branch teams for their dedication and contribution towards achieving these impressive results.

Snapshot Metrics (April - September 2026)

Main Hospital, Naidutota

- Total Eye Surgeries 18,868
- Total Outpatients Screened..... 106776
- Total Outreach Eye Camps Conducted : 344

Branch-wise Performance

- **Srikakulam**
  - Eye Surgeries..... 2,674 +184
  - Outpatients..... 13,738
- **Madhurawada**
  - Eye Surgeries 87
  - Outpatients 3,864
- **Maddilapalem**
  - Eye Surgeries 607
  - Outpatients 7292
- **Gajuwaka**
  - Eye Surgeries 237
  - Outpatients 6,602

The encouraging H1 performance reflects Sankar Foundation's unwavering commitment to its mission of eliminating avoidable blindness through excellence in patient care, community outreach, and affordable eye health services.

CHAMPIONS OF COMMUNITY EYE CARE

◆ **Reaching Every Village, Touching Every Life**

A strong and dedicated Outreach Team of Sankar Foundation, led by Sri N. Appala Raju, Senior Manager, poses for a group photograph after the successful conduct of the Partners Meet during the Founder's Day celebrations. Through their tireless efforts in creating eye health awareness and organizing numerous eye screening camps across the region, the team continues to play a pivotal role in Sankar Foundation's mission of eliminating avoidable blindness and bringing quality eye care to underserved communities.



Sri A. Krishna Kumar, MT & CEO, congratulated and commended the Outreach Team for their exemplary coordination in making the event a resounding success.

It is noteworthy that the Outreach Team has been at the forefront of Sankar Foundation's community eye care initiatives, successfully conducting more than 600 eye screening camps annually across villages in the region. Through their unwavering dedication the team has helped identify and treat vision problems at an early stage, restoring sight to countless individuals and significantly enhancing their quality of life. Their work continues to play a vital role in extending the reach of quality eye care to deserved communities.

SANKAR FOUNDATION DOCTORS EXCEL AT STATE OPHTHALMIC CONFERENCE "VISION WAVES"



Dr. Raveendra delivering a scientific presentation to participants during the conference.

Doctors from Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital made a strong academic impact at the three-day Annual Conference of the Andhra Pradesh Ophthalmic Society (APOS), "Vision Waves," held at Kakinada from September 18, 2026. The team showcased complex clinical cases, innovative surgical techniques, and emerging trends in ophthalmology.

A major highlight was the presentation by Dr. T. Raveendra, Director and Head of Glaucoma Services, on Sankar Foundation's successful Hydrus Microstent implantation, a landmark procedure performed for the first time in Andhra Pradesh as a significant advance in glaucoma management. The presentation received wide appreciation from delegates, and Dr. Raveendra also moderated key panel discussions on contemporary glaucoma care.

Further enhancing the institution's academic presence, Dr. N. J. Sirisha, Head of Orbit & Oculoplasty, presented "Challenging Cases in Orbit and Oculoplasty," while Dr. Suparna, Head of Paediatric Ophthalmology, presented a video paper on "Double Lift Technique for Double Elevator Palsy" and also moderated a scientific session. Dr. T. Krishna, Head of Retina Services, participated in the conference, reinforcing Sankar Foundation's commitment to excellence in ophthalmic education, research, and patient care.



Dr. N. J. Sirisha and Dr. Suparna engaging in a scientific discussion during the conference proceedings.

"Eyes may close forever, but their gift can illuminate lives for years to come."

Editorial

Paediatric Eye Care: A Vision Revolution

Global Comparison

According to International Myopia Institute (IMI) and World Health Organisation (WHO) a widely cited global study projected that 50% of the world's population could be myopic by 2050, with East Asia carrying the greatest burden.

Myopia has reached epidemic proportions in several parts of East and Southeast Asia. Countries such as Singapore, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan report some of the world's highest prevalence rates, with 80-90% of school leavers and young adults affected in certain urban populations. China alone is estimated to have hundreds of millions of people with myopia, making it one of the largest contributors to the global burden. In comparison, myopia prevalence in India remains lower but is rising steadily, particularly among urban schoolchildren due to increased screen time, intensive near work and reduced outdoor activity.

"While East Asia is considered the global epicentre of myopia, India is rapidly emerging as the next major frontier, making prevention and early intervention more important than ever."

Quick Facts

- **South Korea:** Up to 90% of young adults are myopic.
- **Singapore:** Around 80% of young adults have myopia.
- **China:** Among the highest numbers globally, with prevalence exceeding 80% in some urban student populations.
- **Japan & Hong Kong:** High rates among school-going children and adolescents, often exceeding 70-80%.
- **India:** School-age prevalence is about 7.5% overall, but urban adolescents have shown rates around 15% and rising.

Addressing this crisis requires a multi-pronged approach:

- **Lifestyle Protocols:** Enforcing daily outdoor time (minimum 2 hours), capping recreational screen usage, and building visual hygiene habits.
- **Institutional Infrastructure:** Expanding dedicated paediatric units into Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities to bridge urban-rural disparities.
- **Routine Diagnostics:** Integrating mandatory vision check-ups into school health programs alongside AI-driven monitoring.

By strengthening clinical capacity, leveraging advanced myopia-control therapies, and driving early interventions, India can effectively protect the vision and developmental potential of its next generations.

(The author of the exclusive story is the Editor of Visionary Insights)

A GIFT OF SIGHT, A LIFETIME OF GRATITUDE



A heart-warming testament to Sankar Foundation's commitment to transforming lives is the story of a young boy who regained both vision and confidence through timely medical intervention. At the age of four, he underwent successful squint correction surgery performed by Dr. Suparna, followed by ptosis correction surgery by Dr. Sirisha, restoring his vision and significantly improving his quality of life.

Now seven years old, the child is thriving, bringing immense joy to his family. Filled with gratitude, his mother participated in the Founder's Day celebrations with great enthusiasm and emotion, expressing her heartfelt appreciation to the doctors and team at Sankar Foundation for giving her son the gift of sight and a brighter future.

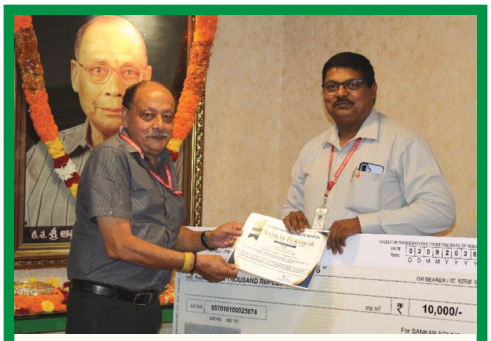
Such inspiring success stories are not isolated achievements but are among the many life-changing milestones in the rich legacy of Sankar Foundation, reflecting its enduring mission of eliminating avoidable blindness and restoring hope to countless families.

MT & CEO Message

What gives me immense satisfaction is the remarkable impact of our outreach initiatives, which continue to take quality eye care to the doorsteps of rural and underserved communities. This enduring trust is the result of the dedication of our doctors, paramedical teams, employees, supporters, and partners who share our vision of eliminating avoidable blindness and bringing the gift of sight to all. I also congratulated the doctors and the entire collective for the remarkable progress achieved during the First half of the current financial year. Together, we remain committed to serving society with compassion, excellence, and integrity. My Heartfelt congratulations to the entire team.

"The noblest legacy is not what we leave behind, but the sight and happiness we give through eye donation."

EMPLOYEES HONOURED FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AND DEDICATED SERVICE



Sri **A. Krishna Kumar** presenting the Sankar Puraskar to Sri **SKL Rao.**

Sankar Foundation celebrated excellence, commitment, and dedicated service by honouring its employees with the prestigious Sankar Puraskar and Long Service Awards during the Founder's Day celebrations held on September 2, 2026, commemorating the 95th birth anniversary of its founder, Late Sri Atmakuri Sankar Rao.

A festive spirit enveloped the campus as doctors, employees, and students joined the celebrations in traditional attire, reflecting the institution's strong sense of unity and belonging. The award presentation ceremony was marked by enthusiastic applause as employees were recognised for their invaluable contributions to the Foundation's growth and mission.

Sri A. Krishna Kumar, Managing Trustee & CEO, presented the coveted Sankar Puraskar to Sri S.K.L. Rao, AGM (HR & Administration), the Foundation's first employee, in recognition of his outstanding performance, unwavering dedication, exemplary leadership, and steadfast commitment to the organisation's work culture over the years.

On the occasion, Sri Krishna Kumar also presented Long Service Awards to Prof.



Sri **Krishna Kumar** distributing the long service award to Prof **Krishna Prasad.**

P. Krishna Prasad, Director, Medical Education; Mrs. P. Shanti; Smt. T. Jhansi; Sri T. Rama Rao; Mrs. D. Hemalatha Kumari; Smt. N. Devi; Sri Ch. Venkata Ramana; and Smt. K. Poornima for completing 10 years of fruitful and devoted service to Sankar Foundation. Their contributions were lauded as a reflection of the institution's enduring values of dedication, compassion, and service excellence.

GLIMPSES OF THE CELEBRATIONS



Sri A. Krishna Kumar, Managing Trustee & CEO, Sri M. Ramdas, Chairman, Board of Trustees, corporate representatives, Heads of Clinical Departments, senior officers, and partners participate in the Founder's Day celebrations commemorating the 95th birth anniversary of Late Sri A. Sankar Rao on 2 September 2026.

Surgical Success Metrics
September 2026

Total Eye Surgeries	3,033
Cataract Surgeries	2,201
Retina Surgeries	97
Retina Injections	234
Glaucoma Surgeries	20
Cornea Surgeries	179
Paediatrics Surgeries	6
Orbit & Oculoplasty	59
Total OP Screened	16,387
BRANCHES	
Srikakulam Eye Surgeries + Injections	364
OP Screened	2,053
Maddilapalem Eye Surgeries + Injections	79
OP Screened	1,066
Gajuwaka Eye Surgeries + Injections	37
OP Screened	917
Madhurawada Eye Surgeries	12
OP Screened	580
Total 52 Outreach free eye camps conducted and screened 3,529 patients and Performed 1,363 surgeries.	

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"Donate your eyes and become a beacon of hope, helping others see the beauty of life."