

**Celebrating 25<sup>th</sup> year of excellence in eye care**



Governor of Andhra Pradesh His Excellency Shri ESL Narasimhan launched the Silver Jubilee Year by lighting the lamp. Also seen from left Dr Usha Gopinathan, Executive Director, Dr Gullapalli N Rao, Chair, LVPEI, Dr G Chandra Sekhar, Director, Hyderabad campus and Dr D Balasubramanian, Director of Research

On June 1, 2011 LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) completed 24 years of service, providing excellent eye care to all, irrespective of the ability to pay. The first day of our Silver Jubilee Year was marked by several events at the LVPEI group's flagship Kallam Anji Reddy campus. The spruced up building and grounds, a shimmering commemorative sign at the gate and cheerful posters everywhere lent the place a festive air. Every patient was welcomed with sweets and the staff were treated to a delicious lunch on the house!

The day began at 7 am with a talk by Prof Brien Holden, CEO of the Brien Holden Vision Institute. He has played a key role in launching the Institute's research arm, eponymously called the Prof Brien Holden Eye Research Centre.

Prof Holden recalled his first meeting with LVPEI's Founder Chairman



Prof Brien Holden

Dr Gullapalli N Rao 30 years ago and their organisations' two-decade collaborative research partnership, further strengthened by a firm bond of personal friendship. He spoke of shared values, commitment and excellence and the need for optometrists and ophthalmologists to work together to eliminate needless blindness. Applauding the Institute's role in raising blindness prevention efforts to a new level by giving the world the LVPEI Eye Health Pyramid Model, he declared, "You have changed the world!" The talk was punctuated with humour and anecdotes and relished by a houseful Patodia Auditorium, crammed with optometrists, fellows, staff and faculty. Staff from Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada campuses joined in the celebrations via videoconferencing.

In his talk, in Dr Rao spoke nostalgically of the Institute's first patient care day 24 years ago. It seems a long time ago and yet just a short while, he mused. On June 1, 1987 a small group of 20 people had gathered around a 4-year-old boy as he cut a cake. The first patient to be seen here, the boy is now a successful lawyer. Five patients were seen that day and, today, the 1000 plus LVPEI staff sees an average of 2500 patients every working day, while an equal number are covered through our outreach programs across the network.

The two factors that have helped us in our journey are the dedication and diligence of the staff and the enormous support received from friends all over the world. As significant as the money contributed towards the growth of LVPEI, is the time, talent and collaborative efforts that have brought us to where we are. Just a day before its 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary, LVPEI hit a century – now functioning out of 100 locations in the country! And the proudest moment comes from reaching and helping someone in a remote rural area, whom no one else cares about, Dr Rao said.

In the evening, after high tea, friends, supporters and former staff of LVPEI packed the auditorium to celebrate the momentous day. Lectures by Padma Vibhushan Prof MVS Valiathan and Prof Brien Holden marked the first in the series of many commemorative programs to be held over the 25<sup>th</sup> year. (continued on back page)



The first patient seen at LVPEI on June 1, 1987 was Sreeshanth Challa, then just 4 years old



Dr Kakarla Subba Rao presents a painting by Surya Prakash to Prof MVS Valiathan (inset)



Mr V C Janardhan Rao, MD, Veljan Hydrair presented a cheque to Dr Rao towards the construction of a new building



Then it was time for our primary stake-holders to take the stage – a music program by young clients of our rehabilitation centres, mentored by Ms Beula Christy that left everyone enthralled. All the six musicians have congenital vision loss and have been with LVPEI's Dr PRK Prasad Centre for Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired since childhood.

On the flute was M Sai Teja, who started playing at the age of 8, without any training. He is a student of Carnatic music and coaches other children too.

The talented singers included little Heena Sultana, a class IV student from a special school; Kanithi Shrawya, a class X student who has performed on TV and has several private albums to her credit; Kriya Jain, a class V student who has won several prizes at school level competitions; and Shruvan, a classical singer who performs at concerts. Venkatesh Potluri, a student of Computer Science at IIIT, Gachibowli has won laurels at state, national and international

competitions and has played at a concert conducted by maestro A R Rehman in 2009. His rousing performance on the drums ended the program on a high note! The performances were a fitting finale and were greeted with thunderous applause.

Dinner on the lawns, beside the pool in the backdrop of a lit-up Institute, good food and the warmth of friendship brought down the curtains on an emotional day!



Mr Seshanna Chennawar, patron of our secondary centre in Adilabad honored Dr Rao with a shawl



Mahankali Lakshmi and Bollavoina Rajamani of the Housekeeping Department who joined LVPEI on June 1, 1987 and are still with the Institute received a generous cash reward as appreciation

**Our support in May**

- Bhubaneswar**  
Banchhanidhi Acharya  
Manoj Kumar Mishra  
Shyama Kumari Mishra  
Kirteemayee Roul
- Bengaluru**  
Arun Kumar
- Hyderabad**  
D Balasubramanian  
Perin Bezun Dittia  
Rupesh Kumar  
L Sivarama Krishna Murthy  
Geetha Pisupati  
Meena Raghunathan  
GTS Prasada Rao  
TV Rama Rao  
T Ganesh Shenoy  
S P Subbaiah
- Kolkata**  
Debkumar Banerjee
- Mumbai**  
Adi J Desai  
Dhanesh Rashiklal Shah
- New Delhi**  
W Selva Murthy
- Vijayawada**  
Krishna Mohan  
Daggupati
- Singapore**  
Mr Partha Sarathi
- UK**  
Venu Gopal



The 'fruits' of our work: A happy patient, Mrs K Varalakshmi, 60, from Emsuru mandal, Khammam district distributed mangoes to our staff at Paloncha

**LV PRASAD EYE INSTITUTE**

**World Health Organization**  
Collaborating Centre for Prevention of Blindness

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## 9 Vision Centres inaugurated

### @GMR Varalakshmi campus

Five Vision Centres (VCs) were inaugurated from May 16-22, 2011 at Revidi, Gajapatnagar, Yalamanchili, Kailasapatnam and Govindapuram in Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh, under the aegis of LVPEI's GMR Varalakshmi campus in Visakhapatnam. They are part of the 30 Vision Centres to be launched during 2010 – 2013, supported by the Lavelle Fund for The Blind, Inc., USA. All the VCs are located in rent-free premises made possible by the commitment and support of local functionaries and philanthropists.

Dr PVKS Varma, Glaucoma Consultant at LVPEI, GMR Varalakshmi campus, Visakhapatnam was the driving force in developing local partnerships and ensuring rent free space for the centres.



Revidi



Gajapatnagar



Govindapuram

### @Paloncha and KVC Campus, Vijayawada

Four Vision Centres were inaugurated between May 27 and 30, 2011. Three are located at Tekulapally, Chandragunda and Tallada are attached to LVPEI's secondary care Nava Bharat Eye Centre at Paloncha in Khammam district. The fourth Vision Centre at Kovvali is under the aegis of the Kode Venkatadri Chowdary campus at Vijayawada. The first 3 are situated within a 50-km radius of the Nava Bharat Eye Centre (NBEC) and are part of the 30 proposed Vision Centres to be launched during 2010 – 2013, supported by the Latter-day Saint Charities, USA.

**Kovvali:** The first Vision Centre of Kode Venkatadri Chowdary campus, Tadigadapa, Vijayawada was inaugurated at Kovvali on May 30, 2011. Located 68 km from the main campus, the VC is supported by Kovvali Development Trust, founded by Mr MBNVV Prasad, a local philanthropist. The trust is providing support for the space, as well as the accommodation and salary of the Vision Technician.

The credit for all the spadework goes to Mr Babu Rao Administrator, ICARE.



Tekulapally

This brings the total to 81 Vision Centres across the LVPEI network.

## Vijayawada City Centre launched

LVPEI's third tertiary centre, the Kode Venkatadri Chowdary (KVC) campus at Tadigadapa, Vijayawada has set another landmark by starting its first City Centre in less than four months after its launch. The Vijayawada City Centre, located opposite Mary Stella College on Eluru Road, was inaugurated on May 30<sup>th</sup> by Dr Tathagato Das (inset). Dr C Nageswara Rao, Vice President, Siddhartha Academy of General and Technical Education, Vijayawada lit the lamp (in pic, right). Mr Medasani Srinivas Rao, Executive Director, Spectra Foods, Mr Bode Prasad of Poranki, Mrs Vijaya L Ramam and Dr Varsha Rathi also graced the occasion.

Dr C Nageswara Rao was checked in as the first patient. Three other patients who walked in after seeing the signage also underwent an eye examination.

The City Centre is spread out over a 5400 sft area with state-of-the-art facilities for a quick, comprehensive eye examination and an electronic medical records system. Patients needing complex investigations and surgeries will be referred to the main campus at Tadigadapa, 5 km away. Services are available Monday to Saturday from 8 am to 8 pm.

This is another step in LVPEI's journey to reach out to the community, providing excellent care to people at their doorstep.

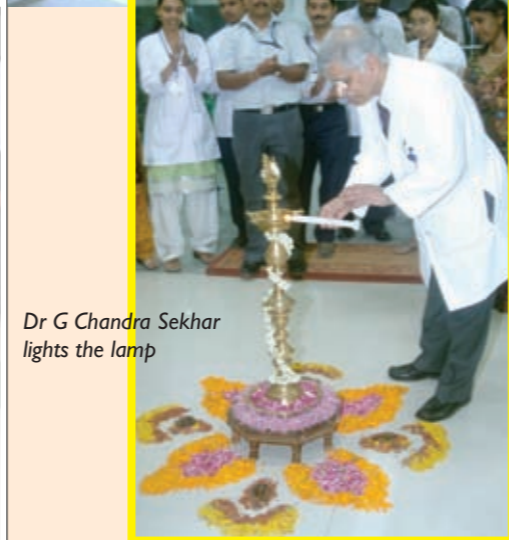


## Extension centre for LVPEI Hyderabad

LV Prasad Eye Institute's new extension centre at Banjara Hills, Hyderabad opened outpatient services on May 13, 2011. Located close to the main Kallam Anji Reddy campus on Road No. 2, the extension centre will offer the following fast track services:

- Glaucoma OPD
- Retina OPD
- Cataract and LASIK refractive surgery clinic
- Ocular diagnostic services
- Opticals

The facility will also house LVPEI's Clinical Research wing.



Dr G Chandra Sekhar lights the lamp

## Rehab clients do us proud!

We are proud to share the achievements of four young clients of LVPEI's Vision Rehabilitation Centres, who did well in the recent class X examination results. Ch Gopal, Raju, Shrawya, and Karishma have severe visual impairment and have been coming to the Dr PRK Prasad Centre for Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Meera and LB Deshpande Centre for Sight Enhancement for educational support and training in various skills. We have been charting their growth since they were three years old.

A fourth client Karishma lost vision in her only seeing eye from 20/30 to counting fingers just at the beginning of her 10<sup>th</sup> class and could not recover it, despite several surgeries. She and her family courageously faced this terrible loss with support from the Vision Rehabilitation Centres, working doubly hard during the whole term. Not once did she or her family cry or give up hope. Karishma scored 77% in the Senior Secondary Certificate Board Examination!

LVPEI's committed volunteers and staff members, who helped prepare educational material (Braille and audio books) and worked as scribes for them contributed to their success.

Ch Gopal, 83% (State Board of Education, Special school)



Raju, 80% (State Board of Education, Special school)



Shrawya 85% (International Board of education, Inclusive school)

## US Foundation support for education & training programs



Dr Gullapalli N Rao with Dr Krupakar Thadikonda

The Thadikonda Research Foundation of Frederick, USA has pledged ₹ 3 crores towards strengthening the Education and Training Centre at the Institute's Kallam Anji Reddy Campus at Hyderabad. Dr Krupakar Thadikonda, Chair, Thadikonda Research Foundation and Dr Gullapalli N Rao, Chair, LVPEI signed an MOU to this effect on April 23, 2011. The facility will be named the "Mark Nathaniel Thadikonda and Vijayamma Nannepaga Ophthalmic Education Centre".

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Thadikonda said, "It is a great pleasure for our Foundation to join hands with this world-famous Institute". Dr Rao said, "This grant boosts our education efforts significantly as we work towards enhancing the quality of eye care across the entire developing

world, by offering high standard training to professionals from all over the globe". The Institute's Education Centre trains cadres of eye care personnel at all levels from all over the world, with over 13,000 people trained till date.

## Nurses Day celebrations

### @ Bhubaneswar

International Nurses Day was celebrated on May 12, 2011 at LVPEI Bhubaneswar campus, with all the nurses taking the oath of service and compassion. Dr Savitri Sharma, Director, Laboratory Services, LVPEI campuses gave an inspirational talk to the nursing staff. The celebrations concluded with a cultural program (modern Ramayana).



### @ Hyderabad



At Hyderabad: Taking the oath & all the senior nurses (below)

## HONORS & AWARDS

### Dr Gullapalli N Rao receives 2011 Kupfer award from ARVO

The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) honored Dr Gullapalli N Rao, Chair, LVPEI with the 2011 Kupfer Award for his outstanding accomplishments as a researcher, ophthalmologist and humanitarian. Dr Rao is the former president of the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness, an organization founded by Carl Kupfer, MD, for whom the award is named, and is committed to moving forward with the agenda to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020. The award honors those who have demonstrated distinguished public service on behalf of eye and vision research.

### Subhabrata Chakrabarti

On ARVO Publication Committee and Editorial Board of Molecular Vision

## Upcoming Programs

### @ LVPEI, Bhubaneswar

Ocular Infections  
July 2-3, 2011

### @ LVPEI, Visakhapatnam

Looking Beyond the Eye – A Fusion  
July 10, 2011

### @ LVPEI, Hyderabad

Indian Contact Lens Education Program  
July 8-11, 2011

Indian Eye Research Group meeting  
July 30-31, 2011

### Eye PEP

September 4 -10, 2011

### Low Vision Awareness Program

September 23-25, 2011

VI Asia Pacific Vitreo-Retina Society with XX Vitreo Retinal Society-India meeting  
December 1-3, 2011