L V Prasad Eye Institute Activity Report 2022-2023





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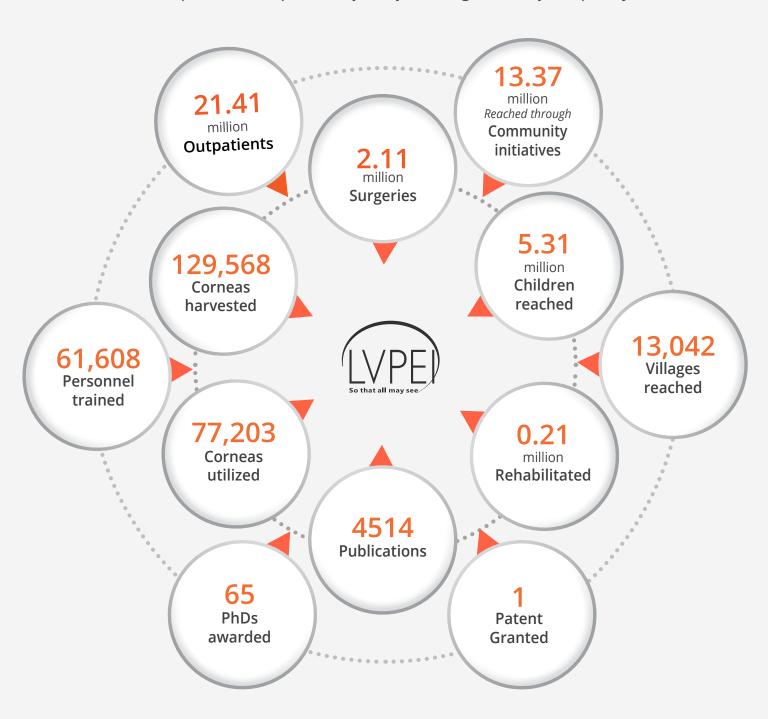
The five foundational values of LVPEI – Patient First, Excellence, Equity, Integrity, and Togetherness – aim to reconcile excellence with equity. These values are the strong pillars upholding the firm beliefs and caring practices of the institute, the guiding principles for all employees to work towards LVPEI's vision – to create excellent and equitable eye care systems that reach all those in need. Our organizational values inspire and motivate us to strive for excellence while working together, "so that all may see".

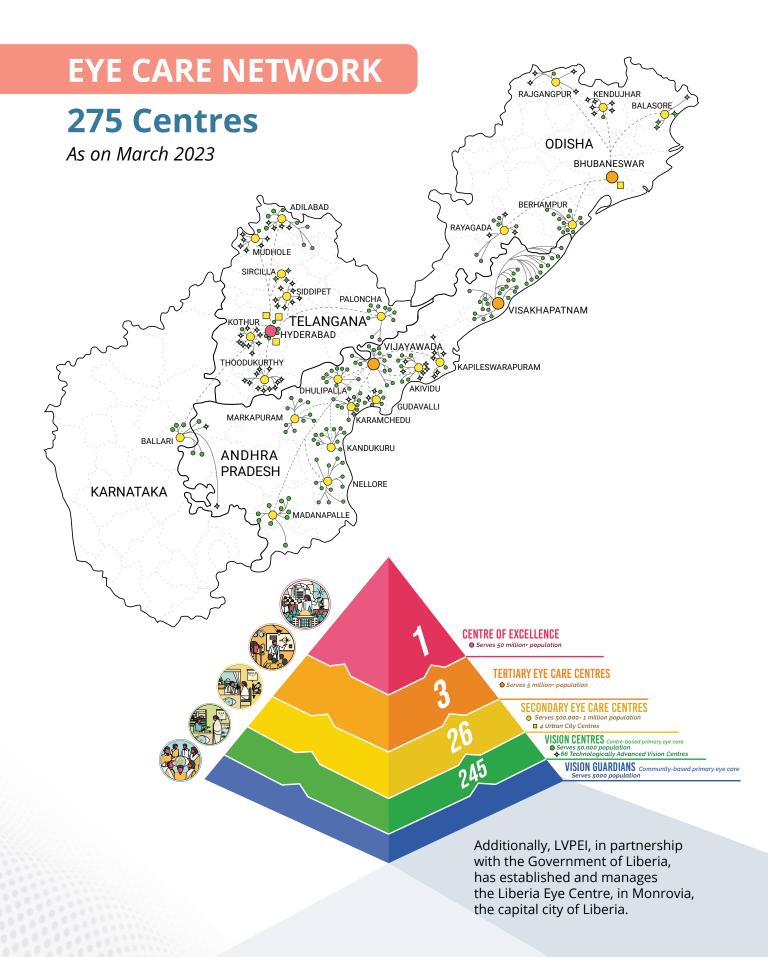
Impact

1987 - March 2023



50% plus services provided free of cost, regardless of complexity





Impact of LVPEI Eye Health Pyramid

Varun, a 7-month-old born with glacuoma, had his vision saved by an early and accurate diagnosis. Access to primary and secondary levels of care, quick referrals, and timely treatment through the LVPEI pyramid model of eye care delivery saved Varun's sight.

When Varun was 3 months old, his mother noticed that his left eye had suddenly turned blue. Terrified, his parents brought him to LVPEI's Vision

Centre (Primary Eve Care Centre) in their village in Nagarkurnool in Telangana. Suspecting it to be Glaucoma (where due to an increase in eye pressure the colour of the eye changes to blue), the Vision Technician immediately connected with the ophthalmologist at the nearest rural secondary eye care centre, seeking a teleconsultation. A detailed eye examination was scheduled for Varun at the secondary centre on the same day. He was diagnosed with Megalocornea (a rare corneal disorder) in both eyes and Glaucoma in the left eye. Through the priority referral system, he was referred to the Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad, where specialists in Childhood Glaucoma successfully performed Glaucoma surgery. He will continue to need



follow-up care, and it will be provided through teleconsultation and physical visits (when required) to LVPEI's secondary centre, saving the family time and money on frequent travel.

Any delay in treatment could have resulted in lifelong vision loss for Varun. With his vision restored, it is heartening to see him exploring and learning new things every day.

Functional Arms



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In loving memory of Dr Paul Dubord

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Foreword



The world has continued to grapple with the pandemic in the year 2022, though 2023 so far offers some relief – India, and most parts of the world, did not have any major wave that overwhelmed our health systems. However, as the global community is cautiously recovering and returning to normalcy, progress is hindered by the persistence of geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, widening social-divide and extreme weather conditions. The most profound impact of the pandemic has been on the healthcare sector. It has exposed and exacerbated the existing gaps in healthcare accessibility and affordability, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities and vulnerable populations.

But this challenging landscape has also seeded innovation and new approaches to solving health inequity. In this context, I bring to you a report of the progress and achievements at LVPEI for the year 2022-23.

Addressing the problem of health inequity has been central to our strategies at LVPEI from even before the pandemic. Our pursuit of equity led to the development of a networked eyecare delivery model – the LVPEI pyramid. Based on a robust public health epidemiological study, the Andhra Pradesh Eye Disease Study, the pyramidal model facilitated our efforts to take eye care into remote rural areas, and closer to the doorstep of many underserved communities. Through this model, we cover the entire spectrum of health: health promotion, managing the most complex eye diseases, and rehabilitation of those with irreversible vision loss. Notably, this model has played a crucial role in reducing the prevalence of blindness by 25% in the Nirmal District of Telangana where the first secondary centre was established almost 26 years ago.

We accelerated our efforts to leverage innovative approaches to connect underserved populations to our network. Our specialist eye care teams made periodic visits to secondary centres, bringing specialty care closer to the communities. Additionally, the introduction of mobile vans equipped with advanced diagnostic equipment enabled us to perform highly specialized and modern sight-restoring procedures at the secondary eye care centres.

We are focussed on upgrading to technology enabled vision centres and we now have electronic health records for all patients, including those examined in community screening programs. This integration, coupled with telehealth, has facilitated high-quality access to these communities, eliminating the need for travel while seeking comprehensive care. Furthermore, initiatives like real-time tele-screening of pre-term babies for retinopathy of prematurity introduced by our colleague Dr Tapas Ranjan Padhi and 'HomeCare', which provides specialty screening for people with mobility issues at their homes, have further revolutionized the way we deliver healthcare. In this report you will read about several such innovations introduced across our system. It includes stories of seven-month-old Varun and a retired schoolteacher, Anulekha, who have benefited from such innovations. Their experiences with LVPEI's network and our sight-saving impact underscores our unique value to health care service delivery.

To address emerging challenges in eyecare, we have established Institutes of Excellence within our organization. These serve as global resource centres, formulating strategies encompassing clinical care protocols, research, innovation, education, capacity building, product development, and advocacy. Adding to our existing institutes that have made significant progress, this past year we inaugurated the Anant

Bajaj Retina Institute and the Shantilal Shanghvi Cornea Institute, exemplifying our dedication to stay at the forefront of advancement of eyecare.

I am particularly proud of our LVPEI Eye Bank network, which had played a crucial role even during the COVID-19 pandemic. While most eye banks were forced to cease operations, our eye bank team modified protocols to suit the need of the hour, ensuring uninterrupted supply of precious corneal tissue. In the year 2022-23 the LVPEI eye bank network was honoured with the inaugural National Award of the Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations. Our efforts to address cornea shortage led to a ground-breaking achievement: the development of the first 3D-printed cornea in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad. It is research like this that has won us a top-10 ranking in the SCImago global rankings for 'ophthalmology' research.

The Institute of Vision Rehabilitation (IVR) adopted smart vision devices powered by artificial intelligence that empower individuals with vision impairment to read, navigate, and recognize objects and people. Furthermore, Dr Beula Christy, the head of IVR, has joined the Perkins School for the Blind's International Early Leadership Program to learn about the latest developments in the field and build new partnerships to enhance our vision rehabilitation efforts.

At the Standard Chartered-LVPEI Academy for Eye Care Education, we train all cadres of eye care personnel, many of whom come from local communities and disadvantaged families. This year several new programs and strategies were implemented to enhance the learning experience of our trainees. The Master of Technology program in Ophthalmic Engineering, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad, aims to develop qualified ophthalmic engineers who can tackle pressing challenges in eye care and develop technology solutions. We have partnerships with several premier universities such as Yale, Stanford and Rochester, to bring innovative education programs that will help us create the next generation of eye care leaders equipped to tackle all emerging challenges. In fact, we have also started a program on intellectual property (IP) protection and technology transfer to empower innovation.

Five years ago, LVPEI partnered with the government of Liberia and established an ophthalmology training and tertiary eyecare facility in the JFK medical centre in Monrovia. This collaboration has resulted in the emergence of four home-grown ophthalmologists in Liberia, three of whom are women. LVPEI is also setting up vision centres to increase access to primary care services in the country.

In the future, we are going to build Institutes of Excellence to work on myopia, elderly care, inherited eye diseases that are increasing in prevalence, eye and brain research, and use of healthcare data in enhancing quality of care.

As you browse through this report, I do hope we can impress upon you the full range of innovation that is helping us deliver equitable eye care to the millions of people who seek our services. The impetus for all this activity, as always, are our foundational values that place the patient at the centre of our effort. All this is made possible by the generosity and goodwill of our patients, donors, and collaborators, and my sincere gratitude to all of them. I also take a moment to remember the late Dr Paul Dubord who was a pillar of support for the cornea and eye banking services at LVPEI. We pledge to honour his legacy by unwaveringly pursuing our mission: 'So that all may see.'

We look forward to a promising year of working in collaboration and positively impacting many more lives.

Dr Prashant Garg, Executive Chair

Lachanting

Rankings





The First for an Indian Eye Institute

Major Milestone for Indian Eye and Medical Research

Investments in basic and clinical research have been a fundamental priority for LVPEI from its very early years. In over 3.5 decades, the institute has built a strong bench of scientists and clinician-scientists who work towards understanding the key causes of ocular disease (eye health), both at the level of the individual and the community. This research is undertaken both within the network and in collaboration with our national and international partners.

In the SCImago Institutions Rankings 2023, LVPEI is ranked eighth in the world (ranked second in Asia) in the Ophthalmology (health) category for its research output, making it the only eye health institution from India to be listed among the top ten global eye research institutions. It is the youngest, standalone eye institute in the world to make it to the top 10, sharing the honour with organizations and universities that date back to over 200 years!

The ranking is a testament to LVPEI's long-standing commitment to advance research in the area of vision sciences and improving patient outcomes. We celebrate this recognition with our patients, donors, partners and supporters from across the world who have been instrumental in the success of our organization.

The SCImago ranking agency evaluates institutions worldwide based on their research output, including research publications, innovation (patents and patent citations) and the societal impact of research output (the social media conversations around published research). The composite values are calculated by looking at data from a variety of research and web analytic datasets.

Eleven LVPEI Scientists Featured in the World Ranking of Top 2% Scientists













Dr Gullapalli N Rao Prof Balasubramanian Dr Savitri Sharma

Prof Jill Keeffe

Dr Shivaji Sisinthy

Dr Prashant Garg











Dr Mohammad Javed Ali

Dr Swathi Kaliki

Dr Rohit Khanna

Dr Taraprasad Das

Dr Sayan Basu

A study by Stanford University ranked eleven research scientists and clinicians from LVPEI among the world's top 2% scientists in Ophthalmology based on their citations to date and the most recent citations as published in 2021.

The ranking was based on a composite score that looks at the number of citations and other indexing scores each scientist's papers have achieved over their professional lifetime, and in that specific year.

Dr Gullapalli N Rao and Dr Taraprasad Das are featured in the 'Asia-Pacific Eye 100: 100 Most Influential Ophthalmologists 2022' announced by the Asia-Pacific Journal of Ophthalmology.

Dr Shivaji Sisinthy has been ranked 7th among the top Indian scientists in Microbiology by 'Research.com', a prominent platform for scientists.



LVPEI campuses in Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam, and Vijayawada continue to be ranked among the Best Eye Hospitals in India by The Week and the Times of India health surveys.

Awards and Honours



Dr Prashant Garg has been elected as a member of the prestigious Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis - the fifth from India to receive this honour. The Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis is a university-centred international organization committed to excellence in education, research, and culturally - appropriate medical services to preserve and restore the vision of people of the world. Its membership is limited to 100 active members, and they represent the most eminent academicians in ophthalmology in the world, each holding a chair of this prestigious body.

Institute Awards

- LVPEI has been recognized for its outstanding efforts in addressing corneal blindness and promoting eye donation across India. The Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations awarded LVPEI with their inaugural National Award for the institute's well-established Eye Bank Network and the impact on the country.
- The Rotary Avoidable Blindness Foundation recognized LVPEI as one of the four Legendary Community Ophthalmology Institutions in India.
- LVPEI received the Best Ophthalmology Hospital

- in India awards by The Economic Times and The Financial Express, both nationally and regionally (South and East).
- The journey of developing and implementing LVPEI's eyeSmart EMR (Electronic Medical Record system) has been published as a case study by Harvard Business School.
- The LVPEI Liberia Eye Centre has been awarded the Best Executed Project by the Lions Club International Foundation among the various projects supported by LCIF in West Africa.







Individual Awards

LVPEI's clinicians, scientists, optometrists, and researchers made significant contributions to various national and international fora, conferences, symposia, and society meetings throughout the year. They were elected to the editorial boards and committees of several reputed research publications, journals and scientific bodies. They were also invited to deliver prominent orations and keynote lectures, participate as master class faculty and panellists, and present papers, posters, and videos - fostering knowledge sharing and collaboration.

It was a rich haul of awards and recognitions for the LVPEI team at the annual meetings of the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress, Asia-Pacific Vitreo-retina Society Congress, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, All India Ophthalmological Society, Indian Neuro-Ophthalmology Society, The Glaucoma Society of India, Andhra Pradesh Ophthalmic Society and Odisha State Ophthalmological Society. Additionally, three of our optometrists were honoured with awards in the photography contest organized by the American Academy of Optometry.

Major recognitions

- Prof Balasubramanian Dorairajan: (a) Lifetime Achievement Award by the Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (b) Honoured at the India Science Festival organized by The Foundation for Advancing Science and Technology - India.
- Dr Gullapalli N Rao: (a) Statesmanship Award by the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (b) YSR Lifetime Achievement Award by Andhra Pradesh state government.
- Dr S Shivaji: Award of Honour by the Society for Reproductive Biology and Comparative Endocrinology.
- Dr Anil Kumar Mandal: 'Adenwalla Award' lifetime achievement award presented by the All India Ophthalmological Society.
- Dr Sujata Das: Fellow All India Collegium of Ophthalmology Award by the All India

Ophthalmological Society.

- Dr PremNandhini Satgunam: Received the prestigious Carl Camras Translational Research Award for her innovation, the pediatric perimeter, from the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO).
- Dr Subhabrata Chakrabarti: Bestowed with the highest honour of "Gold Fellow" of ARVO (the first from India) for his achievements and services on various fronts of eye and vision research.
- Anthony Vipin Das: Honoured by the UK government as one of 75 Incredible Young Indian Achievers Reshaping the World (UK Achievers Honors for Cheveners).
- Dr Tapas Ranjan Padhi: Received Gold Medal at the annual convention of the National Neonatology Forum for his presentation on the 'Real-time ROP Model.'

Editorial Positions and Appointments

International

Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology
 Dr Taraprasad Das: Re-elected as the Vice President

Dr Tarjani Vivek Dave: Associate Member -Leadership Development Standing Committee

- American Academy of Ophthalmology
 Dr Swathi Kaliki: Member Basic and Clinical
 Science Course Committee
- Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology

Dr Joveeta Joseph: Member - Global Mentorship Program 2022

Dr Inderjeet Kaur: Member - Diversity Initiatives Committee

- BMC Ophthalmology
 Dr Joveeta Joseph: Editorial Board Member (section: Inflammation)
- Frontiers in Medicine for the section on Ophthalmology Dr Vivek Singh: Associate Editor
- International Society of Ocular Trauma Dr Vivek Dave: Board Member

National

- Eye Bank Association of India
 Dr Sujata Das: Honourable General Secretary
- Indian Journal of Ophthalmology
 Dr Tarjani Vivek Dave: Section Editor Ophthalmic
 Plastic Surgery
- Indian Neuro-Ophthalmology Society
 Dr Virender Sachdeva: Executive Member
- Indian Society of Human Genetics Dr Inderjeet Kaur: Secretary

- International Society for Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation
 Dr Vijaya Kumari Gothwal: President
- Ocular Microbiology and Immunology Group Dr Bhupesh Bagga: Board Member
- Orbit Journal Dr Milind Naik: Editorial Board Member
- PLOS ONE Journal Dr PremNandhini Satgunam: Academic Editor
- Retinoblastoma Policy Brief for WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer Dr Swathi Kaliki: Member
- Seminars in Ophthalmology
 Dr Vivek Dave: Editorial Board Member
- Stem Cells Translational Medicine
 Dr Indumathi Mariappan: Editorial Board Member
- Indian Society of Medical Mycologists
 Dr Joveeta Joseph: Executive Council Member (Central Zone)
- National Academy of Sciences
 Dr Vivek Singh: Member
- Telangana Academy of Sciences
 Dr Sanhita Roy: Associate Fellow
- Telangana Ophthalmological Society
 Dr Subhadra Jalali: Member, Scientific Committee
 Dr Akash Belenje: Member, Editorial Board

Honours Awarded to LVPEI Research Fellows & Scholars

LVPEI Research Fellows and Scholars have received numerous accolades, including 15 competitive travel and research grants awarded by prestigious clinical and scientific organizations like the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology's Developing Country Eye Researcher Fellowship. Three students were awarded Lady Tata Junior Research and Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Fellowships, while two others have received a Young Scientist Award and a gold medal with citation from the Indian Society of Human Genetics and the Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists, respectively. Eight of our research fellows have earned PhDs from reputable institutions such as Manipal Academy of Higher Education, University of Hyderabad, and Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (Deemed to be University).



Above all the recognitions and awards, what truly matters is the positive impact that our work is making to the lives of millions of people, helping them live a better quality of life, and their smiles and blessings!



106,856 Reached through Teleophthalmology

4849

Trained

415

Publications

Hospitals supported

Capacity

building

Technology in clinic

Corneas

harvested

7326 Corneas utilized

20

Incubating start ups

New Beginnings

LVPEI scaled up its services and established new state-of-the-art facilities, embracing technological advancements, innovations, and various community-based initiatives focusing on Universal Eye Health Coverage.

Institutes of Excellence

Two new Institutes of Excellence & Global Resource Centres, the Shantilal Shanghvi Cornea Institute, supported by the Shantilal Shanghvi Foundation, and the Anant Bajaj Retina Eye Institute, supported by the Bajaj Group, are key strategic developments in 2022. The institutes aim to control, all major forms of blindness and visual impairment caused by corneal or retinal disease in the world. In addition to offering advanced eye care services, the institutes focus on research and knowledge sharing.



Former Hon'ble Chief Justice of India Sri N V Ramana inaugurated the Shantilal Shanghavi Cornea Institute along with National Science Chair - Government of India Prof Partha Pratim Majumder, Director of Shantilal Shanghvi Foundation Sri Dilip Shanghvi and the LVPEI team.



The former Hon'ble Vice President of India, Sri M Venkaiah Naidu, virtually inaugurated the Anant Bajaj Retina Institute, joined by the Chairman and Managing Director of Bajaj Electricals Limited, Sri Shekar Bajaj and family, Badminton legend Sri Pullela Gopichand, and the LVPEI team.

Speciality Services and Programs

Tertiary Eye Care Centres ————

- The ICICI Elderly Eye Care Centre at the Mithu Tulsi Chanrai campus, Bhubaneswar, courtesy the ICICI Bank, focuses on advanced eye care for the elderly.
- The Infor Myopia Centre at the Kode Venkatadri Chowdary campus, supported by Infor (India) Pvt Ltd, is a dedicated facility for managing and controlling myopia progression.
- The Binocular Vision and Orthoptics Clinic at the Vijayawada campus, a first-of-its-kind facility in Andhra Pradesh, caters to binocular vision disorders in children and young adults, caused by the increase in use of digital devices.
- The Hariram Motumal Nasta & Renu Hariram Nasta Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Centre at the Kallam Anji Reddy campus in Hyderabad, supported by Ms Risha Kilaru and Dr Gangadhar Prasad Kilaru from California (named after Mrs Risha Kilaru's parents), focuses on strengthening and scaling up the ophthalmic plastic services at LVPEI.
- Initiated in Bhubaneswar, The Urban Slum Eye Screening Program, supported by Infosys Foundation, focuses on making primary eye care services accessible to the slum communities, and the HomeCare Program focuses on providing speciality care to those vulnerable populations who cannot reach our centres, especially the elderly and individuals with disability.





The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Sri Naveen Patnaik, launched Urban Slum Eye Screening and HomeCare. As part of LVPEI's 'Go Green' initiatives, electric scooters with 0% CO₂ emissions are utilized.

Satellite Urban Tertiary Centre ——

The Shirin, Etian & Tara Brown Eye Centre offers advanced tertiary eye care services to the communities on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The major support for the centre has come from a philanthropic couple, Ms Soona and the late Mr Edward Brown, hailing from the south of France and New Zealand. The satellite tertiary urban centre has also received support from Veni Rao Foundation, Shodhana Laboratories, HES Infra Pvt Ltd, Maanaveeya Development & Finance Pvt Ltd, and Parasakti Cement, all from Hyderabad, and Sri T Padmanabhan from Coimbatore.



The Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Medical, Health & Family Welfare, Telangana, Sri T Harish Rao, inaugurated the Shirin, Etian & Tara Brown Eye Centre.

Rural and Community Outreach

Secondary and Primary Eye Care Centres ————

Two rural secondary eye care centres in Andhra Pradesh have been upgraded with advanced ophthalmic facilities and infrastructure. The improved facilities will significantly increase the centres' capacity.

- V C Parekh Charitable Trust (Charitable trust of Hyderabad-based Parekh Textiles Pvt Ltd) supported the upgradation of the Madanapalle centre. In recognition of their support, the centre has been re-named V C Parekh Eye Centre.
- **NIFF Infrastructure Limited** supported the upgrade of the **Edward & Soona Brown Eye Centre** in Dhulipalla. Their generous support is being utilized for the acquisition of state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment for the operation theatre and outpatient clinics at the centre.
- 13 new Vision Centres (Primary Eye Care Centres) were inaugurated and 2 vision centres upgraded to technology-enabled Futuristic Vision Centres. LVPEI gratefully thanks Wen Giving Foundation, Mission for Vision, Standard Chartered Bank and Lavelle Fund for the Blind Inc. for their support.

A vision technician examines a patient's eye at a technology-enabled Vision Centre.



Community Outreach -

To ensure access to high-quality primary eye care for all, several community-based inclusive eye health projects were initiated, prominent among them: 'Sight for All' supported by CBM International and 'Reaching out with Innovative Services for Eye care' supported by Siemens Healthineers India in Telangana, and 'Drushti: A door-to-door eye screening project' supported by Dalmia Cement in Odisha.

 Pashyantu, mobile advanced eye diagnostic unit, supported by the Planjery Foundation, was launched in Telangana. The LVPEI Pashyantu van periodically visits the secondary centres in the state, making advanced eye diagnostic services accessible and affordable for the people in the communities there, right at their doorstep.

For the first time in the country, Tele-screening has been introduced in Odisha for screening preterm babies in real time for ROP (Retinopathy of Prematurity, a vision-threatening eye disease) as part of the rural ROP eye care project supported by the Cognizant Foundation.

> Dr Tapas Ranjan Padhi remotely evaluated 92 preterm babies in the Sundergarh district of Odisha by tele-screening in just over six hours.

Patient Care -

Highlights

- problems, especiality care for a range of eye problems, especially related to cornea, retina, oculoplasty, geriatric (elderly eye care), myopia (near-sightedness) and binocular vision and orthoptics (treating defects in eye movement).
- To cater to more patients, the outpatient clinics and operation theatres in **tertiary campuses at Vijayawada**, **Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam have been upgraded**.
- Novel and path-breaking surgical techniques were introduced for treating congenital (by birth) corneal diseases and glaucoma in young

- children and infants, and managing patients with mucormycosis.
- To improve patient convenience and reduce waiting times, a tracking system is being implemented, with priority given to elderly patients, children, and those with special needs.
- The **HomeCare Service has been scaled-up** and is now available to patients within 25 km radius of the tertiary and advanced tertiary campuses in Bhubaneswar, Vijayawada and Hyderabad.



- HomeCare service will be strengthened both in terms of coverage and services rendered. Expansion
 of coverage will take HomeCare to the doorstep of rural communities, thus taking eyecare to the
 last mile. New services in urban HomeCare will include concierge service (pre-book Homecare for
 the entire year) and vision rehabilitation.
- Strengthen and scale-up the elderly eye care and myopia management services across the network.
- Continue to focus on improving the overall patient experience.

2,756,726

People reached

46%

Female

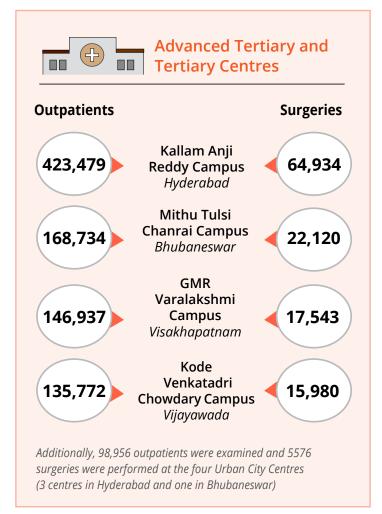
14%

Children

33%

Elderly*

Nearly 50% services provided free of cost, regardless of complexity of care







106,856 People reached



HomeCare

191 People reached

Of whom, 78% were elderly patients and patients with special needs



Children's Eye Care

253,082 Outpatients

20,226

Surgeries

118,422 People reached

Community Eye Health Initiatives



Elderly Eye Care

521,093Outpatients
Examined

80,954Surgeries
Performed

1190

Received Low Vision and Rehabilitation Services

Surgical innovation



Selective Endotheliectomy for Peters Anomaly (SEPA) is a novel surgical technique for restoring vision in children born with Peters Anomaly (corneal opacity). Conceptualized by a team led by Dr Muralidhar Ramappa, SEPA is a safe and effective surgical alternative to the current treatment plan - full thickness keratoplasty (corneal transplant) where the outcomes in young children are highly variable and often suboptimal in the long term; graft failure rates have been reported to be 50%-100% in ten years. In the 34 eyes (28 children) where SEPA was performed over ten years, corneal opacity significantly regressed in 85% cases, leading to significant improvement in vision.

The technique has been developed in collaboration with University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh & University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, USA. Dr Ramappa was honoured with the Best of Show Award for this technique by the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

100 and counting

Through the Elderly Home Screening Project launched in April 2022 in the Hyderabad region, 100 Centres for the aged have been covered till date. The focus is on conducting eye health assessment and providing primary eye care services, including spectacles at no cost to the vulnerable elderly population staying in these centres, to improve their quality of life, promote good health and well-being, and ultimately contribute to healthy aging in the country.

As part of this initiative, more than 2830 senior citizens and 760 caregivers underwent eye screening. Of these,



640 elderly individuals and 280 caregivers were given spectacles, while over 1400 elderly patients were referred for further management of their eye problems to a tertiary centre or city centre in Hyderabad.

HomeCare – reaching those who cannot reach us



Mrs Anulekha Debnath worked as a teacher for 35 years before a stroke in 2019 left her fully paralysed and bedridden. When the pandemic was at its peak, she developed cataract in her right eye. But considering her delicate health situation, her family was sceptical of taking her to the hospital. Recently, when her son visited LVPEI's Bhubaneswar campus for his eye check-up, he was told about LVPEI's HomeCare service and immediately booked an appointment for his mother to have an eye examination without moving her out of their house. An optometrist visited their home and performed the detailed eye examination, followed by a teleconsultation with an ophthalmologist. The doctor advised cataract surgery. With all the necessary tests performed at her home, Mrs Debnath had to visit the hospital only once for her eye surgery. This fast-tracked the time she spent in the hospital, reducing the multiple visits her family would otherwise have to make.

It was an overwhelming moment for the LVPEI team when she and her family conveyed their heartfelt thanks for making it possible for her to see again. Caring for a bedridden patient is not easy, and we salute her loving family for providing the best possible care to Mrs Debnath despite all the challenges they faced in these uncertain times of the pandemic. We are also grateful for having made a difference in their lives. This is what the HomeCare service truly stands for – reaching those who cannot reach us!

The follow-up care is being provided to Mrs Debnath through teleconsultation.

Rehabilitation

Institute for Vision Rehabilitation

Highlights

- An **Assistive Technology Exhibition** showcasing various assistive products, including smart vision devices, audiobooks, and smartphone assistive applications, was organized on the **11th Global Accessibility Awareness Day.** The event had 150 visitors who were offered an accessible tour of the infrastructure, using the assistive technology app 'Spacefelt'.
- The **Smart Vision Device** is an innovative artificial intelligence-based wearable device that helps persons with vision impairment to read, navigate, and recognize objects and people. Commemorating **World Braille Day**, 26 devices were distributed to students with vision impairment, at an event organized in collaboration with and the support of Vasantha-Krupa Palakurthi Vision-Aid Resource Centre.
- Vision screening programs for children with special needs were successfully organized at: The Institute of Health Science (IHS) in Bhubaneswar. 81 children and ten IHS staff members benefitted from the screening drive. Children who needed further eye examination and vision therapy were referred to the Special Needs Vision Clinic at LVPEI's Mithu Tulsi Chanrai campus.
- UMANG Resource Centre for Persons with Special Needs, Jaipur. Rehabilitation specialists at LVPEI, Hyderabad, were invited to conduct vision assessment for children with multiple disabilities.



Artwork titled 'Inclusion': A beautiful - canvas imprint of colourful handprints of people pledging their support for inclusion of persons with disability in the mainstream.

- Facilitated **resource extension** to **Continued Rehabilitation Education (CRE)** programs at two institutions, **UMANG**, Jaipur, and **Dibrugarh University** in Assam, which hosted a CRE program for mainstream schoolteachers of 60 districts. The program was organized by the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities, Dehradun.
- **Dr Beula Christy** was selected for the **Perkins School for the Blind's International Early Leadership Program (ELP)** in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

- Expanding our Vocational Training Unit in Tholkatta village, located in Rangareddy District. This
 initiative will better serve persons with special needs, creating new opportunities for skill-building
 and employment, empowering individuals to reach their full potential.
- Developing a state-of-the-art Mobility and Sensory Park designed to cater to the needs of the elderly and children with special needs, promoting inclusivity, at our Hyderabad campus.
- Establishing a Centre for Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI) that offers assessment and intervention for those living with this condition.

People reached



2871 Early intervention 1746 Support services*

87,981Print pages recorded on digital audio

2406 Helpline 41 Economic rehabilitation**

*Providing medical certificates and railway concession forms so that persons with vision impairment can apply for and avail the benefits provided by Government of India

Independent and inspiring

Mahesh's vision impairment diagnosed in 2020 as atypical retinitis pigmentosa. Naturally, vision shattered his dreams of completing his education and pursuing a career to earn a decent living. Gradual vision loss left him feeling depressed and unsure of how to progress in life. New life came his way as a referral from his ophthalmologist to the Institute for Vision Rehabilitation. With psychological support and assistive software, Mahesh learned to operate computers and mobile phones, using audiobooks to pursue his education. Despite the challenges, he studied via distance education and soon graduated. What's more, to his endless surprise,



he developed a passion for stitching, using adaptations on electronic sewing machines! Through sheer determination, Mahesh undertook a two-month training in stitching jute products, quickly mastering the skill. Today, he earns his livelihood stitching jute products, happily contributing INR 14,000 to his family every month. Mahesh also gives training in tailoring to other persons with vision impairment. His confidence and success in sewing inspire many who walk into LVPEI's vocational unit!

^{**} Job placement & self-employment

Rural and Community Eye Health

Gullapalli Pratibha Rao Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye Care

Highlights

Efforts to enhance services at secondary centres continue: V C Parekh Eye Centre and Edward and Soona Brown Eye Centre in Andhra Pradesh were upgraded with support from V C Parekh Charitable Trust and NIFF Infrastructure Limited respectively. A new block is under construction at Bhosle Gopal Rao Patil Eye Centre in Telangana. The Pashyantu mobile eye diagnostic unit was launched to cover the rural areas in Telangana State.

With the addition of 13 new Vision Centres, our Primary Eye Care Network has expanded to 245 centres, serving over 10 million people. Additionally, two existing vision centres were upgraded to technology-enabled Futuristic Vision Centres having advanced ophthalmic diagnostic equipment to diagnose sight-threatening conditions. They also provide care through tele-ophthalmology that helps patients receive advanced eye care near their doorstep.



The first Simple Limbal Epithelial Transplantation and Corneal Transplant surgeries were successfully performed at Naraindas & Morbai Budhrani Eye Centre in Balasore, Odisha, and Seshanna Chennawar Eye Centre in Adilabad, Telangana, respectively. Additionally, two secondary centres have started providing intravitreal injections. The number of secondary centres offering advanced surgical eye care has now grown to six.

Focused efforts have **strengthened the referral system at LVPEI's primary eye care centres.** The prompt diagnosis of three children with Retinoblastoma (eye cancer), and two children with Congenital Cataracts and Glaucoma, and their quick referral for advanced treatment is evidence of LVPEI's well-connected network of centres.

Public health studies funded by USAID, Lions Clubs International Foundation and Gland Pharma investigated the eye health and wellbeing of vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and certain occupational communities. These studies screened approximately 2,00,000 children, including 3500 children with disabilities, as well as over 3500 elderly and 3000 workers in cloth weaving, garment making, and jewellery making communities.

- Continue generating evidence of eye care's impact on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to drive policies that integrate primary eye care with primary health care, thus ensuring holistic care.
- Adopt technology to further strengthen rural eye care, by creating seamless connections between primary, secondary, and tertiary levels.
- Expand reach to marginalized groups such as the elderly, children, tribals, and occupational workers, to provide for their eye care needs.

Reaching the unreached

Providing eye care to a vulnerable tribal community



The Dongaria community is a vulnerable tribal group living in the Eastern Ghats region of South Odisha. Their settlements are scattered across hilltops and valleys, making them isolated and disconnected from mainstream civilization. They face a high level of poverty and poor health status due to inaccessible healthcare services. Upholding LVPEI's vision to make eye care accessible and affordable for all, to even those in the most remote rural areas, Triabal Odisha Eye Disease Study (TOES) was initiated in this region in

July 2021 with the aim of screening the Dongaria community for eye problems and providing them with necessary care. In Phase-1 conducted during, 2021-2022, over 9990 people were screened, 1500 spectacles were distributed, and 140 cataract surgeries were performed. To access the impact of the care provided and to cover the population that could not be reached in the first phase, the phase-2 of the study commenced in January 2023. It was truly gratifying to witness the impact of the project when Kumuradi Wadaka, one of the beneficiaries shared her experience saying, "After I got operated for cataract in my right eye, my vision improved significantly, and I was able to do my daily work more efficiently. We cannot afford such expensive treatment, but because of your team we are able to receive such high-quality care at no cost. God bless you all, and from now on I will motivate others also from my village to avail your services".

TOES is being implemented in collaboration with the Government of Odisha and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Tele-screening for ROP - revolutionizing healthcare access

In a ground-breaking tele-screening program organized for preterm babies to detect Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) in Sundargarh district of Odisha, technology proved to be a game-changer. A team led by Dr Tapas Ranjan Padhi from LVPEI's Mithu Tulsi Chanrai Campus in Bhubaneswar, tele-screened 92 preterm babies in just over six hours. Of those screened, three babies were identified as needing treatment,



which was freely facilitated at LVPEI's Bhubaneswar campus in a partnership with the Cognizant Foundation. The project aims to screen and treat ROP in premature neonates from rural districts of Odisha. From January to July 2022, a total of 582 babies were screened and 98 babies (181 eyes) were treated for ROP with laser, injection, or surgery. The advantages of this telecare model for ROP are manifold, with immense potential for scalability of the project.

Eye Banking

Highlights

The LVPEI Eye Bank Network achieved many significant milestones, namely crossing the 125,000 cornea harvesting (cornea collection) and 75,000 cornea distribution mark. In addition, since inception, the Ramayamma International Eye Bank (RIEB), Hyderabad, harvested over 100,000 corneas, and Drushti Daan Eye Bank (DDEB), Bhubaneswar, harvested 11,000 corneas.

During DDEB's 20th anniversary celebrations, a commemorative book 'Drushti Daan: Success Story of An Eye Bank' was released by the honourable Governor of Odisha, Prof. Ganeshi Lal. Also, an MoU was signed between the DDEB and District Headquarters Hospital, Kendrapara, making eight districts in Odisha part of the cornea harvesting network.



The Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, Prof Ganeshi Lal releasing the commemorative book, joined by Dr Prashant Garg and Dr Sujata Das from LVPEI, and other esteemed guests.



Eye Bank Personnel preparing pre-prepared corneal tissue for DMEK surgery.

- The network developed **Pre-prepared DMEK Scroll** which are utilized by our surgeons for DMEK, a partial thickness corneal transplant surgery. These tissues can be standardized and quality-controlled, and have proven to be more efficient and safe, with improved surgical outcomes. Last year, 30 such tissues were produced.
- Dr Sujata Das, Head of the LVPEI Eye Bank Network, has been elected the Honorary General Secretary of Eye Bank Association of India, and Mr Hariharan Kalyansundaram, Network Associate Director, has been elected as Zonal Representative for the southern region.
- An **eye bank** was established at a government institute in **Varanasi**: the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University. A collaborative initiative between The Hans Foundation, TATA Trusts, and LVPEI, it aims to achieve zero waiting for corneal transplant surgeries in the region, at the heart of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state.

- Establish more cornea harvesting centres across the LVPEI Eye Bank Network with support received from Sri M H Dalmia, OCL India Ltd.
- Provide training and technical support to national and international eye banks in need, to meet the growing demand for donor corneas.
- Strengthen research and development for cornea preservation, eye banking techniques and distribution methods.

10,403 Corneas harvested

6572
Ramayamma
International
Eye Bank,
Hyderabad

1148 Mohsin Eye Bank, *Visakhapatnam*

Drushti Daan Eye Bank, Bhubaneswar

1798

885 TKEB *Vijayawada*

7326

Corneas utilized

3592

Corneas distributed within LVPEI Network

3734

Corneas distributed to surgeons outside network

2307

Corneas used for training and research

MK Medium and Amniotic Membrane processed in-house -

Supplied to eye banks and surgeons within and outside India

25,661 Vials of McCarey-Kaufman (MK) Medium, a cost-effective solution used for storage and preservation of donor corneas

2899 Vials of Amniotic Membrane (AM), for ocular surface reconstructive surgery

Thanks to the generosity of our cornea donor families and partner eye donation centres, 496 donor corneas were harvested through the following partner centres: Khammam Eye Bank, Khammam; Lions Eye Hospital, Bodhan; Smt. R.R. Lions Eye Hospital, Nidadavole; Sai Jyoti Netradaan Foundation, Adoni; Gowthami Eye Institute, Rajahmundry; Sudarsani Eye Hospital, Guntur; Lions Club of Suryapet Eye Hospital, Suryapet; Lions Club of Ramagundam, Ramagundam; Swapna Nursing Home, Guntakal; and, Sadasaya Foundation, Godavarikhani.



Education

Standard Chartered – LVPEI Academy for Eye Care Education

Highlights

- Given our combined expertise in ophthalmic care and engineering, we launched the blended Master of Technology (MTech) program in Ophthalmic Engineering in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad. It aims to bridge the gap between clinicians and medical practitioners and intends to create a pool of qualified ophthalmic engineers who could take up the pressing challenges in eye care and develop technology products.
- In its second year, the HelpMeSee supported simulator-based Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery (MSICS) program saw a 97% growth with 189 trainees successfully completing it. This innovative approach to providing norisk tutoring on simulators is proving to be an effective solution for bridging the gap between demand for cataract-related blindness treatment and the shortage of skilled ophthalmologists.



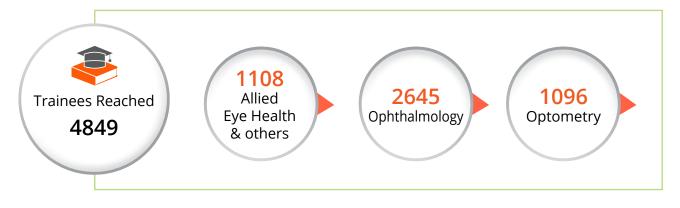
Trainee Ophthalmologists performing Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery on simulator.



Prof B S Murthy, Director, IIT Hyderabad and Dr Prashant Garg, Executive Chair, LVPEI signed the MoU for MTech in Ophthalmic Engineering.

- Online Ophthalmology Courses designed following 'real-time' and 'self-paced' learning principles were taken by over 1200 participants. Additionally, the Digital Education YouTube channel, a rich source of informative and engaging eye care educational content, has gained over 10,000 subscribers.
- consuming Knowledge Consciously is designed to train first-generation clinical tutors on active learning strategies. Through 21 uniquely designed videos, group activities and role plays, it focuses on the philosophy of active learning and different active learning strategies.
- The in-house developed e-flip book, **Learn How You Can Be An Excellent Vision Technician**,
 has clinical concepts presented in one-minutelearning-capsules and is greatly helping the vision
 technicians in their day-to-day practice.

- Equity, Inclusivity and Diversity in Education will drive all our education initiatives.
- Active learning processes will be introduced to develop problem-solving skills and cultivate a growth mindset in our trainees
- Enhancing simulation-based cataract training by introducing an advanced surgical program on Phacoemulsification, and expanding a team of trainers.



Continuing Professional Development programs

55

Continuing Medical Education programs

150 Guest faculty from leading global institutions participated

No-risk simulator training program to tackle cataract blindness in India

I never imagined that simulator-based cataract surgical training would dispel my worries and boost my confidence in such a short span. Since attending the program, I've performed surgeries with minimal complications and improved my tissue handling skills. Even my senior consultants are more confident in my abilities now, says Dr Vaibhav Vishal.

Dr Vishal Vaibhav is one of 285 trainee ophthalmologists benefiting from LVPEI's no-risk simulator training program since 2021. HelpMeSee, an NGO working towards reducing cataract blindness, gifted 2 simulators to train practising as well as newly qualified ophthalmologists from across the country. With the software-based simulator providing prompts for complications, doctors can practice without fear of harming patients due to inexperience, ensuring truly risk-free training.



Ms Shefali Pandey, simulator instructor at LVPEI, presents Dr Vishal Vaibhav with a completion certificate. She is a key enabler of the simulator training program's success.

Ongoing research conducted by LVPEI's senior ophthalmologists and surgical trainers shows that combining simulation-based and wet lab training over a week positively impacts eye specialists' surgical learning curves preparing for live surgeries.

Research —

Prof Brien Holden Eye Research Centre

Highlights

The **28**th **annual meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) – India** featured three distinguished oration lectures by Prof Mark Petrash, Executive Vice President, ARVO; Dr K Thangaraj, Director of Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad; and Dr Mahesh P Shanmugam, Chair, Sankara Eye Hospitals, Bangalore. Overall, the presentations encompassed the vast scope of eye research conducted across the country, showcasing the depth and breadth of knowledge in the field.



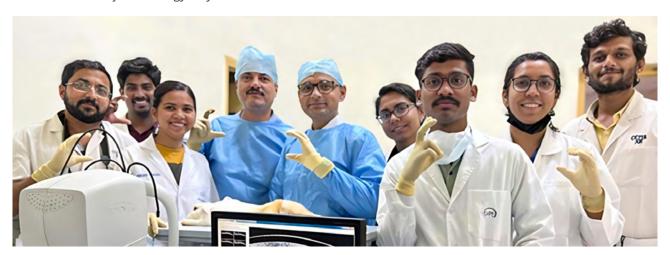
- Prof Joshua R Sanes from Harvard University deliver the Champalimaud Oration on the role of cell types and gene expression in the mouse and human retina. The keynote lectures were delivered by Dr Vinay K Nandicoori, Director, CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, and Prof David A DiLoreto, Director, Flaum Eye Institute, University of Rochester Medical Center. The event also showcased highlights from LVPEI's translational research.
- Plans are underway to **develop cutting-edge peptides to combat corneal infections** resistant to
 existing antifungal treatments. Dr Sanhita Roy has
 secured an international grant from Velux Stiftung,
 Switzerland, for designing antimicrobial peptides
 to treat ocular fungal infections. The research will
 be conducted in collaboration with Bose Institute,
 Kolkata; University of Lubeck, Germany; and Technical
 University of Munich, Germany.
- LVPEI and CognitiveCare entered into a collaboration to **prevent vision loss in infants and young children** by identifying early signs of eye conditions. This synergistic partnership combines LVPEI's clinical expertise with CognitiveCare's advanced computational sciences for detecting Myopia, Retinopathy of Prematurity, and other eye health disorders, mitigating adverse outcomes.
- LVPEI, in collaboration with the University of Sheffield and the University of Bradford, has designed a **smart contact lens** that can quickly and non-invasively test for eye infections, including microbial keratitis. Eye infections are one of the leading causes of blindness in developing countries, and current diagnosis methods are invasive, time-consuming, and expensive. The smart contact lens is a novel innovation with the potential to prevent fungal eye infections and related deaths.

- Exploring new research avenues in public health, elderly eye care, and technology and innovation in collaboration with national and international research organizations.
- Empowering young researchers and the future generation of clinician-scientists by providing them with an enabling environment, infrastructure, and opportunities.
- Encouraging new ideas that are problem-centric and patient-driven, and conducting productive research of high quality, with integrity, inclusivity, and togetherness.

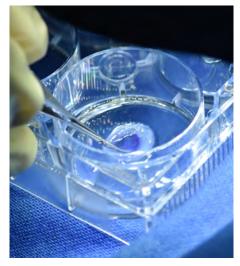


A made-in-India product by an Indian clinician-scientist team that could offer an affordable solution to corneal blindness

The First 3D-Printed Human Cornea in India developed by LVPEI, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology and Indian Institute of Technology - Hyderabad



The year was marked by ground-breaking translational research into eye care. An Indian clinician-scientist team from LVPEI, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH), and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad, developed the first 3D-printed human cornea in the country. This game-changing innovation offers affordable solutions to treat diseases like corneal scarring (where the cornea becomes opaque) or Keratoconus (where the cornea gradually becomes thin with time). The made-in-India 3D-printed human cornea is optically and physically suitable for transplantation. The bio-ink used to make this 3D-printed cornea can be sight-saving for army personnel directly at the location of injury by helping to seal corneal perforation and preventing infection during war-related injuries, or in a remote geographic area where there is no tertiary eye care



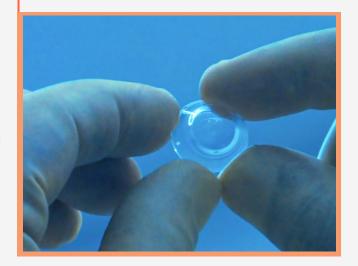
facility. Developed indigenously through government and philanthropic funding, this completely natural product, devoid of synthetic components and animal residues, is safe for patients and holds immense clinical significance as a potential solution to cornea shortages. Further, clinical testing and development will pave the way for its use in patients.

Product & Technology Innovation

Highlights

- The **LVPEI Incubator**, the first-of-its-kind in the country (funded under the BioNEST program of the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Government of India) is now providing incubation support to nine start-ups working in eye care. LVPEI initiated a **start-up challenge** in January 2023, to recognise the best startups globally in eye care Innovation. In addition to cash prizes, the top three winning teams will benefit from free incubation and mentoring support from LVPEI.
- **Pediatric Perimeter** (developed to test visual fields in babies) earlier registered as a patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, now has also been granted a patent from the Indian Patent and Trademark Office.
- Increased use of **products refabricated in-house** has further **brought down dependency on imported products and tools** needed for efficient functioning of equipment in the outpatient clinics and eye banking facility.

- For the convenience of patients, **self-check-in** kiosks have been installed at all the tertiary campuses, where every day, on average, 600 patients are availing this service named Cerebro self check-in.
- The **production of scleral lenses** (speciality lenses) manufactured at the LVPEI BostonSight Lens Manufacturing Lab saw a **25% increase** this year, crossing the 12,000 mark since its inception in 2017. These lenses are supplied to a network of 107 practitioners across India, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Ghana.



- To bridge the gaps in technology solutions for eye care and create a strong ecosystem for innovation by collaborating with industry experts and investors.
- Collaborate with partners for marketing indigenously developed products, with a focus on commercial sustainability and social impact.
- Deploying technological products that are under validation in LVPEI clinics.



These indigenously developed devices are proving to be a game-changer!



OM (Order of Magnitude): Introduced in the clinics in 2018, OM is a portable, virtual reality-based visual field analyzer and is highly effective in detecting common causes of blindness, such as Glaucoma. Within the LVPEI network, over 100,000 people have been screened using OM. The device has proved to be a game-changer, especially at the LVPEI managed Liberia Eye Centre in Monrovia, West Africa, where traditional visual field-testing machines often become dysfunctional due to irregular electricity and power surges. In such resource-limited settings, OM has emerged as a reliable and cost-effective alternative to equipment

used for visual field testing in clinics and community outreach programs. OM is now being marketed to external organizations, starting with its deployment at a chain of hospitals in Indonesia.

MyLyt and PARC (Peripheral Ancillary Refractive Component): Myopia is one of the leading causes of vision impairment in children, and it is estimated that by 2050, nearly 50% of the world population will be myopic. With adequate exposure to sunlight, myopia can be prevented in children. 'MyLyt' illuminance tracker, developed in-house at LVPEI, can be a gamechanger in the management of Myopia. This chestmounted clip can accurately measure light-exposure. It is also inexpensive compared to similar products. MyLyt has been clinically validated and is showing promising results in capturing exposure to ambient light. The PARC device is also meant for myopia management. It aids effective assessment of peripheral refractive errors in the clinic and has the potential to set a new standard for the myopia clinical protocol.



Capacity Building —

Highlights

Conducted quarterly reviews of 14 partner hospitals for **SEVA Foundation's Global Sight Initiative.**These reviews included assessment of performance, financial sustainability, operational issues, and giving appropriate recommendations.



The number of patients examined at the partner hospitals has grown by 21% from the previous year.

- **'Super Vision Program'** strengthens primary eye care in remote areas with SEVA Foundation's support. Eight partner hospitals with 76 Vision Centres are enrolled in this program. Support is provided through a collaborative approach, organizing workshops to identify challenges and develop solutions. Action plans were created for generating patient volumes, maintaining quality, and achieving sustainability.
 - Supported Mumbai's Shantilal Shanghvi Foundation to build a not-for-profit 'Shantilal Shanghvi Eye Institute' that aims to provide high quality comprehensive eye care to all individuals, regardless of their ability to pay. LVPEI has assisted the group with infrastructure design, equipment installation, staff training and development, and technology acquisition.
- The **'Educational Hubs'** facilitated by LVPEI organized over 19 training programs, benefiting over 2200 eye care professionals, with support from Standard Chartered Bank. Additionally, over 15 faculty development programs were conducted as part of this initiative. 'Educational Hubs' are eye care hospitals that have been identified and upgraded as regional resource centres, for eye care personnel at all levels.
- Initiated the Integrated People Centred Eye Care (IPEC) program in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). Dr Rohit C Khanna, Network Director, Public Health, LVPEI, has been appointed as the technical lead for the initiative.

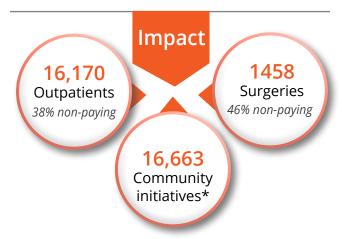
- To continue expanding and strengthening the primary eye care network of our partner hospitals with innovative community eye care programs.
- To further strengthen our capacity-building efforts, particularly among marginalized populations in India's North Eastern States, as well as at the global level.
- Explore new collaboration opportunities for spreading equitable and affordable eyecare measures wide and far.

The Liberia Eye Centre

The LVPEI-managed Liberia Eye Centre has been providing comprehensive eye care services to the local population at the John F Kennedy Memorial Medical Centre in Monrovia, West Africa. As we celebrated the centre's fifth anniversary in July 2022, LVPEI stands committed to continue our mission of promoting eye health and preventing avoidable blindness in the sub-region.

- With the second batch of residents graduating from the ophthalmology residency program launched and managed in collaboration with LVPEI, Liberia now has four home-grown ophthalmologists, three of whom are women. Additionally, various training programs were organized to build capacity for other allied eye health personnel.
- To increase the reach and accessibility of primary eye care, a second vision centre was inaugurated with support from OneSight-Essilor-Luxotica Foundation at Eternal Love Winning Africa, the missionary hospital located at the outskirts of Monrovia.
- The facilities at the centre have been scaled up with the addition of four examination rooms and one operating room, and vision rehabilitation services for the blind and visually impaired have

been initiated. Specialists from LVPEI, India, periodically visit the centre to provide speciality care to patients.



*people (including children) were screened through community outreach initiatives

Caroline's story beautifully illustrates how the Liberia Eye Centre, in collaboration with local partners and health workers, is ensuring availability of quality eye care for the underserved communities in Liberia

13-year-old Caroline hails from a remote rural area in Liberia. She has diabetes, and unavailability of insulin treatment in her county led to uncontrolled blood sugar levels, resulting in cataracts in both eyes. She was living the life of a blind person last year. After hearing from the local ophthalmic nurse about the LVPEI Liberia Eye Centre in Monrovia, Caroline and her mother set out from Zwedru, their hometown, on the three-day journey to the hospital. Following a detailed evaluation, Caroline was admitted into the hospital. First, the paediatrician stabilized her sugar levels by administering insulin. The ophthalmologist then operated on both her eyes (after an interval of two days); the cataract removal surgeries were performed free of cost for her. The happiness on her face on seeing her mother again was such a great joy to witness! The ophthalmic nurse in her hometown regularly monitors her eye health status and keeps the doctors at the centre informed of her progress. Caroline has resumed school and is aspiring to become a doctor to serve her county.



Advocacy, Policy & Planning

Highlights

A meeting on **integrated people-centred eye care** was held in Hyderabad in collaboration with the **World Health Organization (WHO)**. Health Ministers from the South-East Asia Region and experts from different sectors attended the meeting. **Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh**, WHO Regional Director, inaugurated the meeting, and keynote addresses were given by **Dr Gullapalli N Rao**, Founder-Chair of LVPEI, and **Prof Matthew Burton**, Director of the International Centre for Eye Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.



- LVPEI hosted '2030 in Sight Implementing Integrated People-centred Eye Care in South-East Asia', a regional meeting of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. Leading eye health organizations, including WHO, discussed integrating eye health with the Sustainable Development Goals. An action plan was developed to make eye care services accessible by 2030 to 1 billion people living with sight loss.
- The 3rd Indian Myopia Awareness and Research Conference (IMARC) was a dynamic showcase of cutting-edge translational research, engaging clinical discussions, and ground-breaking Myopia findings. It was attended by 185 delegates from 25 Indian states and 5 countries.
- The 2nd Indian Health Outcomes, Public Health and Economics Research Centre (IHOPE) Conference organized at LVPEI's Hyderabad campus featured keynote talks, panel discussions, and presentations on public health, big data, health economics, and policy. Mr Gareth Wynn Owen, British Deputy High Commissioner to Telangana & Andhra Pradesh, was the guest of honour.
- LVPEI crossed a **major milestone** in preventing avoidable blindness in newborn babies by managing **100,000 preterm babies** with Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) through preventive, curative and rehabilitative care. A one-of-its-kind **LVPEI Atlas of Retinopathy of Prematurity** was launched to mark this milestone.

Way Forward

- We will continue to advocate for Universal Eye Care with a focus on integrating eye care into primary health care.
- To strengthen our advocacy efforts at all levels, State, National and International, to ensure last mile eye care.
- Educating communities and raising awareness about good eye health practices and picking up critical eye conditions in a timely manner will remain our priorities.

Various awareness programs













Reaching the last mile

Initiated the Telangana Government's 'Kanti Velugu' mass eye screening program with the aim of screening 15 million people using LVPEI's innovative 'Basic Eye Screening Test (BEST)' protocol. Most suitable for community eye screening, the BEST protocol is low-cost, quick and serves as a triage for referrals to higher care levels.



The Way Forward

In 2022, the LVPEI network serviced over 2 million people at 275 centres—nearly 500,000 more than last year. What do such large numbers achieved by a pyramidal network of eye centres mean to people in need? Varun's story (see page 5) may give us an idea. Varun's left eye had turned big and blue, and he was rushed to the LVPEI vision centre in Nagarkurnool, Telangana. A teleconsult confirmed congenital glaucoma and megalocornea. He was operated at the Kallam Anji Reddy campus in Hyderabad, and soon, Varun had a new life ahead of him. Varun shows us the true worth of LVPEI's scale: a network that is sensitive enough to pick his congenital condition rapidly and treat him.

At this scale, we see a large variety of eye conditions, from rare eye diseases to common conditions (like myopia). Over the years, we have been best placed to track, treat, and train for eye care in all its complexity. So, what is the way forward? We have a new strategy: Institutes of Excellence.

Institutes of Excellence

Shantilal Shanghvi Cornea Institute

Child Sight Institute

Standard Chartered-LVPEI Academy for Eye Care Education

Operation Eyesight Universal Institute for Eye Cancer

The Glaucoma Institute

Institute for Ocular Regeneration

Anant Bajaj Retina Institute

Brien Holden Eye Research Centre

Gullapalli Pratibha Rao Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye Care

Institute for Vision Rehabilitation

Institute for Elderly Eye Care

At LVPEI, we began to develop Institutes of Excellence (IoE) as global resource centres for several areas of eye health. These institutes work towards impacting all the key causes and forms of vision impairment and blindness. They leverage LVPEI's functional arms to enhance capacity for their specific areas of focus. Over time, they will build deep, productive links within India and across the world. We now have IoEs for community eye health, paediatric vision, research, education, and vision rehabilitation along with Cornea, Retina, Eye cancer, Elderly Care, and Ocular regeneration. Together with our existing investments in teleophthalmology and product technologies, these Institutes of Excellence will bring significant enhancements to our patient care capacity.

Functional integration

A number of secondary centres in rural locations have begun to offer corneal transplant services. Some have also begun to offer intravitreal injections for common retinal conditions. In Liberia too, the centre there offers preventive laser for retinal detachments, with regular expert visits from India. A number of patients have benefitted from topical chemotherapy for eye surface tumors at our secondary centres. Most could not afford travel to a tertiary centre and would have been lost to care otherwise. These are examples of the various institutes of excellence driving high-quality, tertiary-level care deep into the LVPEI pyramid. The patient

volumes each of these institutes handle show why this is important. The Anant Bajaj Retina Institute serviced over 200,000 outpatient visits and nearly 30,000 surgeries in 2022. The Shantilal Shangvi Cornea Institute too saw nearly 350,000 outpatient visits. At that scale, the way forward becomes obvious: to bring services closer to people so that they don't have to travel far for critical eye care services. The IoE approach enhances LVPEI's capacity to be able to deliver these complex procedures.

National and global resource centres

This scale also means that each of these institutes are well-placed to build capacities with partners and networks in India and around the world. The Standard Chartered – LVPEI Academy for Eye Care Education has embarked on many collaborations this year. In February 2023, the academy hosted a large delegation from the Flaum Eye Institute, University of Rochester, and discussed several collaborations. A key idea is to see if we can develop a 'global' ophthalmology fellowship together. What would international electives look like? How can doctors benefit from the opportunities at Flaum and LVPEI? Each year, an estimated 400,000 children are diagnosed with cancer around the world—with a 15-45% survival rate. In 2022, LVPEI's OEU Institute for Eye Cancer became a member of the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer. Together, members of this initiative will work towards improving the survival rate to 60% by 2030. The Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) practice has built a nation-wide network of clinical resource and care for babies treated for ROP. The Myopia Clinic at the Child Sight Institute is working on technologies to tackle myopia, a condition projected to affect 50% of the world's population by 2050.

Universal health coverage

loEs are LVPEI's response to a changing and dynamic world. Many years ago, a High-Level Expert Group recommended a framework for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) where everyone has equitable access to 'affordable, accountable and appropriate health services of assured quality.' The WHO's World report on Vision also speaks of UHC on similar lines. These health services would cover the gamut of health behaviors: promotive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative. The last operative word, rehabilitation, is central to LVPEI's unique model of comprehensive eye care. The Institute for Vision Rehabilitation at LVPEI delivers this critical and integral health service. This report notes this IoE's plans for the future: multisensory parks, vocational units and more. The primary IoE that promotes UHC with LVPEI's values is the Gullapalli Pratibha Rao – International Centre for the Advancement of Eye Care (GPR-ICARE). In the past couple of years, this IoE has been working with the governments of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha to promote universal screening. Ultimately, the LVPEI pyramidal model must be able to deliver universal eye health coverage in these three states—that is, everyone who seeks eye care in these states will have access to it.

All these initiatives towards UHC are supply-side interventions. Demand-side changes, including changes to perceptions on eye care, health-seeking behaviors, even demand-side financing, are all important interventions to improve eye health service uptake. These are 'demand-side' because they work directly with the people, instead of health agencies and the government. Demand-side interventions are a key future strategic direction for GPR-ICARE. Another key priority for the future is to generate evidence, both epidemiological and operational, for implementing UHC in every context.

What drives these choices and innovations? LVPEI insists on comprehensive eye care. We ensure eye care is available where it is needed the most. We offer a continuity of care: from screening to surgery, from hamlet to Hyderabad. We are committed to quality and our care will be compassionate and empathetic. These are values that we believe are worth emulating, and we hope to help organisations in India and around the world develop them too.

Founders, Patrons and Donors

At LVPEI, our relentless pursuit is to ensure that those in need of eye care services receive the highest standard of care, irrespective of the complexity. Over the years, we have been fortunate to receive support from numerous individuals and organizations who have believed in our vision. We are deeply grateful for their trust and unwavering support.

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We extend our sincere gratitude to all our Founders with a special acknowledgement to Gland Pharma Limited, Sai Life Sciences Limited, and Granules India Limited. The support has helped the institute strengthen and scale up its services and provide quality eye care services to underserved communities.



Gland Pharma Limited

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in July 2020, Gland-Fosun Foundation, the corporate social responsibility arm of Gland Pharma Limited, provided LVPEI with essential PPE (personal protective equipment) kits for vision technicians managing the vision centres (primary eye care centres). This support allowed LVPEI to continue providing eye care services to the communities in the rural areas while ensuring the safety of staff and patients. The partnership was further strengthened with the creation of the 'Gland Pharma Centre for Elderly Eye Care' at the Kallam Anji Reddy campus in Hyderabad. The centre offers comprehensive vision care for the elderly. A project has also been initiated to screen senior citizens and caregivers living in elderly homes in Hyderabad, for their eye problems. Till date, over 280,000 elderly patients have received care through these services.

Sai Sai Life Sciences Limited

With the aim of bringing quality eye care service closer to the doorstep of communities, a city centre was established in Alwal in Hyderabad with support from Sai Life Sciences Limited. Named as 'Sai Life Sciences Eye Centre', it is LVPEI's third city centre in Hyderabad and offers advanced secondary level eye care services, including outpatient care, diagnostics, and surgical care. Weekly, on average over 1000 outpatients are examined, and 30 surgeries are performed at the centre. In the four years since its inception, the centre has served over 41,500 patients. Sai Life Sciences Limited has also significantly contributed towards improving accessibility of care for rural communities by extending support to upgrade the facilities at the Vision Centre (primary eye care centre) in Yanamalakuduru in Vijayawada, and the secondary eye care centre in Akividu in Andhra Pradesh.



Granules India Limited

With support from Granules India Limited, the 'Dr Chigurupati Nageswara Rao Centre for Ophthalmic Pharmacology' will be established at LVPEI's Kallam Anji Reddy Campus in Hyderabad. The focus will be on expanding the research in Ophthalmic Pharmacology that explores many aspects of drug discovery, development, and preclinical drug safety. The centre will integrate knowledge from multiple scientific disciplines, including chemistry, biochemistry, molecular biology and physiology, providing a significant positive impact, especially on eye health. The scientific knowledge gained through pharmacologic studies will help devise better treatment plans for the patients and ensure optimal visual recovery.

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We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our patrons, with a special acknowledgement to Infor India Pvt Ltd and V C Parekh Charitable Trust.

Myopia is a serious public health concern of the 21st century. The first dedicated myopia facility in the country was established at the Kallam Anji Reddy campus in 2020 with support from Infor India Pvt Ltd. The company further extended support for establishing a similar facility at the Kode Venkatadri Chowdary campus in Vijayawada in 2022. Named as 'Infor Myopia Centre', the two facilities are equipped with state-of-the-art technology to provide holistic and evidence-based anti-myopia treatment to prevent the onset of myopia and reduce its progression in children and young adults.

LVPEI's rural secondary eye care centre in Madanapalle, Annamayya district, Andhra Pradesh, has been upgraded with support received from the V C Parekh Charitable Trust (Charitable trust of the Hyderabad-based Parekh Textiles Pvt Ltd). The upgraded facilities include state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment for examining and diagnosing the complete range of eye diseases, advanced surgical facility, low vision rehabilitation service, and support services such as Opticals' laboratory, cafeteria, and accommodation facilities for trainees and doctors. Re-named as 'V C Parekh Eye Centre', the upgraded centre will annually serve 20% more patients.

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In loving memory of Dr Paul Dubord

1951 - 2022

The LVPEI family fondly remembers Dr Paul Dubord, one of our dearest friends, a mentor and ardent supporter—a pillar of strength. He significantly contributed to strengthening and scaling up the cornea and eye banking services at LVPEI. In acknowledgement the Dr Paul Dubord Distinguished Chair of Cornea was instituted by LVPEI in 2011.

Passionate about bringing self-sustaining eye care to rural communities in the developing world, Dr Dubord founded Eyesight International, a non-profit organization. An inspiration for many, he encouraged us to think big and do big. The LVPEI family pledges to keep his legacy alive and to continue to ceaselessly work towards eliminating avoidable blindness from the world.



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- At L V Prasad Eye Institute, we believe in working together towards our vision: To provide equitable and efficient eye care to all sections of society. We work in partnership with individuals, corporations and other like-minded organizations.
- All donations to the institute are eligible for income tax exemption and LVPEI is registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to undertake CSR activities as an implementing agency for eligible Corporates under the Companies Act, 2013.
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