

The Eyeopener...

Annual News Magazine



Stronger Together We are Marching Ahead

Founder's Desk

I, **C. Govindakrishnan**, fondly known as **Gopi**, am extremely happy to share my joy with one and all that I completed **32 years** of service to the differently abled community on October 2nd 2023. It has been a great privilege for me to establish **Nethrodaya** as an institution to serve the Visually Challenged community of Tamil Nadu.

Nethrodaya has been able to serve thousands of Visually Challenged persons during the past **21 years** by offering quality education at the 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.



I appeal to all 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 fulfilment.

The message that could be taken from my life is that with the right amount of perseverance, thought and action, no problem, no matter how large it seems, could never be a hindrance to one who wants to serve himself and also others.

Awards & Recognitions

Nethrodaya as an organization and its founder, **Mr C Govindakrishnan** have been through a remarkable, momentous journey in the last three decades. Their achievements have earned accolades at state, national and international levels, establishing the model, it is today as a valuable resource for like-minded institutions.

State Level

- ◆ Outstanding Achievers Award from **M.S. Dadha Foundation** on **9th February 2024**
- ◆ Alert Being Award for Real Life Hero - **A Good Samaritan** on **16th March 2023**
- ◆ Lifetime Achievement Award by **Lions Club of Chennai Phoenix** on **2nd July 2017**.
- ◆ Service Excellence Award by **Confederation of Tamil Nadu Malayalee Associations** on **1st September 2012**.
- ◆ Best Institution Award by the **Government of Tamil Nadu** on **15th August 2012**.
- ◆ Life Time Achievement Award by **Rotary Club of Chennai Midcity** on **4th July 2012**.
- ◆ Best Social Worker Award by the **Government of Tamil Nadu** on **15th August 2010**.
- ◆ State Award for Eminence by **Indian Association for the Blind** on **30th January 2010**.

National Level

- ♥ National Award for Empowerment of Person with Disabilities under the category “**Shresth Divyangjan**” from the Honourable President **Smt. Droupadi Murmu** on **3rd December 2023**
- ♥ **NCPEDP-LTI Mindtree Helen Keller Award** for Role Model Supporters of Increased Employment for persons with Disabilities on **10th December 2022**.
- ♥ Ability Award for Eminence by **Ability Foundation** on **27th February 2021**
- ♥ “Master of Achievement” by **National Integrity Cultural Academy** on **15th May 2010**.

International Level

- Doctorate in Social Service Conferred by **Asian Vedic Culture Research University** on **30th April 2022**.
- Exceptional Leader of Excellence Award by **Women Economic Forum** on **19th August 2018**.
- Citizen of the Year Award by **Australian Consulate General Alumni Association (India)** on **6th June 2015**
- Ashoka Fellow International Award by **Ashoka Innovators for the Public** on **15th October 2005**.



Awards & Recognitions



Best Social Worker Award
C. Govindakrishnan



Best Institution Award
Nethrodaya



With the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Mr. M.K. Stalin who announced increase in Pension for the Differently Aabled to Rs. 1,500/- p.m.

In House Services

Free Residential Higher Secondary Special School for the Visually Impaired & Physically Challenged recognised by The Government of Tamil Nadu

Nethrodaya's Special School for the Visually Impaired, Orthopaedically Disabled and Physically Challenged, is a unique and the only Educational Institution in Tamil Nadu which is being run by a Visually Impaired person benefiting hundreds of Visually Impaired and Differently-abled Economically Backward Students hailing from remote Villages of Tamil Nadu. **Nethrodaya** continues to impart best quality education, absolutely free of cost.



Nethrodaya practices inclusiveness with an integrated methodology. Here the Visually Impaired and the Orthopaedic Students co-exist to learn and leverage upon each other's strengths by overcoming their disabilities. Implemented successfully, this practice provides an opportunity for the Orthopaedic Students to read and write for the Visually Impaired and to share and exchange their books of knowledge.

We have been imparting the best quality Special Education to the Economically Backward Visually Impaired as well as Physically Challenged Boys and Girls from Classes 1 to 12.

Computer Lab

Nethrodaya's well-equipped computer lab equipped with the best quality screen readers, braille printers, and free browsing facility for the visually impaired is the first of its kind in Tamil Nadu. It provides much needed training for the visually impaired to work with Microsoft Office, Internet, and emails on par with sighted persons. Thousands of students have passed out from **Nethrodaya** with enviable digital competence and settled in decent IT jobs with attractive salaries. They stand testimony to the success of **Nethrodaya's** computer training courses for the last Twenty-One years.



Reading Centre

The warmth and liveliness of human reading can never be replaced by any machine. Realizing this truth, **Nethrodaya** appealed to hundreds of kind-hearted Volunteers who continue to offer their eyesight and voice to read out books and study materials to the Visually Impaired Students. These Readers who read Textbooks also lend voice for recording Study Material and take the role of a Scribe for the Visually Impaired to appear for their Exams. They very often turn out to be excellent Teachers and a window to the outer society of our Students, thereby contributing to their Holistic Development.



Yoga Classes



Nethrodaya believes that the practice of Yoga will aid in improving Mental and Physical well-being of its Students. Hence these classes are held under the able guidance of a qualified Yoga Teacher. Specialized Masters are invited to conduct Yoga classes for our Students on a routine basis so that they stay Physically Fit and Mentally Sound.

Fitness Centre

Physical Fitness is an inevitable ingredient for success, more so for the Differently Abled. Realizing this fact, **Nethrodaya** has established a fully functional High-Tech Fitness Centre for our Students where they can indulge in daily Warmups, Exercises and Body Building.



Music and Instruments

Visually Challenged are great Musicians of all time in history. **Nethrodaya** appreciates Students' talent and provides training in Vocal and Musical Instruments to improve their employability in the Music Field and become self-reliant. We also conduct South Indian Level Singing Competition every year.



Park



Recognizing the significance of recreational pursuits, our Inclusive Park Playing Sessions are meticulously crafted to provide Differently-Abled Individuals with the opportunity to participate in Outdoor Activities. This initiative is not merely about play; it's about fostering a vibrant community spirit and promoting overall Well-Being. Students not only enjoy the inherent benefits of Outdoor Play but also receive their essential dose of **Vitamin D**.

Chess Coaching

Blind Chess: Its More than just a Game. There are just Extraordinary People who have inspired the World, changed the Game and brought more public interest to Chess.

The main benefit of Blindfold Chess is that it enhances Focus, Memory and Visualization Skills.

Experts provide Chess coaching to Students of **Nethrodaya** and groom them for participating in Championships in State and National Level.





← Dining Hall

Boys Dormitory →



← Girls Dormitory

Nethrodaya's Learning Academy for Differently Abled

Training is focused on improving one's ability, efficiency, and overall performance. Keeping this in mind, **Nethrodaya's** Training Academy offers Coaching Classes to the underprivileged Visually Impaired and Physically Challenged Students to help them prepare for Competitive Exams. The Academy has a team of qualified Tutors who provide specialized training and guidance to help Students achieve success. Additionally, special Coaching Classes are conducted for Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission Competitive Exams.



Free Hostel Facility for Differently Abled College going Boys & Girls

Many Differently Abled Students, particularly those from remote Villages in Tamil Nadu, face difficulty in finding suitable facilities for Higher Education in the City. These Students require User-Friendly facilities that are free of cost and located in the heart of the City. To address this urgent need, **Nethrodaya** has taken the initiative to provide quality accommodation and food to underprivileged Differently Abled Boys and Girls, who are pursuing Higher Education.



Outreach Activities

Cow Project

While Visual Impairment creates many challenges for any person, blindness coupled with poverty, illiteracy, and rural background leaves the person devoid of any chances of survival.

Nethrodaya identifies such families in rural areas and provides them with a Cow and a Female Calf. The Cow is purchased under the supervision of Cattle Experts and experienced Locals. As the Cows are Insured, families feel safe. Credible Milk Procurers are identified in the



Villages by **Nethrodaya**. Field visits are conducted periodically to ascertain the proper maintenance of Cows. The Cow is not only an Asset now, it has also become the source of survival for hundreds of Visually Impaired families. Through this Project, in the past 21 years, more than 400 Families have benefitted from all 38 districts of Tamil Nadu.

One such Family is **Palaniammal**, who is illiterate and Visually Impaired, hailing from a remote Village in Dindigul District. She had no source of income. **Nethrodaya** provided a Cow and a Female Calf to her Family. The new source of livelihood changed life for the Family, who now feel secure with a stable income in their pockets.

Nethrodaya's Self Employment Scheme for the Visually Challenged People

Initiated 21 Years ago, this Scheme aims to provide a way of livelihood for the Families of the Visually Challenged, by providing them with Seed Capital in the form of Marketable Products. These Products can be sold in the Suburban Train Network. This paves way for the Visually Challenged to make a sustainable monthly income and lead a dignified life. This Noble Scheme, with the objective of preventing the Visually Challenged from begging, has helped over 3000 Visually Impaired persons over the years



Assistance to Educate the Children of Visually Challenged Parents



The Sighted Children of Visually Impaired Parents need good quality Education to plan their future and take care of their Parents in their old age.

Nethrodaya devised a scheme to fund the Education of Children of Visually Impaired Parents.

Thousands of such Children, who are sighted, have benefited from this Scheme, easing the burden of School Fees on their Visually Impaired Parents.

Nethrodaya wishes to dispel the myth that Visually Impaired couples give birth only to Visually Impaired children. On the contrary, the heartening fact is that Visually Impaired couples can give birth to healthy, sighted children.

Monthly Free Grocery Distribution

There are Visually Impaired families who are unable to feed their Children three times a day due to their poverty. In order to address this problem **Nethrodaya** provides free Groceries on a Monthly basis. This initiative has benefited many such families.



Nethrodaya's Free Medical Helpline (+91-44-26533680, 2653 0712)

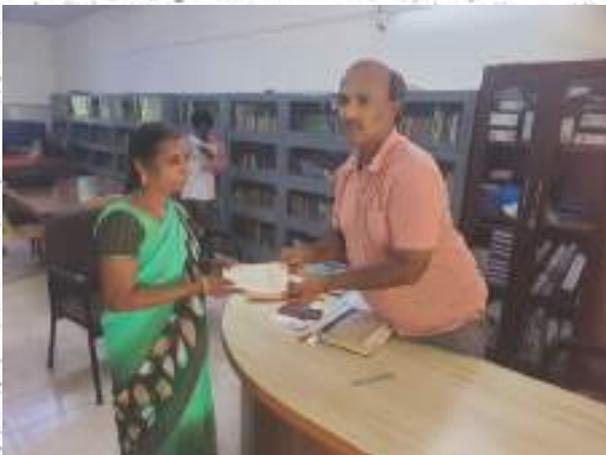
Through its 24/7 Medical Help Line **Nethrodaya** provides Timely and Quality Medical Assistance to Visually Impaired and Physically Challenged persons who are suffering from various medical ailments, free of cost. Our Help Line has come in very useful during times of need and over Thousand Visually Impaired persons have benefitted from this service. Launched in 2004, the Help Line is backed by a committed, hard-working team of Volunteers and Professionals, who pledge to serve those in need immediately.

Elango a boy with Locomotor Disability from Cuddalore district has been suffering with severe infection in his Gall Bladder.

Nethrodaya reached out to him and provided Quality Medical care with the assistance of Expert Doctors and he has thanked **Nethrodaya** for the timely intervention.



Death with Dignity



Nethrodaya launched a unique scheme “**Death with Dignity**” in all 38 districts of Tamil Nadu. We strongly believe that the death of Visually Impaired persons must be treated with utmost dignity, with decent Cremation/Burial. Due to lack of family support and poverty, most of them are unable to perform the last rites of their loved ones who are also Visually Impaired. With Financial Assistance through the Scheme, they will now be able to perform the Final Rites and Funeral of their deceased loved ones and give them a respectful farewell.

In 2021. Cancer was detected in **Kanniyar**, a Visually Impaired . That time it was in advanced stage and his wife Anjali, who is also a Visually Impaired, had taken him to several hospitals for treating. Unfortunately, he passed away. The family was unable to perform his last rites due to poverty. **Nethrodaya** came forward to perform the Final Rites and thereby gave a dignified burial to the departed Soul.

Ponmani, a Visually Impaired, hailing from Tirunelveli was married to a Physically Challenged Woman. He had two children. For the past three years he was undergoing treatment for heart disease. On 15th February 2024 he passed away due to sudden Cardiac Arrest. His Wife contacted Nethrodaya's Helpline to perform his Final Rites. **Nethrodaya** supported the family under the Scheme for his last rites.



Events

20th Anniversary Celebrations of Nethrodaya

Nethrodaya completed **20 Years** of its dedicated services for the Welfare of the Visually Impaired Community on **2nd October 2022** and celebrated its 20th Anniversary on 26th November 2022.

The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Justice of Madras High Court **Tmt. R.M. Manjula**.



Tmt. Jacintha Lazarus, I.A.S, State

Commissioner for Welfare of the Differently Abled, **Tmt. Sangeetha**, Dy. Director Incharge, National Carrier Service Centre for Differently Abled along with **Shri. Mouna Raagam Murali** renowned Music Director, graced the occasion.

In this august occasion, **Nethrodaya** honoured **Poorna Sundari I R S** (Visually Impaired) as the “**Beacon of Inspiration**” for making a mark in her chosen field overcoming various challenges inspite of her physical disabilities.

More than 20 families were given seed capital to start small scale businesses in their respective villages.

Honouring the Visually Impaired Student Achievers



The State Level Felicitation of Visually Impaired was held on 26th August 2023 at **Nethrodaya**.

The Event was Inaugurated by Honorable Justice of Madras High Court, **Thiru.V. Lakshminarayanan**.

Thiru. J. Radhakrishnan I.A. S, Commissioner Greater Chennai Corporation, **Thiru. A.K. Kamal Kishore** IAS, Director Welfare of the Differently Abled Department, **Thiru. Senthil**

Dass, Playback Singer and **Thiru. R. Prabhakaran** – Founder & Chairman Lincoln Global Law Chambers graced the occasion.

This event marked the felicitation of State Level Visually Impaired achievers and awarding of Scholarship to Children of Visually Impaired Parents.

South Zone Chess Championship for Visually Challenged organised by Nethrodaya

The **AICFB South Zone Chess Championship** for Visually Challenged was held at **Nethrodaya**. More than 100 Visually Challenged chess players from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry, Telangana and Tamil Nadu participated.

The inauguration of the Three-Day Historic Sporting Event on 29th September 2023 was graced by **Mr. K. Pandiarajan**, Founder – MAFOI, **Tmt. Hemlatha Rajan**, Co-Founder MAFOI, **Thiru R. Prabhakaran**, Founder and Chairman – Lincoln Global Law Chambers and **Commodre R.S. Vasan**, Indian Navy (Retd).

The Valedictory function was held on 01st October 2023. This was graced with the August presence of Hon'ble Justice of Madras High Court **Thiru. A.D. Jagadish Chandra**, **Thiru R. Prabhakaran** – Founder & Chairman Lincoln Global Law Chambers, **Thiru. G. Sriram** – Managing Trustee, Karma Corps, **Thiru. Siva Rama Krishna** – Founder Vidhai Foundation, **Thiru. Nandakumar** – Observer AICFB, **Thiru. Srihari L.R.** – International Master & **Thiru Ananthu** – Renowned Celebrity.

The Winners Trophy was given by Hon'ble Justice of Madras High Court **Thiru. A.D. Jagadish Chandra**.



VIPs at Chess Inauguration Event



VIPs at Chess Valedictory Event



Launching of Chess Tournament Cup



Winner's Trophy

Appeal for Volunteers:

- ▶ To read text-book.
- ▶ To Write Assignment
- ▶ To record Study Materials
- ▶ Be a Scribe for their Exams
- ▶ Volunteering for Events

Appeal for Support in Kind
Donate Old Furniture, Utensils and Clothes
Donate provisions, groceries and Sanitary Essentials

Celebrate your special days such as Festivals, Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries & Remembrance Day with us:

Breakfast :	Rs. 2,500
Lunch :	Rs. 4,500
Dinner :	Rs. 3,000
High Tea :	Rs. 1,000

Donate a stick for Visually Challenged Person: Rs. 125/-

Sponsor a Student's Monthly Educational Expenses: Rs. 2,000

Donate a Cow to a Visually Challenged family (for their Self Employment): Rs.40,000/-

Donate Towards Monthly Medical Expenses: Rs. 10,000/-

Donate towards Seed Capital for Self-Employment of Visually Challenged Small-Scale Vendors Per Person: Rs. 5,000/-

Donate for performing final rites of Poor Visually Challenged Deceased: Rs. 10,000

Nethrodaya's Corpus Fund:

To strengthen our financial resilience in times of crisis, we have established a permanent/capital fund called the Corpus Fund. It is different from every other type of donation or sponsorship as its sole purpose will come into play only in times of emergency. A corpus fund money cannot be utilised directly, rather the interest earned on it allows an organization to run its most essential program without any interruption. By donating to this endowment, you

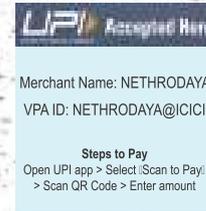
ensure that our organisation can sustain in critical hours of need. In essence our disabled children will have quality care on a regular basis.

How to Donate:

Cheque or Demand Draft to be Drawn in-F/o Nethrodaya

Or online through QR Code

Donations: All Donations are Exempt Under Sec. 80G of IT Act. Registered U/S 12A Appn # 2(213)/02-03



Organisation Structure

Chief Functionary :	Mr. C. Govindakrishnan, Founder Trustee
Board of Trustees	Mr. C. Govindakrishnan, Managing Trustee Mr. V. Ganesh, Trustee Mr. S. Sampath Kumar, Trustee
Patron :	Commodore R.S. Vasani
Advisory Committee:	Mr. Dinesh, Director - Kovai Pazhamudir Nilayam Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pugazhendi, M.D. Hi Proteins Mr. P.K. Vinod Kumar, M.D. Pearl Patch Mr. Harinandan, CEO BUILTECH Engineers & Consultancy. Mr. M. Karthikeyan, Director Projects - Cognizant Mr. P. Harikumar, Former VP - Carboline India Pvt. Ltd.

Motto: Let's Share the light

Core Values: Empowerment is the true development for enabling the differently abled.

Non-Discrimination Policy: Nethrodaya does not discriminate anybody on the basis of Caste, Religion, Creed, Race, Colour, Gender Orientation, disability & belief.

Name of The Organisation:	Nethrodaya
Year of Establishment :	2002
Place	Chennai
Registered as	Public Charitable Trust
Registered on	21st June 2002
Trust Registration No.	430/2002/4
Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act Regn No	473/2022
Approved by Rehabilitation Council of India	
Regn. No.	17-694/B.ed Spl. Ed. (VI)/15-RC/1697
Affiliated to Tamilnadu Teachers Education University	College Code 10229
Nethrodaya Higher Secondary Special School (VI & LD).	
Recognised by Govt. Of Tamil Nadu:	3357/Adm.7/2022
Niti Aayog Regn No. :	TN/ 2018/ 0218171
Permanent Account No. :	AAATN4396E
12A Certificate Unique Registration No.:	AAATN4396EE20216
80G Certificate Unique Registration No.:	AAATN4396EF20214
FCRA Registration No.:	075901108 dated 13.09.2006
CSR Registration No. :	CSR00017927

Details of The Organisation:

Vision: Creation of a suitable environment for nurturing the abilities and talents of the Visually Impaired by means of which they would be able to live their lives with a sense of dignity and self worth as productive members of the society.

Mission: To light up the path of the Visually Impaired by enabling fulfilment of their true potential.

