



Nethrodaya
LET'S SHARE THE LIGHT

The Eyeopener...

Annual News Magazine

2015 - 2016

He has been the silver lining for those who couldn't see.

Now his years of service reaches the silver jubilee.

Gopi



I, C. Govindakrishnan, fondly known as Gopi, am extremely happy to share my joy with one and all that I completed 25 years of service to the differently abled community on October 2nd 2016. It has been a great privilege for me to establish Nethrodaya as an institution to serve the visually challenged community of Tamil Nadu.

As I faced the issue of visual impairment at the tender age of childhood I was filled with shock and fear. I wish to salute my father Sri. K. P. Sethumadhavan and my mother Smt. S. Subhadra who have been my guiding spirit and helped me deal

with the tough challenges. I place on record my thanks to my wife Usha who has stood with me in the most difficult times and my loving children. In hindsight I feel my visual impairment has been the driving force behind me and it was in turn a blessing in disguise for me to understand and champion the cause of the visually challenged community.

As I recall the journey traversed so far in the service of the differently-abled, especially the visually challenged community, I fondly recollect the initial five years I spent as part of the Association of Blind Students. We were spearheading a movement for securing the basic rights of the visually challenged student community by participating in protests, hunger strikes and rallies. We were representing the legitimate demands of the visually challenged community with various Government Departments. As I was in the forefront of many agitations for establishing the education and employment rights of the visually challenged, I was imprisoned more than fifteen times. The Government Departments had finally agreed to our demands and provided employment opportunities and other facilities for the welfare of the visually challenged student community.

Thereafter I joined an NGO as a Project Officer where I got an opportunity to serve the mentally ill destitute women. During this period I was involved in rescuing destitute women from streets who belonged to various states of India and hospitalizing them as they were suffering from physical and mental ailments. After their rehabilitation, it is indeed a great pleasure that I have been instrumental in restoring 122 of the rescued women and reuniting them to their respective families.



Towards the end of my fifth year with the NGO, I wanted to undergo a Post Graduate Diploma in Social Entrepreneurship conducted by Centre for Social Initiative and Management. I was able to gain professional expertise to head an organisation and run it effectively. As part of the diploma, I was asked to do a project work for which I chose to do a survey on blind persons who resorted to begging. The survey result was a rude shock to me as it showed that most of them were educated. The other important finding of the survey was that the blindness of the visually challenged was not the core issue but the real issue was their poverty which was the reason they could not pursue their higher education as they could not afford the boarding and lodging expenses in city colleges. This was the prime motivation for me to establish Nethrodaya as a solution to address the problems faced by the visually challenged student community.

Nethrodaya was born on 2nd October 2002 in a rented building of 450 square feet with a seed capital of Rs. 82. In fourteen years of our existence we have grown gradually and Nethrodaya is now housed in its own building with an approximate area of 20,000 square feet built on a plot of land allotted to Nethrodaya by Government of Tamil Nadu. It gives me immense happiness and fulfillment when I see many of my dream initiatives for the welfare of the visually challenged community turn into reality in the past fourteen years. All these strategic welfare initiatives were possible only due to the unconditional support of donors, volunteers, well-wishers, kind hearted individuals and members of the society who have stood by me.

It is a great pleasure to share with you that Nethrodaya's services to the differently-abled community has been recognized and I have been awarded the Best Social Worker by the erstwhile Chief Minister Shri M. Karunanidhi in the year 2010. Nethrodaya has been awarded as the Best Social Service Institution by the Chief Minister Ms. J. Jayalalithaa in 2012, for the outstanding contribution for the welfare of the differently-abled community of Tamil Nadu. It is significant to note that I was honored by both the Chief Ministers who belong to two major political parties, cutting across party considerations. I have been appointed as member in various committees constituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu for the welfare of the differently-abled community of Tamil Nadu.

Nethrodaya has been able to serve thousands of visually challenged persons during the past fourteen years by offering quality education at school and college level, creating opportunities for employment and delivering medical services for the visually challenged individuals. All the above services are provided completely free of cost. Our future welfare initiatives at Nethrodaya include establishing an English Medium School for the visually challenged to meet the long felt needs of the students and their families. We propose to construct additional class rooms which will benefit many visually challenged and orthopedically challenged students who aspire for quality English medium education. I appeal to all the supporters of Nethrodaya to stand by us in the future initiatives which will transform the lives of the underprivileged visually challenged individuals to live a life of dignity and fulfillment.

Best Institution Award to Nethrodaya



Best Social Worker Award to C. Govindakrishnan



PROJECTS

NETHRODAYA'S SELF EMPLOYMENT SCHEME FOR THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED

Every year many visually challenged people migrate to the city in search of ways to sustain their livelihood and are left with no other choice but to beg in trains and bus stops. Nethrodaya has understood the plight of the visually challenged and offers seed capital in the form of marketable products which could be sold in the suburban train network. Raghu a visually challenged person from Arakkonam who was one of the beneficiaries said "I thank Nethrodaya for providing seed capital for goods with which I have been able to earn a regular income". The noble initiative helped the families to get a substantial income on a daily basis thereby paving the way for them to lead a dignified life. More than 5000 visually challenged persons have been benefitted by this scheme in the past fourteen years.



ASSISTANCE TO EDUCATE THE CHILDREN OF VISUALLY CHALLENGED PARENTS

Nethrodaya has understood the struggles faced by visually challenged parents in bringing up their children. Besides the challenges to sustain their livelihood, the visually challenged parents have to meet the educational expenses of their wards. Non availability of government schools in their localities and the exorbitant fees of private schools overburden the visually challenged parents. Nethrodaya has been lending a helping hand to visually challenged parents by sponsoring the educational expenses of their children so that they get quality education and in the later stages of their lives the visually challenged parents will be

taken care of well by their educated children. More than 1000 children have been benefitted by this initiative. We thank Shree Saritha Jain Foundation for extending their unconditional support consistently for the past fourteen years to make this scheme a success.

INDIVIDUAL CATTLE REARING UNIT FOR VISUALLY CHALLENGED FAMILIES

Nethrodaya lends a helping hand to uneducated visually challenged families who reside in remote villages of Tamil Nadu who struggle to meet their basic needs. Nethrodaya has understood the pressing need of these economically backward visually challenged families and has been supporting them by purchasing a hybrid cow with a female calf and handing it over to the families. Nethrodaya arranges for a tie up with the local milk vendor so that the milk can be procured on a regular basis. The cow and calf are insured which makes the family to feel secure. This helps economically backward families to get a stable income and lead their life with self-esteem.



HONORING EMINENT VISUALLY CHALLENGED ACHIEVERS

Nethrodaya wishes to honor outstanding achievers who have made an indelible mark in the society and also contributed for the betterment of the differently abled community. Every year visually challenged achievers have been honored and more fifty than differently abled achievers have been awarded in the last fourteen years. Nethrodaya's "Lifetime Achievement Award 2015" was presented to Mr. Kannappan a visually challenged entrepreneur who is a role model to the visually challenged community as he has chosen a challenging profession and has been successfully running an automobile service centre for motor bikes at Trichy.

DISTRIBUTION OF WHITE CANES

Nethrodaya Trust provides financial assistance to educate children of visually impaired parents, so that the children will be able to take care of the visually challenged parents well in their old age. More than 200 such children are being benefitted by this initiative every year.



DISTRIBUTION OF AUDIO STUDY MATERIAL FOR THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED



The visually challenged students face hurdles like dependency on readers and lack of Braille material while preparing for their board examinations. To overcome these stumbling blocks, Nethrodaya distributes audio study material which comprises of digital recordings of all subjects to the visually challenged students in the form of DVDs completely free of cost. These audio study materials could be used repeatedly to listen to the lessons at any time according to their choice. Audio study material places their learning speed on par with sighted students and helps them achieve better results.

NETHRODAYA'S FREE MEDICAL HELPLINE

Nethrodaya runs a 24X7 free medical help line to provide quality medical services to the visually challenged patients who have met with accidents or who are suffering from physical ailments. We have tied up with Hindu Mission Hospital for quality medical care and services. More than a thousand people have been benefitted by way of medical assistance through Nethrodaya in the past fourteen years. Gowri, a visually challenged mother came to know about Nethrodaya's free medical helpline and contacted us for her 10-year-old daughter's ear injury. Nethrodaya referred her to the hospital and the surgery was performed successfully. Gowri while thanking Nethrodaya said "The timely help rendered by Nethrodaya has given me the much needed relief without which the surgery would have been impossible"

We appeal to our supporters to contribute generously towards meeting the expenses incurred towards purchase of consumables and medicines which has to be paid to the hospital.



NETHRODAYA'S FREE RESIDENTIAL HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Our Special School, recognized by Government of Tamilnadu was established in the year 2012 and has been running successfully for the past three years. The school exclusively serves the visually challenged boys and girls who hail from rural and economically backward villages of Tamil Nadu. The students are provided quality education with boarding and lodging facility completely free of cost.

Here is a glimpse of the challenges faced by two of our students who turned the stumbling blocks into stepping stones for success



Master. S. Gowtham, a student of a private school was expelled from the school due to sudden loss of vision in his twelfth class. His parents approached Nethrodaya for school admission. The quick acceptance of his visual disability and his vision to prove his ability has helped him secure the first place among the differently abled students in the district within the short span of a year. It is indeed a matter of pride that the students from Nethrodaya's Higher Secondary School for the Blind have been the district toppers for the past three years. Nethrodaya wishes Master. S. Gowtham the best in all his future endeavors.

Krishnamoorthy is undoubtedly Nethrodaya's Helen Keller. He was born with multiple disabilities such as hearing and speech impairment along with visual impairment of low vision. Having lost his parents at an early age he was passionate about getting educated and his grandmother brought him to Nethrodaya. He had to learn each lesson by seeing it in written form in bold letters, understand them, and learn them by heart. It was laborious and continuous hard work which was monumental as he had to communicate his doubts with his teachers in writing and the teachers had to clear his doubts in written form again and again till he understood them completely. It defies one's understanding how he learnt to do mathematics which involves complicated steps and logical sequences. His determination to learn gave him enormous energy to undergo innumerable difficulties with a smiling face. He has passed the tenth standard board examination conducted recently with flying colors. Nethrodaya salutes his indomitable will to turn impossibility into possibility and would always cherish him for being an icon to other students.



NETHRODAYA'S FREE B.Ed. COLLEGE OF FOR THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED



The B.Ed. colleges charge exorbitant fees which is unaffordable for the visually challenged graduates. Nethrodaya has addressed this need and has enabled the differently abled students pursue B.Ed. course and qualify themselves for availing the quota reserved in government jobs in the teaching sector. Nethrodaya is the only college which offers B.Ed. course for the differently abled completely free of cost. Nethrodaya College of Special Education is affiliated to Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University and is approved by the Rehabilitation Council of India. This initiative of Nethrodaya will make the differently abled students become financially independent and lead a dignified life.

FREE RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES FOR COLLEGE GOING VISUALLY CHALLENGED STUDENTS

Visually challenged students from rural areas who come to Chennai for higher education are badly in need of affordable hostel facilities. Nethrodaya has understood the need of the students who hail from remote villages and provides boarding and lodging facilities free of cost till they complete their academic courses. More than 1500 students have been benefitted by this initiative in the past fourteen years.

Sivakumar was born as a totally visually challenged child with visually challenged siblings to poverty stricken parents in an interior village in Thiruvannamalai district. He made an irrevocable decision to achieve academic excellence while he was a small boy. His unquenchable thirst for knowledge and educational excellence made him pursue secondary, higher secondary, graduate, and post graduate levels and to successfully complete his Doctorate in Philosophy. He was awarded his Ph.D. recently. His disciplined academic performance and his perseverance to pursue his chosen educational mission despite all obstacles without compromising for short term gains, made him a role model for other visually challenged aspirants. He is the first generation graduate in his neighborhood and the first visually challenged Ph.D in his village. He has become a legend and a hero among the mothers of his district who quote his example to inspire their children.

Sivakumar spent more than a decade as a student in Nethrodaya. Nethrodaya is proud of his success and achievements and wishes him the best in his endeavors.



LIFE SKILLS OF OUR STUDENTS

Apart from education, students of Nethrodaya are equipped with necessary life skills to support themselves and be independent in their day to day activities. While normal students themselves under the care of their parents shirk from doing their daily chores, students at Nethrodaya take care of themselves fully with minimal or low assistance including washing their clothes, cleaning their plates, and maintaining their dormitories spic and span. The entire premises of Nethrodaya is well maintained by the students of Nethrodaya and by itself is proof that students of Nethrodaya can take care of themselves well and contribute well to the society at large.



COMPUTER TRAINING CENTER

Nethrodaya offers computer training in courses like MS Office and Internet basics completely free of cost to visually challenged students to empower them with technological skills and improve their employment prospects. The lab is equipped with voice enabled screen reading software and a digital Braille printer for better utilization and access.



ESTABLISHMENT OF READING CENTER FOR THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED

Nethrodaya has established a reading center within the premises where committed volunteers offer reading and other services to our students by helping them in reading books, writing assignments, recording lessons and being a scribe for their exams. Volunteers include retired officials, housewives and employees. We are looking for more volunteer support to assist our students to achieve more.



"Donating our eyes is impossible. While donating cornea only cures corneal blindness there are different kinds of eye disorders which can't be cured. Can we donate our eye sight while we are still alive? We say "Yes, it is possible – by volunteering for reading service at Nethrodaya".

Volunteering Timings
Weekdays: 3:00PM to 6:00 PM
Weekends: 10AM to 1PM

FITNESS CENTRE

As Emerson rightly said the first wealth is health. Nethrodaya cares for the wholesome well-being of visually challenged students residing in the premises. Nethrodaya is equipped with a fully functional gym and a trainer. Students utilize the facility on a regular basis; boys and girls are given different timings.



YOGA CLASSES



Nethrodaya conducts regular yoga classes for the visually challenged students by experienced and trained yoga expert which ensures the physical and mental well-being as well as concentration and immunity against diseases.

SPOKEN ENGLISH CLASSES



As spoken English is a strategic and essential life skill for becoming effective in academic and professional career for the visually challenged students, Nethrodaya conducts practice oriented spoken English Classes on a regular basis by experienced English facilitators.

LEGAL ADVOCACY – APPOINTMENT OF QUALIFIED SCRIBES FOR BOARD EXAMINATIONS

Visually challenged students appearing for board examination undergo hardships, ordeals and mental stress on account of appointment of unqualified scribes for the examinations who lack basic skills and efficiency. Many visually challenged students who appeared for the board examinations in the past have felt that the scribes were unable write the contents verbatim as dictated by the students and committed grammar and spelling mistakes as the scribes lacked basic knowledge in the concerned subjects. Further many of the scribes also have problems in hearing which hampered the speed and accuracy of the answers written in the answer sheets.

Nethrodaya filed a public interest litigation with a prayer to direct the State Government to frame new guidelines and issue Government orders for appointment of scribes. The honorable Chief justice of Madras High court carefully examined and understood the merits of the said case and issued the historic judgment directing the State Government to issue modified guidelines by incorporating the suggestions.

NETHRODAYA'S PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES

AUDIO ALERT SYSTEM AT BUS STOPS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED

Visually challenged individuals are unable to know the bus numbers and find it extremely difficult to board buses at the bus terminus and stops. They have to depend on fellow passengers to know the bus numbers and board the buses for reaching their destination. Nethrodaya represented this issue to the State Government on behalf of the visually challenged community to establish an audio alert system at bus stops and bus terminals. The Government of Tamil Nadu sought the help of experts to design this audio alert system and funds were sanctioned within a quick span of time. Nethrodaya wishes to thank the state government for the immediate consideration and action taken.

AUDITORY TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT BUSY CROSS ROADS FOR THE BENEFIT OF VISUALLY CHALLENGED

Visually challenged individuals risk their lives while crossing busy traffic signals as traffic signals are in the form of lights and they have to depend on fellow pedestrians. Nethrodaya has brought this difficulty to the knowledge of the state government and requested to set up auditory traffic signals at busy junctions. The Government of Tamil Nadu engaged technicians for designing such signals and sanctioned the funds for setting up the same. Nethrodaya thanks the state government for taking up this issue on top priority and for subsequent steps taken.

SMARTCANS

White canes used by visually challenged are very vital to their mobility and safety by helping them to avoid mishaps caused due to falling into pits and manholes. In these times of technology, smartcans have been designed for the aid of visually challenged people which can alert the impending danger in the form of beep sound to safeguard the visually challenged from falling into pits and banging on vehicles. Nethrodaya requested the state government to distribute free smartcans for the visually challenged community and the amount has been sanctioned for around 6000 sticks. We thank the Government of Tamil Nadu for the favorable response.

DONOR'S PAGE

Nethrodaya wishes to thank Donors, Volunteers and Well-Wishers who have played a vital role in running this Institution successfully for the past fourteen years. Our Donors, Volunteers and Well-Wishers belong to all strata of the society and cut across all age-groups.

A GLIMPSE OF FEW OF OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Mr. Viswanathan

While most of the retired persons confront the emptiness in their lives by spending time with their grandchildren, visiting temples and as a last resort by watching television for hours, Mr. Viswanathan took this as a golden opportunity to serve the society by helping the visually challenged children of Nethrodaya. He has been rendering invaluable service to Nethrodaya and is only a telephone call away, ever ready to serve the visually challenged with a smiling face. We salute the senior citizen for his sincere and committed service and also thank him for sharing his valuable time, wisdom and experience with our children.



THREE MUSKETEERS OF NETHRODAYA WITH A WILL TO DO AND HEART TO SERVE

Three young men after successfully completing their engineering degree decided to start a small scale canteen in the neighborhood of Nethrodaya giving quality food at reasonable price under hygienic conditions. Their team work and the penchant for quality made them popular in the area and they are able to meet their financial needs. They did not consider it below their dignity to run the small scale canteen despite their good education. They came to know about Nethrodaya

and its services for the welfare of the visually challenged and came forward spontaneously to donate the excess food prepared in their canteen to Nethrodaya on a regular basis. Nethrodaya values this noble gesture of love and compassion of kind hearted individuals like these educated youngsters and wishes them the very best for a bright future.

Supporters of Nethrodaya

Anna Nagar Times
G Joseph & Co
Pravda Law Associates
R.K. Industries
Pushpa Visuals
Sarita Jain Foundation

Kovai Pazhamudhir Nilayam
Vellammal Group of Institutions
Hotel Radha Regent
JSP Honda
Sri Ayyappa Seva Samaj
Gee Gee Kay Pvt Ltd

Supporters of Nethrodaya

Judiciary at Nethrodaya

Hon'ble Chief Justice KarpagaVinayagam – Inauguration of Nethrodaya - 2nd October 2002.

Hon'ble Chief Justice HemantLaxmanGhokale - South Indian Sports Meet - 26th July 2009.

Hon'ble Justice P.K. Mishra – South Indian Chess Tournament - 26th August 2007.

Hon'ble Justice PrabhaSridevan – 7th Anniversary Celebration - 25th October 2009.

Hon'ble Justice Mani Kumar – State Level Career Counseling & Guidance Inauguration - 22nd January 2010.

Hon'ble Justice Venkatraman – 8th Anniversary - 31st October 2010.

Hon'ble Justice Nagamuthu – Award of Excellence - 13th June 2010.

Hon'ble Justice K.N. Basha – State Level Career Counseling & Guidance - 27th February 2011.

Hon'ble Justice Mathivanan - Inauguration of Free Community Hall and release of B.Ed. Audio Book for Visually Challenged Students - 1st May 2011.

Hon'ble Justice P.N.Prakash - State Level Career Counselling and Guidance, 2013.

Hon'ble Justice Kirubakaran - State Level Chess Competition for Impaired 2014.the Visually

Hon'ble Justice D. HariParanthaman – State Level Conference on Career Counseling & Guidance 2014.

Hon'ble Justice V. Ramasubramanian – State Level Felicitation of the Visually Impaired 2015.

Hon'ble Justice T. Raja – State Level Chess Tournament for the Visually Impaired 2015.

Hon'ble Thiru. Justice S. Vaidyanathan – 13th Anniversary Celebrations of Nethrodaya – 31st October 2015

Hon'ble Thiru. Justice R. Mahadevan – The State Level Conference on Career Counseling & Guidance 2016.

Hon'ble Justice P.N.Prakash - State Level Felicitation of the Visually Impaired on 12th June 2016.

Hon'ble Justice M.M Sundaresh – State Level Chess Tournament for the Visually Impaired on 26th August 2016.

The IPS family at Nethrodaya

Commodore R.S. Vasan, Commander Coast Guard Region (East) – 1st Anniversary Celebration 2003

Thiru. Alexander, DGP – Third Anniversary on 2nd October 2005

Thiru. G. NanchilKumaran, IPS – Anniversary on 7th October 2007

Thiru. Mukherjee, DGP – South Indian Adapted Volleyball Tournament

Thiru. Nataraj, ADGP – Computer Training Centre Inauguration on 25th October 2009

Thiru. Sekar, ADGP – South Indian Adapted Volleyball Tournament

Thiru. Radhakrishnan, ADGP – Cricket Tournament

Thiru. Vijayakumar, ADGP – Special Visit

Thiru. Md. ShakeelAkther, Addl. Commissioner – Interface Meet of the Visually Challenged Families on 11th July 2010

Thiru. T.K.Rajendran, IPS, Additional Director General of Police – Ninth Anniversary Celebrations on 23rd Oct 2011

Inspector General Thiru. S.P. Sharma PTM TM, Commander Coast Guard Region (East) - Ninth Anniversary Celebrations on 23rd Oct 2011

Thiru. K. Ramanujam, IPS, Director General of Police – Tenth Anniversary Celebrations on 2nd Oct 2012

Dr. C. SylendraBabu, IPS, Addl. Director General of Police – State Level Conference on Career Counseling & Guidance for the Visually Impaired

Supporters of Nethrodaya

Bureaucrats at Nethrodaya

Thiru. C.K. Gariyali, IAS, Secretary, Social Welfare – Braille Library Inauguration on 30th January 2005

Thiru. L. Vijayaraghavan, IAS, Secretary, Social Welfare – Third Anniversary on 2nd October 2005

Thiru. Mohan VergheseChungath, IAS, Commissioner for Disabled – Nethrodaya Award of Excellence

Thiru. V.K. Jeyakodi, IAS, Commissioner for Disabled - State Level Career Counseling & Guidance for the Visually Challenged on 27th February 2011

Thiru. Audiseshiah, IAS, Secretary, PWD – Nethrodaya Building Foundation Laying Ceremony on 21st January 2007

Thiru. RajendraKumar, IAS, Collector, Thiruvallur – Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony on 21st January 2007

Thiru. Kumar Jayanth, IAS, Secretary, Govt. of Tamil Nadu – Website Launch

Thiru.Thangasamy, IAS, Collector, Thiruvallur, South Indian Adapted Volleyball Tournament Inauguration on 3rd July 2005

Dr. M.S. Ananth, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras – Cricket for the Blind 2006

Thiru. Ranvir Prasad, IAS, Collector, Thiruvallur – Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony on 21st January 2007

Thiru. Palaniappan, IAS, Secretary, Social Welfare – Audio Book Release on 6th December 2008

Thiru. Ram Mohan Rao, IAS, Secretary, Social Service – South Indian Sports Meet on 26th July 2009

Thiru. G. Sundaramurthi, IAS, Collector, Thiruvallur District – Building Inauguration 2009

Thiru. K. Dhanavel, IAS, Secretary, Revenue – World Environment Day on 4th June 2010

Tmt. MeenakshiRajagopal, IAS, Commissioner for Differently abled- Special Visit

Thiru. Vijay Rajkumar, IAS, State Commissioner for Differently Abled – Book Release Function on 4th December 2009

Thiru. S.S. Jawahar, IAS, Secretary, Dept. for the Welfare of the Differently Abled – State Level Felicitation Ceremony for the Visually Challenged

Thiru. P. R. Shampath, IAS, State Commissioner for Differently Abled – State Level Felicitation of the visually challenged on 25th June 2011

Tmt. KannegiPackianathan, IAS, Secretary, Welfare of the Differently Abled Department – State Level Chess Competition for the Visually Challenged on 7th Aug 2011

Thiru. K.S. Sripathi, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu – Workshop on Right to Information for the Visually Challenged, 2011

Mr. Bryan Dalton, Chief of Consular Services, Consulate General of the United States of America – State Level Conference on Career Planning & Skill Sets Development, 2011

Dr. G. Jayachandran, IAS, Secretary to Government, Law, Govt. of Tamil Nadu – State Level Conference on Career Counseling & Guidance 2012

Thiru. P. Sivasankaran, IAS, Secretary, Welfare of the Differently Abled Department – State Level Chess Competition for the Visually Challenged on 8th Aug 2013

Thiru. Prasanna Kumar Pincha, Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of India – 11th Anniversary Celebrations 2013

Dr. K. Manivasagam, IAS, State Commissioner for the Differently Abled, Govt. of Tamil Nadu – Visually Impaired Achievers' Award Celebrations - 2014

Selvi. Apoorva, IAS, Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department – State Level Chess Competition for the Visually Challenged – 22nd August 2015

Thiru. G. Visvanathan, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University – Felicitation

Thiru. M.Vijayakumar, I.A.S, Secretary to Government, Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission - 13th Anniversary Celebrations of Nethrodaya– 31stOctober 2015

Thiru. Md. Nasimuddin, I.A.S, Principal Secretary to Government, Department to the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons – The State Level Conference on Career Counseling & Guidance – 30th January 2016

Thiru. E. Sundaravalli, I.A.S, District Collector, Thiruvallur – State Level Felicitation of the visually impaired on 12th June 2016.

Thiru S.Murugiah, IAS, State Commissioner for the Differently Abled, Govt. of Tamil Nadu- State Level Chess Competition for Visually Impaired 2016 on 26th August 2016.

EVENTS

NETHRODAYA'S THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Nethrodaya reinforced its resolve to serve the visually challenged population of Tamil Nadu by celebrating the thirteenth anniversary on the 31st of October 2015. Eminent personalities from various fields joined us to celebrate this significant milestone.

Justice Vaidyanathan of Madras High Court appreciated the steps taken by Nethrodaya for empowering the visually challenged community. Mr. Vijayakumar IAS, Secretary, Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission while presiding over the function lauded Nethrodaya's efforts in imparting quality education for the visually challenged and emphasized that they should acquire necessary skills and qualifications which will enable them to avail the 3% quota reserved for the disabled in Government jobs.



STATE LEVEL CONFERENCE ON CAREER COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE

The state level conference on career counselling and guidance for the visually challenged was conducted by Nethrodaya on the 30th and 31st of January 2016. More than 300 visually challenged underprivileged students from various districts of Tamil Nadu participated in the event.

The visually challenged young achievers from various fields like law, banking, information technology and other fields shared their experiences and interacted with the students which proved to be a source of inspiration and guidance to the participants. The participants were enlightened with various techniques of preparation for the board exams, discussions on various subjects, pattern of questions, available career opportunities etc.



Justice R. Mahadevan of Madras High Court, while inaugurating the conference congratulated Nethrodaya for the novel initiative of organizing a career guidance program uniquely for the benefit of visually challenged. Thiru. Md. Nasimuddin IAS, Principal Secretary to Government – Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons, while delivering the keynote address said that the days are not far off when visually challenged students will emerge the state toppers in the board exams while competing with their sighted counterparts and create a new milestone in the educational milieu of Tamil Nadu.



FELICITATION OF THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED STUDENT ACHIEVERS

Nethrodaya felicitated the visually challenged student toppers who passed the Tamil Nadu Board examination held for 10th and 12th standard students in the academic year 2015-2016 and proved their abilities beyond physical barriers. The historic event was held on the 12th of June 2016 and forty outstanding student achievers were honored with prize money, medals and certificates.

A host of personalities from various fields including Hon'ble Justice P. N. Prakash, Madras High Court, Tmt. E. Sundaravalli, IAS, District Collector, Thiruvallur felicitated the state toppers. We like to express our thanks to Thiru. M.V.M. Velmurugan of Velammal Educational Trust who has been sponsoring the cash prizes for the past several years and has been a pillar of strength to us.



STATE LEVEL CHESS COMPETITION FOR THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED

The state level chess competition for the visually challenged organized by Nethrodaya was held on the 26th August 2016. This event is being conducted annually to identify fresh talent, to provide a platform for the visually challenged budding chess players from rural districts of Tamil Nadu and to bring their talents to the fore.

Justice M.M. Sundaresh of Madras High Court presided over the inaugural function and the trophies were unveiled by Thiru. S. Murugiah IAS., State Commissioner for the Differently Abled Persons, Govt. of Tamil Nadu. The youngest Grandmaster Arvind Chidambaram distributed the prizes to the visually challenged chess champions.

We express our sincere gratitude to Mr. R. Srinivasan, Managing Director, Hotel Radha Regent who has been relentlessly supporting us since the beginning by providing us with the venue and food for all the visually challenged participants.





OUR APPEAL

An opportunity to serve at Nethrodaya by:

1. Registering your name to be a scribe for writing examinations for the visually challenged students
2. Volunteering to read for our students – 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm on all days and additionally from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm on weekends; recording lessons, writing school and college assignments as per the student's dictation.
3. Volunteering at Nethrodaya for our welfare initiatives and events.

An appeal for donations in kind by:

1. Donating old clothes which are usable and are in good condition for the use of visually challenged individuals.
2. Donating old furniture such as chairs, tables, sofa, shelves etc.
3. Donating provision items such as sugar, rice, oil, pulses etc.

An opportunity to contribute to Nethrodaya's recurring expenditure by:

1. Feeding the visually challenged children.

Celebrate your special days like birthdays, anniversaries etc. by sponsoring

Breakfast	Rs. 1250/-
Lunch	Rs. 1750/-
Dinner	Rs. 1750/-
High Tea	Rs. 250/-

2. Donate a stick for visually challenged. Cost Rs. 125/-
3. Sponsoring the monthly expense of a visually challenged student – Rs. 2,400/-
4. Donate Braille books and Audio books for the visually challenged students – Rs. 500/-
5. Sponsoring the medical expenses for a student resident – Rs. 5000/- per annum.
6. Donate towards the salary for the special educator. Cost Rs. 10000/-
7. Donate a cow for the visually challenged rural poor family. Cost Rs. 25000/-



Nethrodaya

LET'S SHARE THE LIGHT



No.47/1, Nolambur Phase II, Mogappair West, Chennai - 600037, Tamil Nadu, India.
 Telephone: +91-44-26530712, 26533680, 42655741 Mobile Phone: +91-93828 96636, 95661 62955
 E Mail: nethrodaya@yahoo.com, nethrodaya@gmail.com Website: www.nethrodaya.org, www.nethrodayafreelegalaid.org

Public Charitable Trust Registration Number & Date: 430/2002/4 dt 21st June 2002 **All Donations are exempted under Section 80G of IT Act** Registered U/S 12A Appn # 2(213)/02-03

*Contributions by cheque or demand draft may be drawn favouring "Nethrodaya"
 Donations are accepted under FCRA.*