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## 12 GREAT INDIAN MEDINFLUENCERS 2019

As a premier science media establishment committed to the improvement of medical and healthcare practice, it is our privilege to honour great contributions to this cause by visionaries across India.

The important roles played by these leaders have not only enhanced the quality of healthcare in India and set new standards, but also made it affordable to all classes of the population. This has often been achieved against Herculean odds such as lack of finance and resources and market challenges.

The "Great Indian MedInfluencers-2019" is this year's list of 12 of the greatest contributors to Indian medical practice and healthcare, highlighting their spectacular contributions to inspire young and emerging leaders of Indian healthcare.



## Dr G N Rao

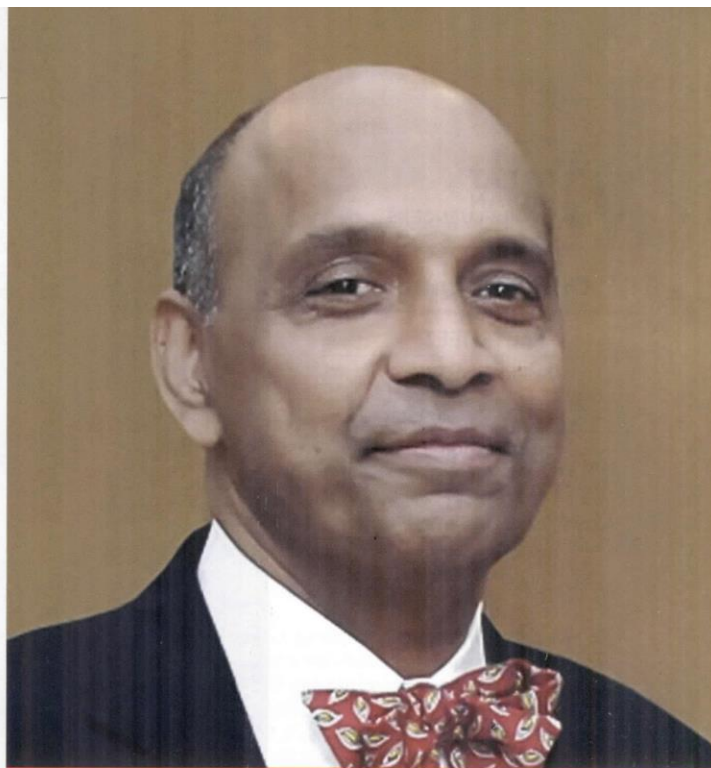
### FACTSHEET

**Designation/Title**  
Founder-Chair,  
LV Prasad Eye Institute

**Education**  
AIIMS- New Delhi,  
University of Melbourne

**Career**  
University of Rochester School of  
Medicine, National Academy of  
Medical Sciences, India.  
FM Recognition: Immense  
contribution Indian eye care

**FM Recognition**  
Contributions to Indian eye care



## A model set for Indian eyecare

**G**ullapalli Nageswara Rao had a dream when he returned to India after his long stint at the University of Rochester School of Medicine: To create an institution that can provide the world's best eye care to everyone in India, home to the largest blind population in the world.

Dr Rao, who has nearly 300 papers on ophthalmology in national and international journals to his credit along with several book chapters, could realise his dream with the founding of LV Prasad Eye Institute with the help of like-minded people. But it was certainly not an easy task to start, and operate, a not-for-profit, state-of-the-art hospital. It was his strong commitment and dedication that enabled not only the creation of an institution of this stature but also a culture that became a model for the nation.

LVP Eye Institute is a model institution for eyecare for the world. This centre of excellence in modern ophthalmology treats patients regardless of their capacity to pay. It has treated at least 17 million patients at its main hospital at Hyderabad. More than half of these patients were treated free of cost, in spite of their complex requirements, as the philosophy of the hospital is different.

The patients' ability to pay is never the criteria to decide his/her treatment here.

Today, LV Prasad Eye Institute has a network of three tertiary centres and 10 secondary and 86 primary centres across the country.

A former associate professor of ophthalmology at the School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester and a Fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, India, Rao has been a visiting Professor at several Universities in the US, Europe, Australia and Asia. He has also delivered many named lectures around the world. His areas of specialization include diseases of the cornea, eye banking and corneal transplantation, community eye health, eye care policy and planning.

In 2017, Dr Rao was elected to the Ophthalmology Hall of Fame instituted by the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. He has also been honoured with several national and international awards in recognition of his services to eye care and public health, including Padma Shri, International Blindness Prevention Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the AEBA Award from the Association of Eye Bank of Asia.