

## Rehabilitating lives



Viyyapu Naresh works as Junior Assistant with the Visakhapatnam Forest Department and draws a monthly salary of Rs 12,000. What is commendable is his journey to this happy situation. Diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) at a very young age, his visual acuity was limited to 20/100 in both eyes. Right from reading and working on the computer to recognizing faces and moving around independently, everything was a huge challenge for him. The Vision Rehabilitation team at LVPEI's GMR Varalakshmi campus, Visakhapatnam, played a key role in shaping his personality and career. In addition to the mobility training he received, he was also trained on how to use JAWS - a special software for visually challenged people. He was guided on how to avail

the various government, medical and railways departmental concessions. With the help of audio visual books, he was able to crack competitive examinations. Naresh and his family are very satisfied and happy with the services that they received at the centre.

## A delightful return of vision



Sheikh Abdul Hameed was compelled to seek voluntary retirement from his job at a dairy factory, owing to his failing vision. After a local doctor in Kurnool referred him to LVPEI, he underwent glaucoma surgery in his left eye that allowed for the restoration of some vision, and diligently sought follow up care with Dr Anil Mandal for nearly a decade. Unfortunately in September 2014, his only seeing eye was hit by a stone as he was watching some children at play. The

injury led to infection and cataract (loss of transparency in the eye lens) and he had to be operated upon for cataract removal. Dr Mandal also referred him to Dr Muralidhar Ramappa to see if anything could be done about his right eye that had developed a white opacity for over 10 years.

Dr Ramappa performed two surgeries to Hameed's right eye; corneal replacement and cataract removal respectively. To Hameed and his wife's sheer delight, vision was indeed restored in his right eye. Hameed is thrilled to be able to lead an independent life in his autumn years, even as he wonders as to his premature decision to seek voluntary retirement, losing 11 earning years!

*I had blue eyes from birth and faced a lot of vision problems. A local ophthalmologist referred me to LVPEI Visakhapatnam. After meeting Dr Merle Fernandes, for the first time I turned optimistic about regaining my vision. My right eye was operated upon for corneal transplantation in August 2008 and my left eye in January 2010. Now my vision is indeed restored and I am indebted to Dr Merle Fernandes and her team!*

*Bungana Kusuma Kumari  
Parlakimidi Village, Gajapathi District, Odisha*

