

# Contents

Snapshot 2023	3
Patient Care	4
Research	9
Education	12
Advocacy	16
Major Collaborations & MoUs	19
Innovation	21
Community Eye Health	26
Awards and Honours	29
Founders, Patrons, and Donors	30

# **Snapshot 2023**

Patient services offered

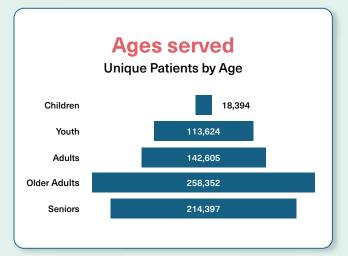
2,250,274

2,067,054 (2022) Non-paying services

₹64 Cr

₹60 Cr. in 2022





Rehabilitation services 20,853

17,243 (2022)

Men and women served

47%
Female

53%
Male

# **Lifetime Impact**

Total services offered

38 Million in 36 years. **Solar footprint** 

4,581

Tonnes of carbon use deferred.

Equivalent of per capita carbon-based electricity consumption of 24,000 Indian households.

Eye care professionals trained

67,083

**Trainees** 

5,475 professionals trained in 2023.

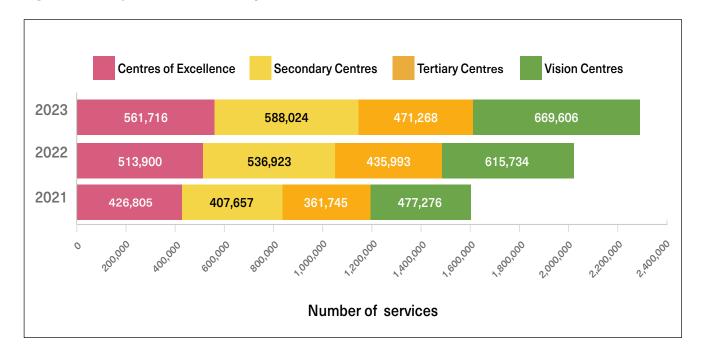
# **Patient Care**

he L V Prasad Eye Institute is synonymous with care and service delivery. Our patient care services are the beating heart of the network, welcoming and treating the millions of people who have walked through our centers' doors. In 2023,

the LVPEI network provides eye care services ranging from basic screening, comprehensive eye exams, diagnostics, and world-class surgeries across our 280 centres in the four Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, and Telangana (308 centres as of April 2024).

#### **Patient volume**

Figure 1. Total patient visits over 3 years across the LVPEI network.



Every year, on average, the LVPEI pyramidal network services over 2 million patient visits across its 250-odd centres. In 2023 too, the network serviced close to 2.2 million patient visits, a 9% increase over the previous year.

We can understand our patients as two different sets: 'unique' patients and 'new' patients. Many patients come

to LVPEI for multiple visits, sometimes over years, and so a 'unique' patient count accounts for their one/first visit in a year. This number includes a visit each to one of our centres, except a Vision centre (primary care) as they see a lot of floating visits. This way, a unique visit per centre gives you a sense of patient load on each of LVPEI's centres. A new patient, as the name suggests, is someone who came to LVPEI for the

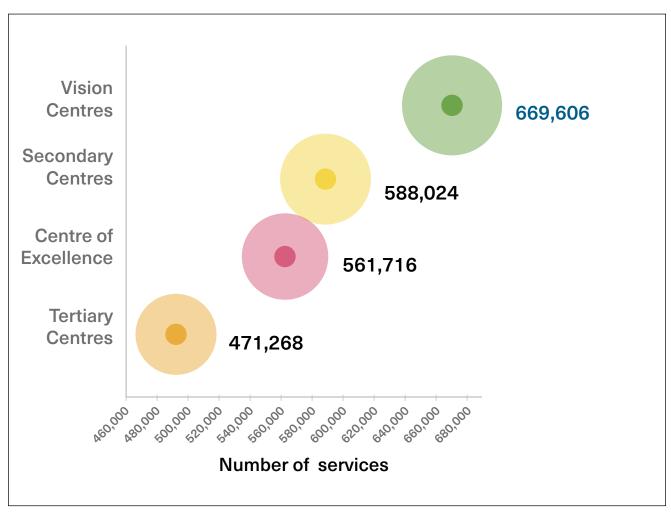
first time.

About 747,372 visits in 2023 are by unique patients. So, on average, close to 46% of the 1.6 million visits across four levels of the pyramid (other than the vision centres, that is) are unique visits. Similarly, the network saw a little more than 449,000 new patients in 2023 alone—that is, about 1 out of every 3 patients came to LVPEI for the first time in 2023.

The overall patient volume of 2.2 million visits is distributed across multiple levels of the pyramid. In 2023, 223 vision centres and 22 secondary

centres—spread across the villages and towns of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, and a district in Karnataka—serviced 55% of the patient visit volume (you can read more about our community eye health efforts in the next chapter). The Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad remains the single unit receiving the most patient footfall (over 445,000 visits in 2023). However, three 'city' centres (and one more in Bhubaneshwar) are recording increasing patient visits and are poised to reduce the pressure on the Centre of Excellence, while offering similar levels of care in proximity.

Figure 2. Which Centres did patients prefer to visit in 2023?



## **Patient profiles**

A key ambition of the LVPEI network is to offer our services to as many people as necessary, irrespective of their ability to pay. In 2023, over 50% of our services were offered free-of-cost across the

network. That amounts to about INR 64 crores worth of services. This component continues to grow every year: in 2022, we offered INR 60 crores worth of services.

Figure 3a. Unique patients by Age in 2023. (Children: <=10; Youth: 11<= 24; Adult: 25<= 40; Older Adult: 41<60; Seniors: >60)

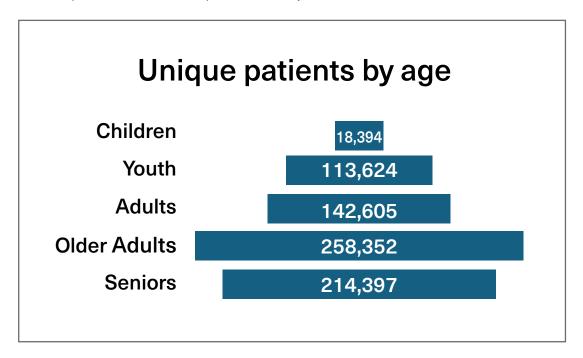
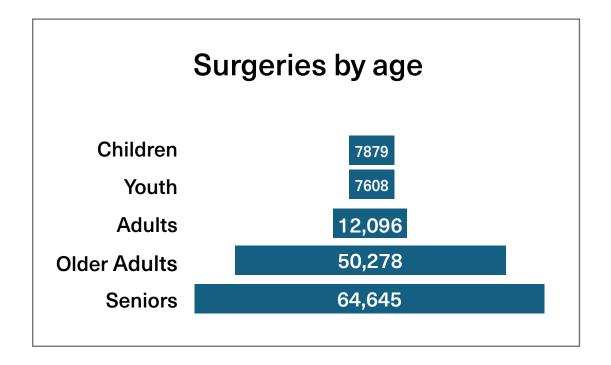


Figure 3b. Unique surgeries by age in 2023. (Children: <=10; Youth: 11<= 24; Adult: 25<= 40; Older Adult: 41<60; Seniors: >60)

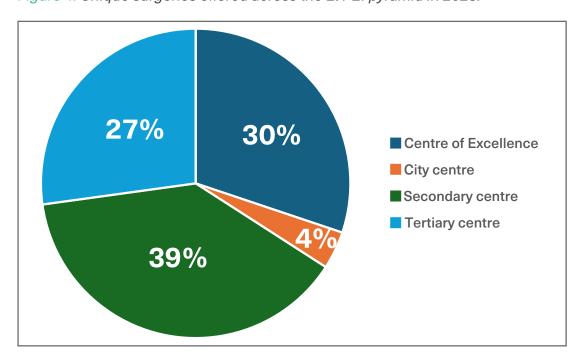


## **Surgeries**

The LVPEI network is unique for offering all surgical procedures free-of-cost for those who cannot afford to pay. At the same time, we are at the cutting-edge of new procedures and ideas (see our research section), and our surgical outcomes are world-class.

In 2023, we offered over 234,000 surgical procedures across the LVPEI network—40% of them free-of-cost. Of these, 80% were offered to older adults and seniors (people older than 41 years of age).

Figure 4. Unique surgeries offered across the LVPEI pyramid in 2023.



There is growing evidence that surgical interventions that are close to need are clinically effective and economically viable for the patient too. When care is closer to people's doorstep, there is a higher chance of service uptake. In 2023, close to 40% of all surgeries offered were performed at our secondary centres.

#### **Telemedicine**

Teleophthalmology, a session where a patient remotely consults an ophthalmologist using internet-based video chat and image sharing, has been a point of care at LVPEI. The pandemic accelerated our investments in telemedicine systems and processes,

including in a mobile app, 'LVPEI Connect'.

At LVPEI, teleconsultations are offered in two ways: via an app available on the Android mobile market, and via a teleconsult through LVPEI's vision centres. The patient can use a smartphone to download the LVPEI Connect app to book an appointment with a doctor, have an online consultation, and download an e-prescription, all through the app itself. Else, the patient can visit an LVPEI vision center, where a Vision Technician performs an eye examination and uploads the report to a cloud-based server. An ophthalmologist in the command centre higher up the pyramid will examine the report and either prescribe treatment or ask the patient to visit an LVPEI secondary or tertiary centre.

LVPEI's teleconsultation efforts have helped collapsed the distance separating expertise from need. Many In 2023, the LVPEI Connect app facilitated over 18,000 teleconsultations—and over 80,000 consults since its inception four years ago. The Teleconsult system serviced over 94,000 patient consults in the year.

LVPEI is one of the first eye care institutes in the world where rehabilitation is integral to our service offering. The Institute for Vision Rehabilitation operates across the Centre of Excellence and the three tertiary centres offering those with

irreversible diminishing vision, and those who are blind, opportunities for empowerment. Our work in rehabilitation offers hope and supports our clients' efforts towards reimagining their lives in productive and independent paths.

In 2023, IVR provided over 33,000 rehabilitation consults to our clients. Of these, about 11,200 were unique—about 1 in 3. Men constituted 7,000 unique consults, while 4,200 were women. Unlike surgeries, the age-profiles of people taking our rehabilitation services were relatively uniform, with more young people accounting for services sought. Little more than 30% of our rehabilitation services were also offered free-of-cost.

Photo: Dr Tapas Ranjan Padhi telescreening for ROP.





Photo: Srinivas Marmamula

# **Community Eye Health**

nique to the LVPEI model of service delivery is an extensive network of primary and secondary care centres—the Village Vision complex (VVC). In 2023, 266 vision centres spread across the four states of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, and in Bellary, Karnataka served as primary care facilities. These vision centres connected to 23 secondary

care centres that provided expert ophthalmic care along with surgical facilities. A network of Vision Guardians, a mix of paid and voluntary outreach team, operate closest to the community. They identify people who need eye health interventions and motivate them to visit LVPEI's VVC network. At the base of the pyramid, our vision guardians fan out, screen and refer patients to our vision centres.

The VVC provides basic screening, a comprehensive eye exam, referrals—both in-person and telehealth—to care facilities, mobile diagnostics, and world-class surgeries across our 245 primary and secondary centres (in 2023; the numbers have gone up since).

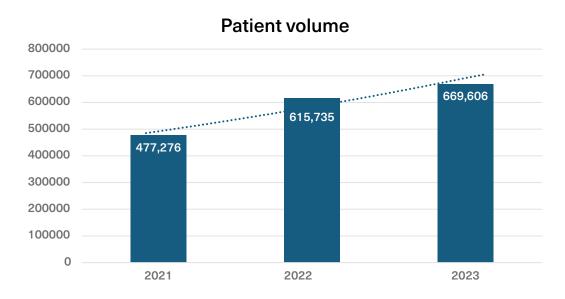
The Vision Centres are the powerful nodes in this pyramidal network of eye care service delivery. They are small eye care outposts staffed by Vision Technicians who are trained to conduct an eye exam, provide spectacles, or refer patients up the pyramid. In 2023, 266 vision centres offered basic screening and referral facilities, primarily in rural and peri-urban areas in the Indian states where we operate (see the next section for more details). Patients in need of surgery, or those living in proximity, access our 29 secondary centres which offer comprehensive

eye exams and surgeries for common conditions (some offer complex surgeries as well). The LVPEI pyramid is structured to service a majority of our patient-load between the primary and secondary levels itself. However, the secondary centres act as key bridges connecting up the screening services of vision centres, with higher order services.

Above the secondary centres sit three tertiary centres in the urban locations of Bhubaneshwar, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam. They are full-fledged eye hospitals with the capacity to handle complex surgeries and large volumes. At the very apex of the pyramid is the centre of excellence in Hyderabad. In this section, you will see how the various levels of the pyramid handle hospital visit volumes, and what the numbers look like in 2023.

#### **Patient volume**

Figure 1. Total patient visits over 3 years across the LVPEI vision centre network.



Every year, on average, the LVPEI Vision Centre network has been offering over half a million eye care consultations across the rural areas we operate in. In 2023 alone, the network serviced over 670,000 patient visits--an 8.7% increase over the previous year. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted a key aspect of the Vision Centre network: resilience. While most health networks, including

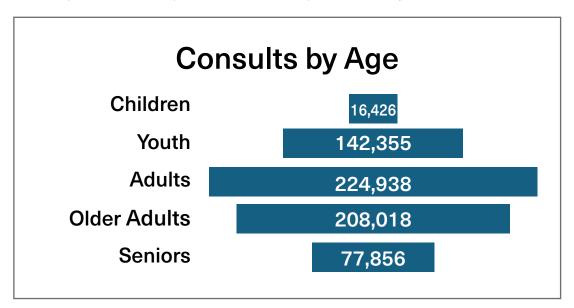
the bigger facilities at LVPEI, saw huge drops in patient volumes, the overall decrease in patient numbers was only by about 4% during the pandemic years.

All eye exams offered at the Vision Centres are free-of-cost. Overall, over 40% of our patients are women over the past 3 years. However, the network-wide statistic masks a lot of variation within the levels of the pyramid. A recent paper from the public health team at LVPEI, for example, found that more women were likely to visit our secondary centres than the centre of excellence in Hyderabad (51% vs 43% respectively). A key assumption behind the LVPEI pyramidal model is that access is a critical aspect of eye care service delivery. Vulnerable and underserved

populations, like women, are far more likely to access an eye care facility that is close to them. It would seem that the VVC bears out some of these assumptions. The demographic profile of the patients visiting our vision centres shows that the productive ages are most represented in the patient profile.

Secondary centres, to which vision centres are connected to, saw nearly 588,000 walk-ins as well. Together, vision centres and secondary centres accounted for 55% of all patient volume in the LVPEI network, in 2023 (see previous chapter). While vision centres can provide only screening services, the 23 secondary centres also offered surgeries—over 55,000 in 2023.

Figure 2. Unique patient consultations by Age in 2023. (Children: <=10; Youth: 11<= 24; Adult: 25<= 40; Older Adult: 41<60; Seniors: >60)



#### **Outreach**

The Gullapalli Pratibha Rao International Centre for the Advancement of Eye Care (GPR-ICARE) is the central hub for all of LVPEI's public health activities. Apart from running the VVC, teams from

GPR-ICARE also conduct outreach and screening programmes in catchment populations of the four southern states. In 2023, the GPR-ICARE outreach teams screened over 370,000 people.

# Research

ver the years, LVPEI's research arm, the Prof Brien Holden Eye Research Centre, has built a steady track record of outstanding research contributions across the spectrum of eye care. LVPEI is now a key research institution with interests in basic, translational, clinical, and applied research on eye care. The gamut of research priorities covers molecular genetics, stem cells, visual performance and visual optics, biochemistry, pathology, microbiology, pharmacology, public health, health economics, technology and engineering.

All these research interests are yoked to improving patient outcomes, either immediately or some time into the future. LVPEI's research arm is unique for its emphasis on clinician-driven research priorities. All clinicians dedicate about a third of their time to research. Every day, an assorted set of

scientists and care professionals meet to discuss and exchange ideas across different disciplines. This creative crosstalk sparks new ideas for research. This process is then supported by world-class research infrastructure, which includes state-of-the art clinical imaging and diagnostic laboratories and basic science laboratories with high-end research equipment.

Last year, we saw the opening of Dr Chigurupati Nageswara Rao Ocular Pharmacology Research Centre which we hope will revolutionise the field of pharmacology research in India. In addition, research at LVPEI has in-house high-end sequencing facilities, an animal facility for Zebrafish, a biobank for long-term storage of biological samples, and current good laboratory practice (cGLP), and manufacturing practice (cGMP) grade production facilities.

#### **HIGHLIGHT: PATENT GRANTED**

Two inventors from LVPEI, Dr Sayan Basu and Dr Vivek Singh have been granted a patent for a novel cell therapy that can be used to repair damaged corneas from a variety of corneal diseases. The patented therapy uses a unique composition of stem cells derived from the eye's surface and two clotting factors, thrombin and fibrinogen, layered together. This patent has been granted by the Patent Office, Government of India, for 20 years by the provisions of the Patents Act of 1970.



# **Research Snapshot 2023**

**367**Research papers

29 crores

Received in grant funding

12.4 Crores of extramural grants secured in 2023 23%) + (77%)

International Vs National extramural grants



J C Bose Fellowship

2 Patents (1 in 2023)

**74**Research projects

**150** 

Staff

**74** 

PhDs awarded so far (34 students pursuing PhDs)

**Clinical Trials** 

15 Trials 403

**Enrolled participants** 

8/3

Stage 3/Stage 4 trials

#### **Funding**

LVPEI research sources funding from diverse entities. The key model: capital funding comes primarily from grants and philanthropy; a portion of our operating expenses come from competitive grants and other grants, while salary support is from LVPEI funds. Research grants come both from the Government of India and from private philanthropy. LVPEI has a dedicated team of research administrators and a Grants manager to help clinicians and scientists apply for and secure independent research funding.

Faculty at the institute have received numerous prestigious fellowships from the DBT-Welcome Trust, Inspire, JC Bose, Fulbright, Humboldt, etc, and over 73 PhDs have been awarded from LVPEI so far. These degrees are offered in collaboration with renowned national and international universities. It is not unusual therefore to be walking through the corridors of the institute and come across researchers who range in experience from project fellows, graduate students, research optometrists, ophthalmology residents

and fellows, to postdoctoral fellows and faculty. All of them have access to opportunities and ideas at LVPEI, and the expertise and experience of a world-renown research function.

#### **Future Directions**

LVPEI will continue to expand its research horizons. The new frontiers for research at LVPEI include big-data and AI, ocular pharmacology and therapeutics. Leveraging the power of the electronic medical records system which has been the engine driving clinical documentation at LVPEI over the past decade, the institute is now embarking on gleaning insights that improve prognostic and diagnostic accuracy for the benefit of the patients. In drug development the institute plans to produce and test anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory peptides and advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs) like cell therapy, gene-editing, and biomaterials. One of the exciting new areas of work is developing animal models of disease and pre-clinical testing of biomaterials and 3-d printed constructs as an alternative to tissue transplantation.





# **Education**

ince its inception,
L V Prasad Eye Institute's
academic courses have been
need-based and innovative.
Recognizing the scarcity of
well-trained doctors, allied eye health
professionals, and support teams
in the eye health ecosystem, LVPEI
decided to build world-class education
programmes for all these cadres. This
commitment to training and education

dates back to 1987, when we began journal club sessions for faculty even before we started patient services.

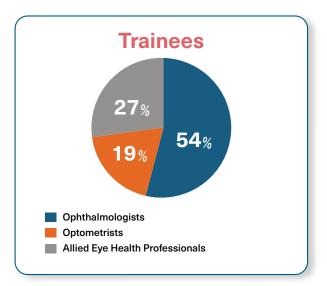
Today, the Standard Chartered
- LVPEI Academy for Eye Care
Education is a national resource
centre for comprehensive eye care
education and offers a wide range of
programs. These include advanced
ophthalmology subspecialty training,

continuing professional development programs, masterclasses, and curriculum-based initiatives. Tailored to address the diverse requirements of ophthalmologists, optometrists, ophthalmic nurse assistants, vision technicians, eye bank technicians & counsellors, vision rehabilitation

professionals, patient care counsellors, eye care administrators, community eye health professionals and other support staff, these programs have trained over 67,000 eye care professionals across cadres, enhancing their skills and competencies to meet the highest standards of patient care.

## **Impact 2023**





<sup>\*</sup> Ophthalmology trainees comprise both physical and virtual trainees

## 3Cs Framework and Academic Innovations

Conventional education often prioritizes technical or job-specific skills over a holistic approach that includes soft skills development. This oversight creates critical gaps in delivering compassionate, patient-centred care, which involves patients and their caregivers in the treatment and healing process. To bridge these gaps, we integrated the '3Cs' framework into our training programs this year. This framework emphasizes 'common skills' like communication, collaboration, and leadership, 'cognitive skills' that blend academic knowledge with real-world experiences, and 'curriculum ownership' that encourages trainees

to take charge of their learning journey through self-awareness, fostering responsibility and accountability. By instilling the 3Cs, we empower trainees to demonstrate professional competence, embrace lifelong learning, and adapt to evolving international standards.

As a national resource centre for ophthalmic education, the LVPEI academy constantly evolves to refine its programs, not only to meet ever-changing sectoral demands but also to raise the bar for excellence in eye care education. In 2023, we adopted two new approaches to improve learning experiences and maintain high standards of patient care:

# A Model of Regular Training

Inspired by the success of webinars and hybrid conferences during COVID-19, we found that regular, periodic training effectively promotes continuous learning and improvement. This approach led to eight tailor-made training initiatives in 2023:

- Uveitis 2.0, Oculoplasty Virtual
   Series and Preceptorship Programs for Ophthalmologists
- Class 2 Clinics program for optometrists
- ENHANSC Glaucoma Online program for counsellors
- Faculty Development programs in Ophthalmic Diagnostics, Ophthalmic Nurse Assistance and Vision Technician Training

# Redefining Ophthalmic Education Through Research

We integrated innovative approaches such as microlearning, online platforms, foundational skills workshops, rubric-based assessments, simulation-based clinical training, and engaging active learning methods like gamification, concept mapping, and Conscious Knowledge Consumption (CKC).

These efforts ensure our curriculum and pedagogy remain relevant and effective, positioning us as leaders in ophthalmic education and contributing to better patient care globally.

# **Academy Structure**

The Standard Chartered—LVPEI Academy for Eye Care Education spans six institutional locations in the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha in India. Each location is equipped with excellent infrastructure to provide high-quality education.

The academy thrives with over 300 in-house faculty, over 150 external trainers, many facilitators, and, most importantly, its trainees. The network hosts over 50 on-site training programs annually and 35 continuing professional development (CPD) programs. Our global collaborations have helped us facilitate a wide range of webinars, special lectures, and conferences, enriching the dissemination of knowledge and innovation in eye care

## **Academic Endeavours at Liberia**

Liberia Medical and Dental Association, collaboratively launched the region's first continuous medical education (CME) program focused on eye and systemic diseases for ophthalmology professionals and medical students. With its first edition, the program offered valuable insights and skills to 80 participants.

While continuing professional development is important in any sector or geography, it is especially important in Liberia, where years of conflict and diseases have left healthcare facilities virtually non-existent. With limited educational resources, CME programs ensure that medical students and professionals in Liberia stay current with advancements in the field, ultimately enhancing patient healthcare outcomes.

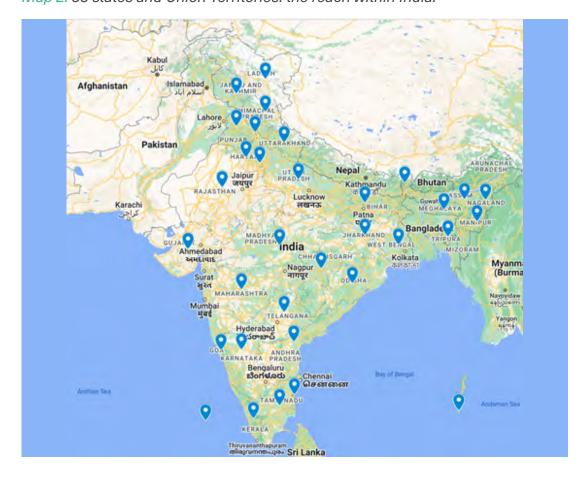
#### **Collaborations**

The LVPEI Academy is for all cadres of eye care professionals and potential entrants. We offer various training programs through a robust network of centres, reaching over 55 countries and 33 states and Union Territories of India. We strive to extend our educational programs to even more locations.

Map 1. 57 countries: the reach of LVPEI's onsite training programs.



Map 2. 33 states and Union Territories: the reach within India.





# **Advocacy**

VPEI runs diverse awareness campaigns year-round, utilizing physical meetings, cause-related events, and virtual engagements. With a network of over 290 centres, we reach patients, healthcare providers, and the broader public. Our campaigns cover the full spectrum of eye ailments across all age groups. This includes conditions affecting prematurely born infants, such

as retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) and life-threatening retinoblastoma eye cancer, which mostly affects children under the age of three.

We run campaigns on myopia, or near-sightedness, a 21st-century epidemic expected to impact over 50% of the global population by 2050, and glaucoma, which can occur congenitally or develop in older age.

## **#SixToFixMyopia Day**



This is a monthly campaign dedicated to raising awareness on myopia. In June, as schools opened up, LVPEI's myopia team ran a number of online campaigns urging parents to get their children's eyes checked in time for school.

# Whitathon 2024



Whitathon is L V Prasad Eye Institute's premier initiative to raise awareness and funds for the early diagnosis and treatment of children battling Retinoblastoma, a curable eye cancer if detected early. This year, LVPEI organized 6th edition of Whitathon in Hyderabad and 3rd edition in Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada.

Overall, the Whitathon 2024 edition brought together over 3300 participants, showcasing a powerful collective commitment to combating Retinoblastoma through early detection and treatment.



## **IAPB-WHO Regional Meeting**



LVPEI participated in the IAPB South East Asia regional meeting to help accelerate the translation of global resolutions and the implementation of our 2030 In Sight strategy into national eye health policies and plans. The strategy is key to the success of WHO's Integrated People-Centred Eye Care (IPEC) action plan. The IPEC action plan 'envisions equitable access to high-quality, comprehensive eye health services to achieve universal eye health by 2030 for the South-east Asia Region.' The event had IAPB members, government and WHO officials from seven South East Asian countries.

The regional targets set by WHO are:

• Target 1: 40% increase in effective coverage of refractive errors (eREC)

- Target 2: 30-% increase in effective coverage of cataract surgery (eCSC)
- Target 3: Ensure that at least 80% of people with diabetes are screened regularly for retinopathy, and 80% of those identified with sightthreatening diabetic retinopathy are treated by 2030.
- Target 4: To eliminate trachoma in the region by 2025.

The meeting's focus was to discuss the role of each entity--WHO, Ministries of Health, professional bodies, IAPB members, and the IAPB secretariat, in translating the WHO Regional Action Plan on IPEC and the 2030 In Sight sectoral strategy into national and sub-national eye health plans.



# **Innovation**

A patient using a Folding Foropter (FOFO).

he two key bottlenecks
to ensuring eye care
service delivery for those
most in need are access
and affordability. Multiple
barriers, including appropriate
technology, are essential to collapse
these bottlenecks. Investing time,
resources and people to building
affordable tech has been a key focus
at LVPEI. In fact, the confluence of

multiple aspects of eye care under the LVPEI network has opened many opportunities to drive innovation in the sector. The large volume of care, the availability of top-notch clinicianscientists and eye care teams, scale—from the personal, to the communal, and to population-level—all become possible because of LVPEI's pyramidal network. The network caters to the needs of over 150 million people, a

population-scale model, not to mention the many thousands who seek care from across India, and the world.

In 2023, LVPEI's investments in technology innovation has been around three key areas:

- Product Innovation
- Biomedical re-engineering
- Incubating start-ups

Together, these investments spearhead new ideas and new products that have the potential to impact eye care service delivery the world over. Four principles motivate all product innovation at LVPEI; all products must be: appropriate (for the purpose), affordable, available (when needed), accessible (to all those who need them).

#### **Product Innovation**

LVPEI's investments in product manufacturing and innovation began a little more than a decade ago. In 2023, the team has worked to re-engineer parts and produce low-cost tools that help solve key engineering problems in eye care service delivery. A key example of a new product developed in-house is the artificial anterior chamber and aspheric Teflon blocks used by LVPEI surgeons to practice and perform partial thickness corneal transplants.

Similarly, modular slit lamp attachments that hold a camera-equipped tablet developed in-house now captures high-quality photos of a patient's eye. These images are then fed to the teleophthalmology pipeline, enabling remote consultation. The module exemplifies the gaps that these products fill—attachments, connectors, holders; the nuts and bolts of machined parts whose lack holds up the whole device.

#### **OM**

The visual field is all the world our eyes can take in, when one focuses on a central point ahead. A Visual Field Analyzer—a large, boxy device that can accommodate a person's head—is the gold-standard for analysing the visual field for any peripheral vision loss. The equipment is expensive, weighs 30-odd kilos, and the patient needs to come to the machine.

In 2019, the Innovation team came up with an Order of Magnitude (OM) device, a Virtual Reality (VR) headset-based visual field analyzer that has comparable diagnostic sensitivity and specificity to the current standard of care. In these 4 years, OM has been field-tested across the LVPEI network.

In 2023, OM was used to screen over 240,000 eyes across the LVPEI network. The year saw 6 new devices (2 outside the network) deployed and HomeCare, LVPEI's initiative to reach out to the elderly or with severe disabilities, is a fresh area that benefits from OM's size, portability, and reliability.

#### Grabi

A novel addition to the teleconsultation process of patients with corneal disease is the 'Grabi' Device. This simple device hooks on to any mobile phone with a camera. Coupled with a smartphone app, Grabi assists in the capture of a clean, exam-worthy photograph of the front of the eye by the patient themselves or their attendant. This image, when shared with the cornea specialist, is good enough in over 75% of instances for doctors to advise treatment.

Grabi provides the revolutionary choice of a follow-up online consultation for patients from the comfort of their

homes. In 2023, 561 patients received this device, and we aim to expand this number to every corneal transplant patient we care for.

#### Cerebro

The LVPEI network processes over 1200 patients every day, on average. The crush of demand for appointments, payments for available slots, changes to booked slots—it all adds up to a complex chain of process pain and dissatisfaction. A key aspect of this experience is when patients stream into our centres, appointment slot booked, and then find themselves queuing up to digitally enter the system. Long wait-times can then mar the experience, right at the beginning of their entry into the LVPEI system.

Cerebro, LVPEI's in-house solution, collapses these poor wait-times. A self-checkin kiosk, Cerebro deploys a stand-mounted touchscreen with QR codes and e-payment integration. A patient walks up to the kiosk, enters

their details, makes a payment and is allotted a slot—all in minutes.

In 2023, Cerebro handled over 1000 checkins across the three tertiary centres of Bhubaneshwar, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam, as well as the centres across Hyderabad. Since its launch a few years ago, Cerebro has now handled over 360,000 checkins since deployment.

### **Product Engineering**

LVPEI's re-engineering and innovation team has been critical to finding solutions to repairs and replacement of expensive spares across the network. In addition, the team has helped identify low-cost solutions that help solve hyperlocal problems with technology. The artificial anterior chamber is an example of low cost, high impact products that come out of our Innovation centre.

In imaging, we were able to empower our Vision Centres with a modular





attachment that connected tablets to the slit lamp, an essential device for eye screening that you find in all eye exam rooms. The module enabled the capture of good quality images of the front of the patient's eye. Then the Vision Technician could seek a teleconsultation opinion from a physician in a tertiary centrerevolutionising access to support and insight in rural settings. Last year, we saw over 60,000 such consults from rural vision centres, potentially saving an estimated 3.5 million kilometres of travel for patients presenting to tertiary care facilities.

#### Incubation

LVPEI is a key node in the Indian initiative to build a national biotech innovation ecosystem, the Bioincubators Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies (Bio-NEST). Started by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a public sector enterprise, Bio-NEST recognises that biotechnology incubation will need longer and deeper support. LVPEI, with its expertise in eye health, and over a decade of pulling in multidisciplinary managerial and engineering capabilities, is best placed to help seed innovation in eye health.

In 2016-17, LVPEI became host partner to a Bio-NEST grant that focused on biotech incubation. We built a state-of-the-art facility at our Kismatpur campus. LVPEI's team of clinician-scientists, technologists and engineers offered support and advice to a clutch of start-ups interested in this space. Sathguru Management Consultants, a Hyderabad-based consultancy firm, stepped in to offer support and help in navigating the complex intellectual property (IP), market entry and regulatory landscape that new companies will have to understand.

# **Entities Incubated in 2023**

#### **Alien Innovations**

The team is working to build a wearable spectacle device for people with visual impairment that can read aloud, help navigate around obstacles, recognize people and objects in the surroundings—a device that can make them independent.

# **ProCyto Labs**

ProCyto Labs are working on a novel formulation for a preservative-free barrier gel for ocular allergies. The allergen blocker gel will help in the management and prevention of chronic eye allergies.

#### **Core Idea Innovations**

A spirited entrepreneur and her team building a cloud-based, Al-powered remote vision screening tool that is best suited for India's many millions who miss an eye exam.

# Kanohi Eye

BYNOCS software helps amblyopes improve visual acuity and binocular function using video games in clinic and home environments. It works on the principle of providing high-contrast images to the amblyopic eye and at variable contrast to normal eye.

#### **Pneoterik**

Pneoterik is a 'one-stop-shop' for infection control through air-purification systems, including positive and negative pressure products, and laminar flow systems.

# **Eyeris mediworks**

Eyeris Mediworks serves as a comprehensive solution for hospitals aiming to improve their service delivery and market presence.

#### **Olemus Bioteck**

Olemus is a startup designing biosensor devices to diagnose diseases with a retail application.

#### **Medev Plus**

Medev Plus have launched a portable OCT device that enables vision screening at a patient's home.

#### **NeuraSim**

NeuraSim is putting together BeeVeeTM a CE-certified, immersive virtual reality (VR) therapy that offers treatment modalities for Amblyopia (lazy eye), squint, and other eye movement disorders.

#### **Artelus**

Artelus has the ambition to develop the world's most portable and economical Optical coherence tomography (OCT) device that provides images as good as devices that are ten times as expensive.





# Major Collaborations & MoUs

- We have a collaboration agreement signed with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) to offer an international public health ophthalmology fellowship program.
- with **REACT (RN)**, USA for product developments in clinical utility to pursue the development and/ or validation, and application for vision assessment and oculomotor assessment. We are also working on the development, validation, and application for a novel artificial intelligence-based risk scoring system for vision assessment and oculomotor assessment using virtual reality.
- We have entered into a collaboration agreement on July 8, 2024 with W.
   L. GORE & Associates, Inc., USA.

- GORE has capability and expertise in proprietary materials such as coatings, coated materials or coated devices for ophthalmic uses, evaluations of ophthalmic uses, or ophthalmic therapies.
- We have signed a Statement Of Work (SoW) with ValueMomentum Software Services Private Limited, Hyderabad for application support & maintenance for the eyeSmart EMR 1.0 which integrates clinical, surgical, financial, and operational functions of the hospital onto a single seamless platform.
- We have an MoU with the Fernandez Foundation for screening and treatment of Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) and Outpatient Paediatric Ophthalmology services.



# **Awards and Honours**

# SCImago Institutional Rankings

For the third consecutive year, LVPEI has been recognized among the top ten global eye research institutions in the SCImago Institutions Rankings. It is ranked sixth globally (up two spots from 2023), third in Asia, and first in India in the ophthalmology category. This ranking underscores LVPEI's commitment to advancing research in the vision sciences and improving patient outcomes.

# Global CSR and ESG Award

We were recognised as one of the 'Top 10 Best NGOs of the Year – 2024' at the Global CSR and ESG Awards 2024 for the hospital's contributions to the eye health sector.

#### **Staff Awards**

Several of our medical faculty, scientists, including trainees and students were recognized and honoured for their contributions at national and international meetings and other platforms. Some highlights:

- At the All India Ophthalmological Conference 2024, 20 from among our medical and scientific faculty received awards for their presentations, posters, and for the quality of publications in the Indian Journal of Ophthalmology.
- Dr. Taraprasad Das, Vice-Chair Emeritus, was made the Honorary Fellow of the All India Collegium of Ophthalmology.

- Dr. Prashant Garg received the AIOS-R P Dhanda award for eye banking and training; and the International Ophthalmic Heroes of India award
- Dr. Brijesh Takkar also received the International Ophthalmic Heroes of India award.
- Dr. Vivek Singh, Stem Cell Scientist, was awarded the prestigious Tata Innovation Fellowship 2023-24.
- Dr. Vivek Dave is a member of the Club Jules Gonin, an international group of retina specialists dedicated to advancing research and surgical management of retinal diseases.
- Dr. Swathi Kaliki has been elected to ocular oncology section of the Annual meeting program committee for 2024-27 at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) 2024
- Several research scholars and students received travel grants from ARVO and ICMR.
- Dr. Raja Narsing Rao, Anaesthetist, has been appointed as President of the World Congress of Ophthalmic Anaesthesia.

# **Editorial Appointments**

- Dr. Sayan Basu as associate editor of the 'Ocular Surface' Journal.
- Dr. Brijesh Takkar as section editor of the journal 'Eye', the official scientific journal of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, UK.

# Founders, Patrons, and Donors

The L V Prasad Eye Institute story is as much about the generosity and goodwill of scores of institutions and individuals as it is about eye care delivery. Over the years, many who believed in our vision stepped in to support us and we are sincerely grateful for their trust.

# **Founding Organizations**

#### **Hyderabad Eye Institute**

Founding Trustees

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#### Indo American Eye Care Society, USA

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### **Founders**



# AT&T

AT&T is one of the largest telecommunications companies globally, operating in over 160 countries. They offer a wide range of services, including wireless phone and internet plans, pay TV, and cloud-based solutions.

For over eight years, AT&T has supported more than 10,000 complex surgeries for our non-paying patients and has been a steadfast supporter of medium-term innovation projects, including a handheld diagnostic screening device for non-clinical settings. "LVPEI has been a key partner in our corporate social responsibility outreach," says Ms. Suveera Ahluwalia, CSR Manager, AT&T Global Network Services India Private Limited.



Laurus Labs is a research-driven, pharmaceutical organization committed to improving patient health outcomes. They are a global leader in producing Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and formulations for therapies targeting retroviral, oncological, cardiovascular, and gastrointestinal conditions. Laurus Labs has made meaningful contributions to eye care at LVPEI.

In 2018, Laurus Labs supported the ophthalmic surgical centre at our Kode Venkatadri Chowdary campus in Vijayawada. In 2023, they also supported our GMR Varalakshmi campus in Visakhapatnam with a state-of-the-art patient care facility. "Supporting LVPEI's patient care efforts gives us immense satisfaction," says Dr Satyanarayana Chava, Founder & Chief Executive Officer of Laurus Labs.



#### **MGM Mineral Limited**

MGM Minerals Ltd. a distinguished and expanding business house, has consistently supported our work in Odisha. As a leading conglomerate in Steel, Power, and Mining, they are committed to creating social impact alongside their industrial progress.

Their contributions have greatly enhanced Cornea Services and the Advanced Molecular Mucormycosis Laboratory at our Mithu Tulsi Chanrai Campus in Bhubaneswar. They have also supported several vision centres in Koida Sundargarh District, Odisha. "The LVPEI network offers us an opportunity to give back to key communities in Odisha," says CMD, MGM Minerals Ltd. "Together, we bring the best of eye care to those who can benefit from it."



#### Rai Saheb Pannalal Hiralal Lahoti Trust

Raisaheb Pannalaji Hiralalji Lahoti was a visionary leader who made a significant impact on the textile industry in the Deccan region before India's independence. He established the Raisaheb Pannalal Hiralal Lahoti Trust, which has a longstanding commitment to supporting education, fellowships, and the promotion of art and culture throughout the former Hyderabad state.

"The trust is pleased to have supported LVPEI's 'city' centre in Madhapur, Hyderabad, known as the Lahoti Eye Centre. This support reflects our shared mission to provide accessible eye care, aligning with the trust's core values," says Shri Sureshchandra P Lahoti, Chairman Trustee.

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### Gemini Edibles & Fats Limited

Gemini Edibles & Fats India Limited (GEF India) with its flagship brand "FREEDOM" is an edible oils and specialty fats manufacturing, distributing, and branding company from Hyderabad, India. GEF India is a subsidiary of Golden Agri-Resources (GAR), one of the world's largest vegetable oil companies. Under the CSR initiative undertaken over four years, GEF India has supported the purchase of eye care equipment for two secondary centres in Andhra Pradesh, along with more than 2,000 cataract surgeries in those locations. They have also been supporting the "Reaching out with Innovative Services for Eye Care" (RISE) Project which screens, identifies and treats people with sight loss in over 40 villages. "Working with LVPEI gives us the satisfaction of giving back to society by supporting communities with the greatest need," said Mr. Pradeep Kumar Chowdhry, Managing Director, GEF India.

# **Optum** Optum Global Solutions (India) Private Limited

Optum India is the global capability center of UnitedHealth Group (UHG), a Fortune 5 company committed to helping people live healthier lives and helping make the health system work better for everyone. They have funded over 2,000 critical eye surgeries, including treatment for children with retinoblastoma. Additionally, their staff have volunteered to screen school children and donate toys to pediatrics patients over the years. "Partnering with LVPEI to support patients who find it challenging to afford care has been incredibly rewarding," said Anindya Datta, Vice President and Head of Brand, Marketing and Communications, Optum Global Advantage and India CSR. "As a force for good 'in India for India', we are committed towards contributing to the communities where we live and operate."

# **Titan Company Limited**

Titan Company Limited is an Indian multinational conglomerate and is one of the largest consumer goods companies in India, operating in diverse segments, including jewelry, watches, precision engineering, and eyewear. Apart from supporting surgeries, Titan has been a key partner in delivering our Vision Technician program, along with training of allied ophthalmic eye care personnel & persons with vision impairment and/or their family members. "LVPEI's goals align very closely with our social objectives. Together, we hope to solve key bottlenecks in service delivery," said Sridhar N E, Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer, Titan Company Limited.

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Ltd., India

Ashram Foundation, India

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Divi's Laboratories Ltd., India

Donthi Pratibha, India

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Doctus Software Solutions Pvt. Ltd.,

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G Jagajeevan Babu, India

Ganapathrai Tibrewala Trust, India

Gangabhishan Bhikulal Int Ltd., India

Gangadi Investments Pvt. Ltd., India

G Kathuria, India

Gati Kintetsu Express Pvt Ltd., India GBR Freight Forwarders Pvt. Ltd, Geeta K Vemuganti, India Geetha Nilkant Iyer, India Genohelex Care Pvt. Ltd., India Ghangabhishan Bhikulal, India Giridharilal Sanghi & Bajrang, India Girvar Singh, USA Githa Pisupati, India Give Foundation Inc., USA Give Foundation, India GK Rao, India Global Coal and Mining Pvt. Ltd., India GMR Airports Ltd., India Gorantla Seeta Ram Anjaneyulu, India Govind Oils Mills Pvt. Ltd., India Grand Lodge of India, India GTN Textiles Ltd., India Guandhi Rajesh, India Gunnam Sarada Devi, India Gunnam Subba Rao Trust, India H M Charitable Trust, India Hari Nagaralu, India Harish Jammula, India Harish Y, India Harmony Foods Pvt. Ltd., India Harshini Shagalathi Padmanabha, India Head Digital Works Pvt. Ltd., India Head Infotech India Pvt. Ltd., India Helping Hands of Rotary Trust, India Hema Malini Arni, India Himalayan Cataract Project, USA Hindustan Calcined Metals Pvt. Ltd., Hindustan Composites Ltd., India Hindusthan Engineering & Industries Ltd.. India Hirjibhai Jadavjibhai Chheda, India Hi-Tech Elastomers Ltd., India Homas Mammen Medical, India Humphrey Instruments, USA HY Magnetics Pvt. Ltd., India Hyundai Motors India Engineering Pvt. Ltd., India I Base Software Solutions (India) Pvt. Ltd., India I M Thapar, India I V Raghu Kumar, India IDBI Bank Ltd., India Ilios Power Pvt. Ltd., India Indian City Properties Ltd., India Indian Immunologicals Ltd., India Indian Institute of Technology, India Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd., India

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K Madhukar Reddy, India K Pratap Reddy, India K Raghavendra Rao, India K Rama Rao, India K Sivarama Krishna, India K Sudhakar Reddy, India K V R Choudary, India K V R Power Projects, India K Vasantha Rao, India K Vijai Sarathy, India K. Sivarama Krishna (HUF), India Kader Exports Pvt. Ltd., India Kader Exports Pvt. Ltd., India Kakarla Subba Rao, India Kakarla Sushrut, India Kakatiya Cement Sugar & Industries Ltd., India Kala Gopalakrishnan, India Kallianji Chaturbhuj, India Kalpana U Parikh, India Kalyan Babu Sangam, India Kalyani Tarumani, India Kamala & L N Taneja, India Kamala Dalmia Charity Trust, India Kamala Ginning and Oil Industries Pvt. Ltd., India Kamala Minning and Oil Industries, India Kameswari Devi Dwarapalak, India Kamla Oleo Pvt. Ltd., India Kamla Taneja & L N Taneja, India Kamlesh Kapur, India Kammineni Agencies Pvt. Ltd., India Kanak Projects Ltd., India Kandarpa Jaganadha Swamy, India Kantilal K Thakkar, India Kanumuri Sowjanya, India Kanuri Santhamma, India Kapoor Charitable Foundation, USA Karm Chand Thapar & Bros, India Kastur Dhanji Sawla, India Kasturi Krishnakumar, India Kathanji Chaturbhuj Sanatorium Trust, India Katherine & C S Reshmi, USA Katragadda Bhagat Singh, India Katragadda Mohan Kishore (HUF), India Kavita Nampalli, Australia Kayji Real Estate Pvt. Ltd. India Kedia Agrotech Pvt Ltd., India Kemia Ginning & Oil Industries, India Kendle India Pvt. Ltd., India Keshav G V Reddy, India Keshav Narayan Tilak, India Khalifa Al Khalifa, Bahrain Khan Bahadur Babukhan Foundation,

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Kilaru Chaitanya, USA Klar Sehen Pvt. Ltd., India Kode Ramakrishna, India Kokil Pathak, UAE Kola Anna Reddy, India Kommareddy Girija Devi, India Kommareddy Rambabu, India Konan, Japan Konda Venkata Nagaraju, India Koshi Lalgehi, India Krishna D Pinisetti, India Krishna Peshuram Bulani, India Krishna Vikas Peddibhotla, India Krishna Yalamanchi, India Krothapalli Sitakoteswari, India Kuchakulla Sowbhagya, India Kuruganti Suresh, India Kwality Sales & Services Pvt Lt Kwality Sales & Services Pvt. Ltd., India L Dadlani, India Lady Tata Memorial Trust, India Laithamba Panda, India Lakshmi & Chalavadi Subba Rao, USA Lakshmi Venugopal, India Lalith Kumar J, India Lalitha & Mr V Venkata Subramanyam, India Lalitha, India Lalithamba Panda, India Lambda Therapeutic Research Ltd., Landmark IT solutions Pvt. Ltd., India Latha Ravindran, India Laxmichand D.Jhaveri, Japan Laxmish Acharya, India Lense Home, India Letz Change Foundation, India LNB Group Foundation, India Lotus Chocolate Company Ltd., India Lucid Medical Diagnostics Pvt. Ltd., Lyla & Ramchandar Rao Yerneni, **USA** M C Agencies, India M Rammohan Rao (HUF), India M Rammohan Rao, India M Sakuntala, India M V R Murthy / East Coast Development Foundation, India M V Surya Narayana, India M V V Raja Sekhar, India M.C.Agencies, India M/S Appasamy Associates Pvt. Ltd., India M/S Neelima Times, India M/S Spinco Biotech Pvt Ltd, India

M/S Synergies Castings Ltd., India

M/S. Harmony Foods Pvt. Ltd., India M/S. Vimta Labs Ltd., India M/S.Tibarumal & Sons, India Maa Kuthari Charitable Trust, India Macquarie Global Services Pvt. Ltd., India Madala Charitable Trust (India), India Madanlal Harbhajanka, India Madanlal Patodia Charitable Trust, India Madhu S Kapoor, India Madhuvan Iron Pvt. Ltd., India Madhvai Gajjala Reddy & Mohan Reddy, India Magma Fincorp Ltd., India Mahaldar Hansiya, India Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., India Mahboob Ahmed, UAE Mahendra Kumar Patodia, India Mahendra Patodia (HUF), India Mahesh K Thakkar, India Malaxmi Infra Ventures (India) Pvt. Ltd.. India Mallikarjun Kencha, India Manav Jalan, India Mani & Sudarsana Rao Akkineni, USA Manish S Sugandhi, India Manjula & Rajender Bansal, USA Manthena Satyanarayana Raju, India Maruti Opticians, India Mary & Manmadha Rao Kasaraneni, USA Matta Vamsee Krishna, India Meda Narasimhulu & Co, India Meena & Brahmaji Mutyala, USA Meenalochani & Mr V Raghunathan, India Meera & Suresh Ramamurthy, USA Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd., India Megha Investments Pvt. Ltd., India Megha Sharda, India Mehta Investment & Trading, India Meka Seetharamaiah, India Mendu Rammohan Rao, India Merle Cirilatheresa Fernandes, India Metrochem API Pvt. Ltd., India Meva Devi Ramchander Nagori Charitable Trust, India MGM Foundation, India MHS Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd., India Michael Berman, USA Micro Vision, India Mihiir Thakkerr, India Mihir Kanakia, India Milaap Social Ventures India Pvt. Ltd.,

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Milmet Laboratories Pvt Ltd., India Mint Investments Ltd, India Misereor, Germany Mitsuaki Aoki, India Mobility India, India Mohan Kishore Katragadda, India Monideepa Chakravarti, India Monimoy Ghosh, India Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, UK Mphasis Ltd., India Murali K Divi, India Musunuru Srinivas, India N Laxmi, India Nageswara Rao, India Nalin Rhaara, India Nalini & Ratnam V Mullapudi, USA Nalini Hebbar, India Nalini Seksaria, India Naman Gupta, India Nambi Parthasarathy, India Narahari, USA Narendra Kumar Mor, India National Health Mission, Government of Tripura, India National Health Mission, India National Litho Printers, India National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), India National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation, Navudamma Foundation and Rural Development, India Nazimul Hussain, Bangladesh Neelima Times, India Neera Agrawal, India Neeti Vipul Shah, India Nicholos Lee, Singapore Nikhil Dujari, India Nikhil S Gokhale & Anant Gokhale, Nikhil Shreeram Choudhari, India Nikita Mehta, India Nikunj J Shah, India Nilanjana Joardar, India Niraj Bajaj Charitable Trust, India Nirmal Kumar Bagaria & Sunita Bagaria, India Nirmal Sharma, India Nissar Ahmed Siddiqui, India Niveditha, UK Nobuo Ishida, Japan Northern Hatcheries Pvt. Ltd., India Novartis Healthcare Pvt. Ltd., India Novo Nordisk India Pvt. Ltd., India Nucleome Informatics Pvt. Ltd., India Nurbanu & Amir Hemani, India O Naresh Kumar, India

O P Tibrewala Foundation, India Odisha Construction Corporation (OCC) Ltd., India Okoro Desmond Osohen, Nigeria One Sight India Foundation, India Optimus Drugs Pvt. Ltd., India Optival Health Solutions Pvt. Ltd., India Orissa Conctruction Corporation (OCC) Ltd, India Ornate India Project, India Orson Holdings Company Ltd., India Oruganti Vijayasree, India Oshiwara Land Development Co. Ltd., India P Arjuna Rao, India P B Charitable Foundation Trust, India P C Tejaswi, India P Jaya Bharathi, India P K Bakshi, India P K Business Enterprise Ltd., India P K Kanoria, India P K Sai Prakash, India PMI Organization Centre Pvt Ltd., India P Narendra & P Mahendra, India P P D Pharmaceutical Development India Pvt. Ltd., India P Rajya Lakshmi, India P Rama Devi, India P Rama Rao Naimisam, India P Rama Rao, India P Rama, India P Ramesh Goud, India P V Chalapathi Rao, India PVKSVarma, India P Venkatapathi Raju, India P Yasmeen & Saryeen, India Pabba Shankaraiah, India Padma & Prasad Guntupalli, USA Padma & V Neelakanta Rao Dantu, India Padma Boorgu, India Padmavathi Abbinai, India Padmavathi Chevuri, USA Padmini Gopalakrishnan, India Palle Rama Rao, India Pandrol Rahee Technologies Pvt. Ltd., India Pang Chia-Li, Singapore Panjala Lakshmi Devi, India Pankaj Jain, India Paras Mehta, India Parasakti Cement Industries Ltd., Pardhasaradhi Srinivasa Viswanadha, Singapore Paresh Karia, India

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