



# EYE RESEARCH CENTRE FOUNDATION

## VISION FOR ALL



# Annual Report

## 2024 - 2025

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# Table of Contents

<b>Our Inception</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Message from our Key Advisors</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Our Board Members</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>About ERCF</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Vision &amp; Mission</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Core Values</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Gift of Vision (2024-25)</b>	<b>10-11</b>
<b>47 Years of Restoring Hope &amp; Vision</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Our Smile Prints</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Alignment with SDGs</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Our Collaboration with Government</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Student Engagement in Community</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Stories of Hope</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Lives Touched</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Our Impact - School Children</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Our CSR Partners</b>	<b>20-23</b>
<b>Employee Engagement at ERC</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>46th ERCF Day Celebration</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Media Coverage</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Individual Contributors</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Message to our DONORS/SPONSORS</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Testimonials</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Photo Gallery</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Our Government &amp; Corporate Partners</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Our Partners &amp; Individual Contributors</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Financials</b>	<b>33-34</b>

# Our Inception: A Vision Rooted in Compassion



The Eye Research Centre (ERC), founded in 1978 by Padma Bhushan Dr. J. Agarwal and Dr. T. Agarwal, was established to combat avoidable blindness and provide quality eye care to all, regardless of socio-economic status. Registered as a non-profit under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975, ERC remains dedicated to its mission of “Vision for All,” believing that vision is a basic right, not a privilege.

Since inception, ERC has evolved into a dynamic institution, addressing a wide range of blinding eye conditions and visual impairments through a multi-pronged approach that includes free surgical care, community outreach, public health education, and research-driven interventions.

Our founding ethos continues to inspire every initiative we undertake — reaching the unreached, restoring vision, and improving lives with dignity and care.





# Message from our Key Advisors

## PROF. AMAR AGARWAL



Our Mission at the Eye Research Centre Foundation

At the Eye Research Centre Foundation, our mission has consistently been to merge innovative advancements with compassionate care, ensuring that no one endures unnecessary blindness. It has been incredibly rewarding to see how a simple procedure to restore vision can change lives, particularly in underserved communities.

- Every surgery
- Every outreach camp
- Every child we assist in seeing the world

These are all reflections of our collective dedication.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our committed team, partners, and donors for accompanying us on this journey—your support continues to illuminate countless lives.

## DR ATHIYA AGARWAL



At Eye Research Centre Foundation, our purpose goes far beyond medical treatment. We are committed to restoring vision, dignity, and hope, while empowering individuals to live fuller, independent lives. In my journey here, I have seen how the right care at the right time can completely change someone's future. Through community outreach, free surgeries, and awareness programs, we strive to make advanced eye care accessible to all, regardless of their background. I am truly grateful to our dedicated team, partners, and supporters whose constant efforts make this mission possible every single day.

## DR ASHVIN AGARWAL

At Eye Research Centre Foundation, our mission is not just to treat vision loss, but to transform lives. Losing vision impacts every aspect of a person's world — from learning and earning to confidence and self-reliance. That is why our focus on complex cataract surgeries, corneal transplants, and advanced anterior segment care goes beyond medical outcomes. Each restored vision is a restored opportunity — a chance for a child to learn, for an individual to work, and for a family to thrive.



# Our Board Members



**DR. ATHIYA AGARWAL**



**MS. SUDHA**



**MR. NAGIN CHAND**



**MR. STEVE BORGIA**



**MRS. MUKTA SETH**



**MRS. VIJAYA  
CHAKRAVORTY**



**DR. NISHA SINHA**



**MR. KUMARAGURU**



# About ERCF

The Eye Research Centre Foundation (ERCF), established in 1978 in Chennai, is a nonprofit committed to eliminating avoidable blindness through high-impact community outreach, advanced ophthalmic care, and pioneering research. In partnership with Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital, ERCF conducts over 60-70 free screening camps monthly across Tamil Nadu, performs 700-800 free surgeries, and supports patients with transportation, food, and accommodation. It also leads school vision programs, urban eye care initiatives, and training for eye care professionals, all while promoting inclusivity, accountability, and innovation in eye health.



***Restoring Hope, Vision for All***

# Vision & Mission

## Vision

**Sight is not a privilege—it's a right. We believe no one should be left behind due to preventable or treatable blindness**

## Mission

**Our mission is to restore hope through sight**







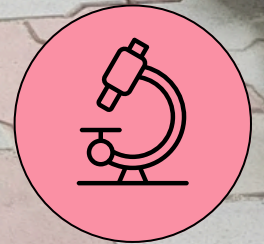
## Core Values



**Accountability**



**Inclusiveness**



**Research**



# Gift of Vision

## Community Eye Care: 2024 -2025



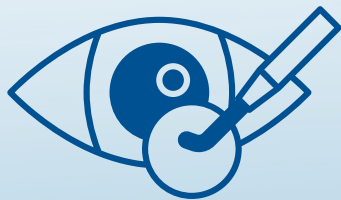
**Screening**  
**69172**



**Women**  
**53 %**



**Men**  
**47 %**



**No of surgery**  
**7174**



**District Served**  
**11**



**No of Camps**  
**827**





# Gift of Vision 2024 - 2025



**6219**  
**Cataract**



**73**  
**Cornea &  
refractive**



**41**  
**Retina**



# 47 Years of Restoring Hope & Vision

6.5+ Million  
Eye  
Screenings



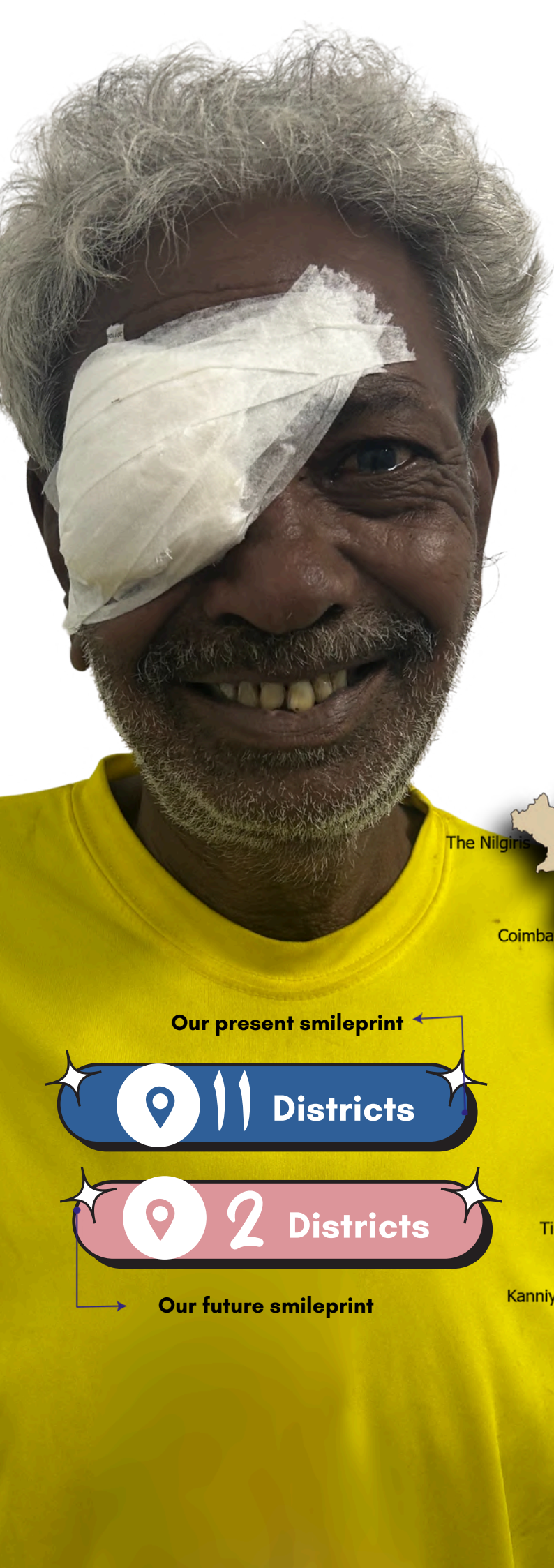
3.5+ Lakhs  
Eye  
Restoration  
Surgeries



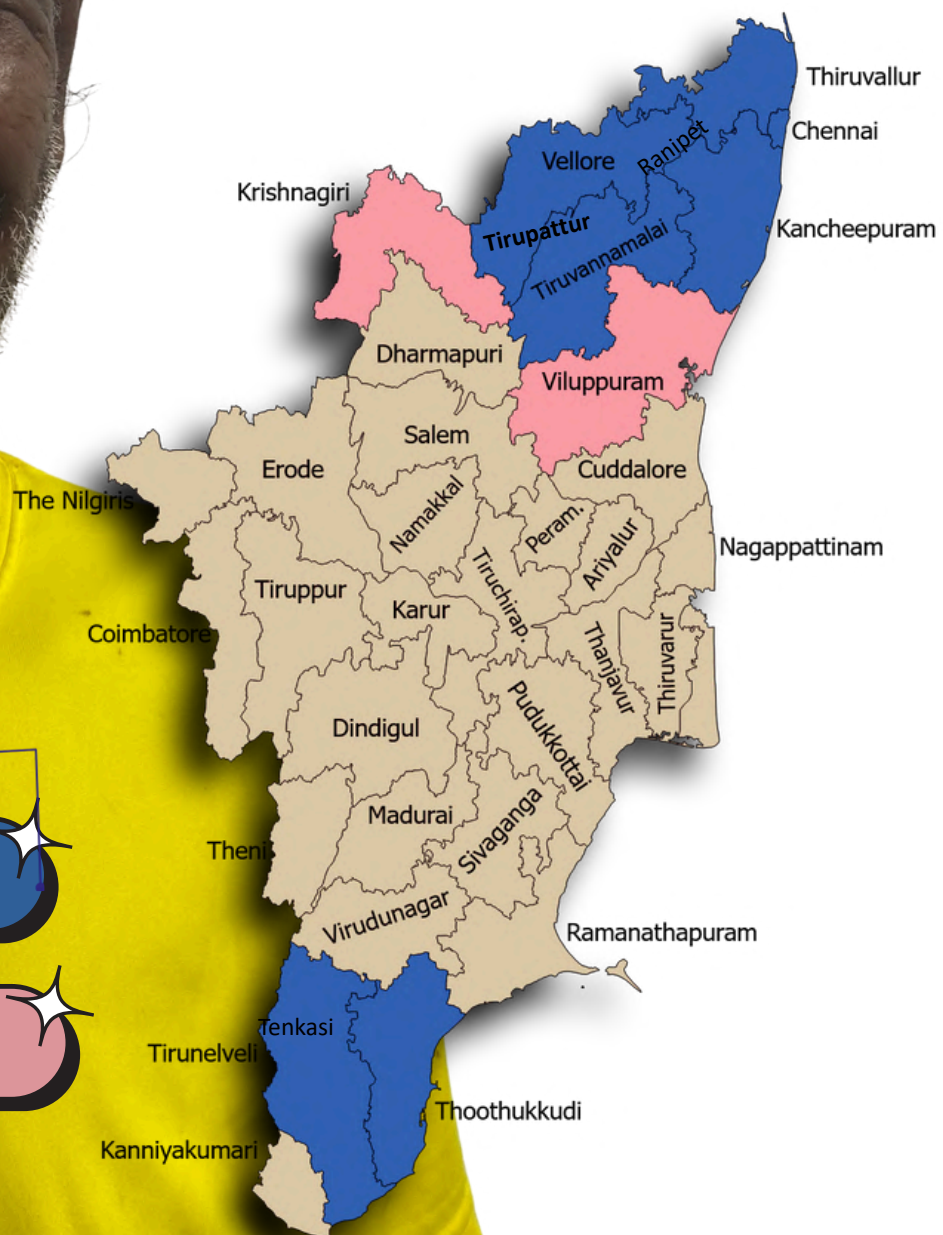
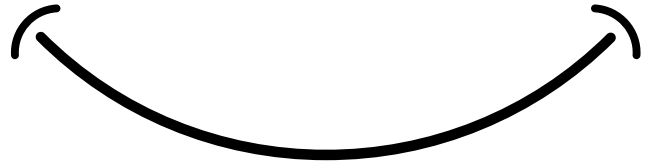
30+ Thousand  
Eye Camps









# Our Smile Prints



Our present smileprint



Districts



Districts

Our future smileprint

# Alignment with SDGs

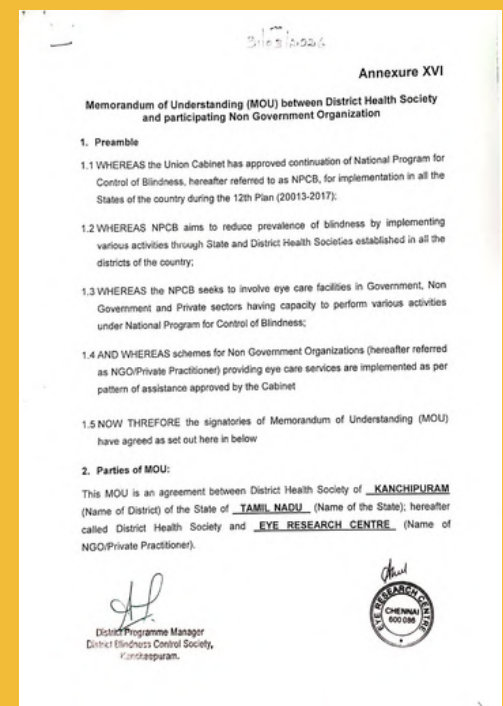


## THE GLOBAL GOALS





# Our Collaboration with Government



During the year, our Foundation continued to expand its reach across Tamil Nadu by conducting free eye screening and surgical camps in 11 districts – Chennai, Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram, Thiruvallur, Vellore, Ranipet, Tiruppattur, Tiruvannamalai, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, and Tenkasi.

These camps were organized under a formal partnership with the Government of Tamil Nadu through signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the District Blindness Control Societies (DBCS) in each of these districts. This collaboration has enabled us to align our efforts with the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI), ensuring that our interventions directly contribute to the state's goal of eliminating avoidable blindness.



# Student Engagement in Community Eye Health

In 2024, students of Dr. Agarwals Institute of Optometry actively integrated community outreach into their learning, creating meaningful public impact.

On World Optometry Day, they conducted an awareness campaign that dispelled myths about the role of optometrists and educated citizens on preventive eye care.



In August 2024, through school vision screenings across North Chennai, they reached 2,470 children in 15 government and aided schools with eye checks and hygiene awareness. Marking World Sight Day 2024, students extended their services to 400 children across 12 child care homes in Chennai, blending clinical screenings with interactive, child-friendly activities.

**Together, these initiatives reinforced the institute's commitment to nurturing socially responsible professionals while advancing community eye health.**

# Stories of Hope



**Mr. Nadarasan is a hardworking man from a small village in**

**Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu.** He spent many years as a farmer, working under the sun to feed his family. But when farming could no longer support them, he took up a new job — painting houses.

Nadarasan was proud of his work. Painting needed focus, balance, and most of all, clear vision. But slowly, cataract began to affect his eyes. His vision became blurry. He struggled to paint neatly, and even riding his two-wheeler became dangerous.

Losing his vision affected everything. He lost confidence, couldn't work properly, and felt helpless about providing for his family.

That's when the Eye Research Centre Foundation stepped in to help.

Through our outreach program, Nadarasan received free cataract surgery.

The treatment changed his life. His vision became clear again, and his world became bright once more.

Today, Nadarasan is back to painting homes with confidence and care.

***He is independent again and able to support his loved ones.***

***For Nadarasan, this was not just a medical treatment — it was a true miracle. A miracle that brought back his vision, his work, and his dignity.***

# Lives Touched



**Priya, a lively 3-year-old from Chennai,** loved going to school but found herself falling behind. The blackboard looked blurred, reading was a struggle, and even playing outside felt unsafe. Slowly, her cheerful spirit began to fade. Her parents, both daily wage earners, noticed her difficulty but felt helpless — advanced eye treatment was far beyond their means.

During one of our outreach camps, Priya was diagnosed with congenital cataract and brought to our base hospital in Chennai. There, she underwent free paediatric cataract surgery.

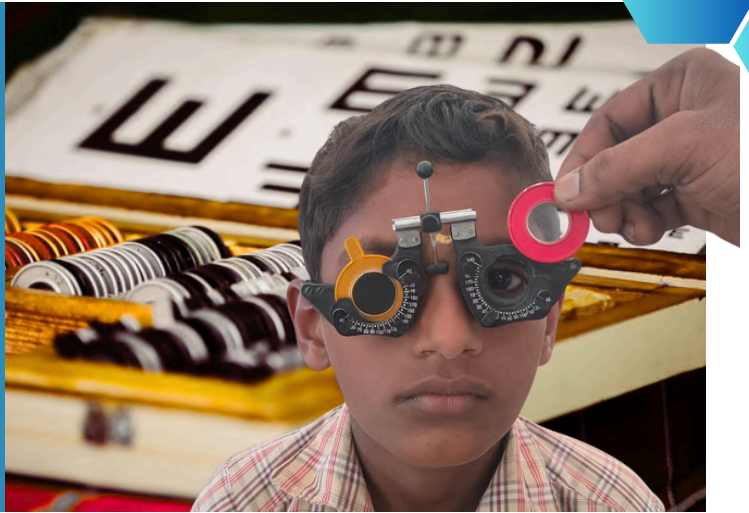
The moment Priya's bandages were removed was unforgettable — she smiled, looked around the room with wonder, and clutched her mother's hand tightly. Her world was bright again.

***Today, Priya is back in school, reading confidently, playing happily, and dreaming fearlessly about her future. For her family, it was not just surgery — it was the return of their daughter's joy and potential.***



# Our Impact

Empowering Vision,  
Enabling Learning for  
School Children



As part of our commitment to child well-being and inclusive education, the Eye Research Centre Foundation (ERCF) conducted comprehensive eye screenings across schools in Chennai, Vellore and Tiruvannamalai Districts of Tamil Nadu.

The program focused on early detection of refractive errors—a leading but often overlooked barrier to academic performance. Children diagnosed with vision issues were provided free spectacles, effectively removing a significant obstacle to their education.



**22,849**  
Total Students  
Screened

**1,882**  
Children with  
Refractive Errors  
Identified

**8.24%**  
Requiring  
Spectacles

# Our CSR Partners

## CARL ZEISS MICROSCOPE Sponsored by State Bank of India



Eye Research Centre Foundation received ₹60.77 lakhs from the **State Bank of India's** CSR fund in February 2024 to enhance its free outreach program. The grant supported the purchase of an advanced surgical microscope, enabling ERCF to perform over 700 cataract surgeries monthly for underprivileged patients, with equal quality of care as private services.





## Empowering Road Safety through Vision Care with IndianOil Petronas Pvt. Ltd.



To tackle visual impairment among commercial drivers, Eye Research Centre Foundation partnered with IndianOil Petronas Pvt. Ltd. in a major public health initiative.

Over 6,000 auto-rickshaw drivers were screened across various locations, and those with refractive errors received free corrective glasses—bringing essential eye care to a vulnerable, often-overlooked group.





## SUN TV Network Limited

### Support: Bringing Hope and Vision



With the generous support of **SUN TV Network Limited** (₹75 lakhs), we successfully performed life-changing specialized surgeries such as Glued IOL, Corneal Transplantation, Retina, Glaucoma and Paediatric Ophthalmic Surgeries. These advanced procedures have brought back vision and hope to children and adults who had lost it due to complex eye conditions.

Each surgery represents not just restored vision, but also renewed confidence, education, livelihood, and dignity for our beneficiaries.



## A Vision of Hope with Imperial Granites and Gem Holidays



Thanks to the generous support of Imperial Granites Pvt. Ltd. and Gem Holidays Resorts Ltd., who together contributed ₹2,248,236, many underprivileged patients received the life-changing gift of vision.

This support meant that children struggling to read their first book, parents unable to provide for their families, and grandparents longing to see their loved ones again could undergo sight-restoring treatments. Each surgery made possible through this contribution is not just a medical intervention, but a second chance at life filled with dignity, independence, and hope.





# Employee Engagement through Enriching Experiences at ERCF



At ERCF, we believe that a motivated workforce drives organizational success. Our employee tours and outings are designed not just for recreation, but to strengthen team bonding, boost morale, and foster cross-departmental collaboration. These initiatives promote well-being, build a sense of belonging, and reflect our ongoing commitment to creating an inspiring and inclusive workplace.





# 46th ERCF Day Celebration

The 46th Eye Research Centre Foundation Day was held on 14th December 2024 at Raj Park Hotel, Chennai, in loving memory of our founders, Padma Bhushan Dr. Jaiveer Agarwal and Dr. Tahira Agarwal. The event honoured camp sponsors, key stakeholders, and the ERCF team, whose dedication continues to drive our mission against preventable blindness.

Prof. Dr. S. V. Chandrakumar, Project Director, Tamil Nadu State Blindness Control Society, graced the occasion as Chief Guest, emphasizing the value of public-private partnerships in eye care.

Led by Dr. Athiya Agarwal and Dr. Ashvin Agarwal, the celebration reflected on past milestones and the road ahead, reaffirming ERCF's commitment to restoring vision and transforming lives across underserved communities.

**Dr Agarwals** &   
**Eye Hospital**

Dear Patrons  
Join us in Celebrating  
**46<sup>th</sup> ERC Day**  
In Fond Memories of Founders

  
Padma Bhushan  
**DR. JAIVEER AGARWAL**

  
**DR. TAHIRA AGARWAL**

**CHIEF GUEST**  
**Prof. Dr. S. V. Chandrakumar**  
Project Director - Tamil Nadu State Blindness Control Society

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2024** | **11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**VENUE**  
**Raj Park Hotel**  
#180, TTK Road, Alwarpet, Chennai - 600 018.

**LET'S CONTINUE THE JOURNEY TOGETHER TO**  
**"ERADICATE PREVENTABLE BLINDNESS"**

**Dr. Athiya Agarwal**  
Chairperson - Eye Research Centre  
Director - Dr Agarwals Group of Eye Hospitals

**Dr. Ashvin Agarwal**  
Chief Clinical Officer  
Dr Agarwals Group of Eye Hospitals





# Media Coverage

**அருணை எக்ஸ்பிரஸ்**  
காலை நாளிதழ்



■ அரக்கோணம் ரோட்டரி சங்கம் சார்பில் இலவச கண் சிகிச்சை முகாம் நேற்று நடைபெற்றது. இதில் ரோட்டரி சங்க முன்னாள் தலைவர்கள் இளங்கோ, மணி, பிரபாகரன், சங்கத் செயலாளர் நரேந்திரகுமார் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

**அரக்கோணம் ரோட்டரி சங்கம் சார்பில் இலவச கண் சிகிச்சை முகாம்**

அரக்கோணம், ஏப்.21  
அரக்கோணத்தில் ரோட்டரி சங்கம் சார்பில் இலவச கண் சிகிச்சை முகாம் நேற்று நடைபெற்றது. ராணி ப் பேட்டை உரிமையாளரும் ரோட்டரி சங்க முன்னாள் தலைவருமான இளங்கோ தொடங்கி வைத்தார். சென்னை அகர்வால் கண் மருத்துவமனை மருத்துவக் குழுவின் தலைவராக கலந்துகொண்டார்.



**GEM Holiday Resorts contributes Rs. 12 lakh to Eye Research Centre**

Chennai, Apr 24: The Eye Research Centre, received a generous amount of Rs.12.48.236/- from GEM Holiday Resorts Limited (Gem Group of Companies, Chennai) to expand their community outreach program including sight restoration. The donation will strengthen the Eye Research Centre's ongoing efforts to ensure affordable and accessible eye care for individuals from the marginalised communities.

Expressing gratitude for the collaboration, Dr. Athiya Agarwal, President of the Eye Research Centre, said, "At the Eye Research Centre, our mission is to restore vision and improve lives of the economically weak. We thank Gem Holiday Resorts Ltd for supporting our cause and we consider this association just the beginning of a meaningful collaborative partnership. We will be utilising the fund to help restore eyesight for people from backward communities."

Talking about the initiative, S. R. Asaithambi, Managing Director of Gem Holiday Resorts Ltd (Gem Group of Companies, Chennai) said, "We believe that corporate social responsibility gets meaningful when you uplift communities and impact lives. Our collaboration with the Eye Research Centre is our step closer to this idea of transforming lives through advanced eyecare and research. We look forward to an impactful partnership that brings a gift of sight to the needy."

The Eye Research Centre focuses on providing ophthalmological aid and care accessible to all especially underprivileged communities. The centre is committed to community-focused initiatives by conducting screening camps, eye surgeries and using modern technologies to perform complex procedures at free of cost.

**एंग माइक्रोस्कोप के लिए दी राशि**



ग. कॉर्पोरेट दिया चेन्नई मंडल के मुख्य दायित्व गतिविधि महाप्रबंधक रवि रंजन, मंडल के सर्जरी करने में महाप्रबंधकगण और उप का निभाता एक महाप्रबंधकगण की उपस्थिति में न उपकरण, लुमेरा एसबीआई के प्रबंध निदेशक विनय डिल नामक एक एम टोन्से द्वारा इसके लिए चेक एंग माइक्रोस्कोप खरीदने के सौंपा गया। रिसर्च सेंटर, चेन्नई आई रिसर्च सेंटर के अध्यक्ष डॉ.

**Centre Gets SBI's CSR Funding Community Outreach Program**



for supporting our mission of restoring the vision of poor people. We consider it just the beginning of a meaningful collaborative partnership. We will be utilising the fund for procuring an advanced surgical microscope that will help our doctors perform complex surgeries and help restore eyesight for thousands of people from economically backward communities."

activities of ERC, she added that over 50% of blindness in the world can be attributed to cataract, the clouding of the lens in the eye. "However, we can remove cataracts through surgery and restore clear vision. Our consultants perform over 700 cataract surgeries a month. We offer the poor patients the same level of treatment that we provide to our paying customers in our clinics and

# INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS





# Message to our DONORS/SPONSORS

Thanks to the continued support from our donors, ERCF performed a total of 7,174 eye surgeries during the year, across a wide spectrum of ophthalmic procedures:

In this past year alone, support from our donors has helped us:

- Reach over 69,172 general public, 6,000 auto-rickshaw drivers with free eye check-ups and spectacles.
- Conducted over 6219 cataract surgeries for low-income patients.
- Distribute thousands of eye drops and medications to people with treatable conditions.

We are deeply grateful for the trust placed in us and reaffirm our commitment to transparency, accountability, and maximum impact. Moving forward, we aim to expand our donor base and work collaboratively to bring quality eye care to every corner of the community.



## Our Gratitude

*To every donor who stood by us—you have given more than just funds. You have given hope, vision, and a brighter future. We thank you for your trust and partnership, and we look forward to continuing this impactful journey together, one life at a time.*

# Testimonials

Supporting the Eye Research Centre Foundation has been a deeply fulfilling journey for us at Carl Zeiss. Knowing that our contribution has helped someone regain their vision—and with it, their independence—is truly heartwarming. Witnessing this direct impact on people's lives inspires us every day, and we are proud to stand alongside ERCF in its mission to bring sight and hope to those who need it most.

— Carl Zeiss

"I had cataract and slowly lost hope as my world turned dark. ERCF gave me free surgery and brought back my vision. Today, I can work again and stand on my own feet. This gift of vision has changed my life completely."

— Kumar, 58 years





# Photo Gallery





# Our Government & Corporate Partners





## Our Partners & Individual Contributors

**A S SHIPPING AGENCIES  
PRIVATE LIMITED,**

**Mr. RAVINDAR SINGH**

**SILVER LINE LABORATORIES PVT  
LTD**

**Ms. SUJATHA RAVI**

**PRIMEX ENTERPRISE LIMITE**

**Ms. SAMPURNIAMMAL M**

**T N RAMA IYER TRUST**

**Ms. DHIVYA PRADEEPA**

**V TN FOUNDATION**

**Ms. RADHA K**

**Ms. ROHINI SHANKAR**

**Mr.PARTHASARATHY**

# Financials

INCOME	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	Rs	Rs	Rs
Donations	1,40,28,500	1,66,60,200	1,58,89,736
Tuition Fees Received	2,72,15,359	3,22,60,094	3,56,88,615
Grant -in Aid	1,35,12,500	1,35,68,200	1,36,50,708
Other Income/Interest Received	7,27,904	7,29,562	8,17,900
Total Income	5,54,84,263	6,32,18,056	6,60,46,959

EXPENDITURE	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	Rs	Rs	Rs
Clinical Expenses	58,43,650	65,64,539	70,44,571
Salareis	2,35,12,726	2,80,42,348	3,25,65,946
Screening Patients for R & D	27,40,035	38,20,833	45,04,454
Vehicle Maintenance	23,99,034	28,41,231	30,09,311
Exps. towards Objects of Society	2,09,900	1,63,872	4,56,125
University Fees	25,55,342	21,16,538	17,26,008
Depreciation	16,05,817	20,61,645	23,69,965
Audit Fees	43,660	53,100	53,100
Bank Charges	6,149	2,960	2,059
Insurance	1,14,149	66,320	75,606
Miscellaneous Expenses	6,20,000	8,40,000	8,16,530
Security Charges	4,06,233	3,96,000	2,95,882
Skill Development Expenses	-	-	3,10,100
Repairs & Maintenance	19,34,233	4,41,228	17,03,510
Rent Paid	38,29,248	57,30,762	61,77,768
Rates and Taxes	1,36,124	1,97,270	1,48,124
Printing & Stationery	1,68,322	4,29,195	5,63,564



EXPENDITURE	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	Rs	Rs	Rs
NBE Accreditation Renewal Fees	56,319	71,163	47,446
Software Maintenance	3,26,791	6,69,558	4,06,571
Optometry School Expenses	8,77,215	7,38,012	1,60,746
Exam Fee Students	3,44,525	8,89,950	12,60,290
Interest Paid	4,274	29,200	-
Travelling & Conveyance	4,90,104	4,66,542	2,96,996
Telephone Expenses	3,886	4,377	4,444
Staff Welfare Expenses	1,67,084	6,68,265	8,70,178
Internet Charges	51,625	88,500	88,500
Consultancy Charges -Others	-	7,22,976	2,950
House Keeping Charges	2,74,556	10,27,047	13,56,910
Electricity Charges	2,04,165	5,62,917	5,64,874
Books & Periodicals	87,266	-	62,000
Boarding & Lodging	74,053	62,032	69,440
Advertisement Charges	25,000	-	70,202
Uniform Expenses	2,17,683	1,33,088	1,02,441
Postage & Courier	-	28,356	50,971
Water Charges	-	16,355	37,846
Assets Written Off	-	-	20,27,161
Donation	-	-	1,00,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>4,93,29,168</b>	<b>5,99,46,179</b>	<b>6,94,02,588</b>



# 2024 Annual Report



## Contact Us



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