



*The Eyeopener...*  
Annual News Magazine

2021 - 2022

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 30 years of service to the Differently Aabled community on October 02nd, 2022. 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 recall the journey traversed so far in the service of the Differently Aabled, 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 represented the legitimate demands of the Visually Challenged community with various Government Departments. As I was at 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 finally agreed to our demands and provided employment opportunities and other facilities for the welfare of the Visually Challenged student community.



Thereafter, I joined Banyan, 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 with their respective families.

Nethrodaya was born on 02nd October 2002 in a rented building that measured 450 square feet with a Seed Capital of Rs. 82/-. In 20 years of our existence, we have grown gradually and Nethrodaya is now housed in its own building with an approximate area of more than 20,000 square feet built on a plot of land allotted to Nethrodaya by the Government of Tamil Nadu. It gives me immense happiness and fulfilment when I see many of my dream initiatives for the welfare of the Visually Challenged community turn into reality in the past 20 years. All these strategic welfare initiatives were possible due to the unconditional support of donors, volunteers, well-wishers, kind-hearted individuals and members of the society who have stood by me.

Nethrodaya has been able to serve thousands of Visually Challenged persons during the past 20 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

- State Award for Eminence by Indian Association for the Blind on 30th January 2010
- Best Social Worker Award by the Government of Tamil Nadu on 15th August 2010
- Life Time Achievement Award by Rotary Club of Chennai Midcity on 04th July 2012.
- Best Institution Award by the Government of Tamil Nadu on 15th August 2012.
- Service Excellence Award by Confederation of Tamil Nadu Malayalee Associations on 01st September 2012.
- Lifetime Achievement Award by Lions Club of Chennai Phoenix on 02nd July 2017.

### National Level

- "Master of Achievement" by National Integrity Cultural Academy on 15th May 2010.
- Ability Award for Eminence by Ability Foundation on 27th February 2021

### International Level

- Ashoka Fellow International Award by Ashoka Innovators for the Public on 15th October 2005.
- Citizen of the Year Award by Australian Consulate General Alumni Association (India) on 06th June 2015
- Exceptional Leader of Excellence Award by Women Economic Forum on 19th August 2018
- Doctorate in Social Service Conferred by Asian Vedic Culture Research University on 30th April 2022.



*Best Social Worker Award  
- C Govindakrishnan*



*Best Institution Award - Nethrodaya*



We at Nethrodaya thank the **Honourable Chief Justice of Madras High Court** for issuing a Historic Judgement and our sincere thanks to **Honourable Chief Minister of Tamilnadu** for the Announcement of pension to the differently abled from **Rs.1000 to Rs.1500**.

Our 4 years of legal battle has benefited 4,39,315 differently abled persons in Tamilnadu



## Visitors to Nethrodaya - Judges

Hon'ble Chief Justice Karpaga Vinayagam, Hon'ble Chief Justice Inauguration of Nethrodaya on 2nd October 2002.

Hon'ble Justice P.K. Mishra, Madras High Court – South Chess Tournament on 26th August 2007.

Hon'ble Chief Justice Hemant Laxman Ghokale, Madras High Court - South Indian Sports Meet on 26th July 2009.

Hon'ble Justice Prabha Sridevan, Madras High Court – Shop for the Visually Challenged on 25th October 2009.

Hon'ble Justice Mani Kumar, Madras High Court – State Level Career Counselling & Guidance Inauguration on 22nd January 2010.

Hon'ble Justice Nagamuthu, Madras High Court – Award of Excellence on 13th June 2010.

Hon'ble Justice Venkatraman, Madras High Court – Eighth Anniversary and Launch of Free Legal Aid Services for Visually Challenged on 31st October 2010.

Hon'ble Justice K.N. Basha, Madras high Court, State Level Quiz Competition for the Visually challenged on 27th February 2011.

Hon'ble Justice Mathivanan, Madras high Court, The Inauguration of Free Community Hall and release of B.Ed Audio Book for Visually Challenged Students on 01st May 2011.

Hon'ble Justice G. Jayachandran, Madras High Court – State Level Conference on Career Counselling & Guidance 2012.

Hon'ble Justice P.N.Prakash, Madras High Court - State Level Career Counselling and Guidance, 2013 & The State level Felicitation of the visually challenged on 12th June 2016.

Hon'ble Justice Kribukaran, Madras High Court - State Level Chess Competition for the Visually Challenged 16th August 2014.

Hon'ble Justice D. Hari Paranthaman , Madras High Court - State Level Career Counselling and Guidance, 29th November 2014.

Hon'ble Justice V.Ramasubramanian , Madras High Court - State Level Felicitation of the Visually Challenged 28th June 2015.

Hon'ble Justice T.Raja , Madras High Court - State Level Chess Tournament for the Visually Challenged 22nd August 2015.

Hon'ble Justice S.Vaidyanathan , Madras High Court - 13th Anniversary Celebrations of Nethrodaya , 31st October 2015.

Hon'ble Justice R.Mahadevan , Madras High Court - The State Level Conference on Career Counselling & Guidance 30th January 2016.

Hon'ble Justice M.M Sundaresh , Madras High Court - The State Level Chess Tournament for the Visually Challenged on 26th August 2016.

Hon'ble Justice Tmt.Pushpa Sathya Narayana, Madras High Court - The 14th Anniversary Celebrations of Nethrodaya on 20th November 2016.

Hon'ble Justice Hluvadi G Ramesh, Madras High Court - The State Level Felicitation of the Visually Challenged on 15th July 2017.

Hon'ble Justice Rajiv Shakhder , Madras High Court - The South Indian Chess Tournament for the Visually challenged on 9th September 2017.

Hon'ble Justice Karthikeyan, Madras High Court - 17th Anniversary Celebrations of Nethrodaya, 03rd November 2019.

Hon'ble Justice Thiru. M. S. Ramesh of Madras High Court - 16th Anniversary celebrations of Nethrodaya, 24th November 2018.

Hon'ble Justice of Madras High Court, Thiru. N.Anand Venkatesh - Inaugurated the State Level Chess Tournament affiliated to the All India Chess Federation, 31st August 2019.

Hon'ble Justice of Madras High Court, Thiru. T. S. Sivagnanam - Chief guest for the First stone laying ceremony , 15 July 2018.

Hon'ble Justice of Madras High Court, Kumari P.T. Asha- Chief guest for The South Indian Level Chess Tournament for the Visually Challenged, 15th September 2018.

Hon'ble Justice K.K.Sasidharan and Hon'ble Justice P. N. Prakash of Madras High court - inaugurated the free residential special school block on 30th June, 2019 for the visually challenged and orthopaedic students.

Hon'ble Justice Thiru M. Dhandapani, - Inaugurated Nethrodaya's the State Level Chess Tournament 2022 affiliated to the All-India Chess Federation on 30 July 2022

## Visitors to Nethrodaya - Bureaucrats

Thiru. C.K. Gariyali, IAS, Secretary, Social Welfare – Braille Library Inauguration

Thiru. L. Vijayaraghavan, IAS, Secretary, Social Welfare – Third Anniversary

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

Thiru. V.K. Jeyakodi, IAS, Commissioner for Disabled - State Level Career Counselling & Guidance for the Visually Challenged

Thiru. Audiseshiah, IAS, Secretary, PWD – Nethrodaya Building Foundation Laying Ceremony

Thiru. RajendraKumar, IAS, Collector, Thiruvallur – Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony

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

Thiru. Thangasamy, IAS, Collector, Thiruvallur, South Indian Adapted Volleyball Tournament Inauguration

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

Thiru. Ranvir Prasad, IAS, Collector, Thiruvallur – Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony

Thiru. Palaniappan, IAS, Secretary, Social Welfare – Audio Book Release

Thiru. Ram Mohan Rao, IAS, Secretary, Social Service – South Indian Sports Meet

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

Thiru. K. Dhanavel, IAS, Secretary, Revenue – World Environment Day

Tmt. Meenakshi Rajagopal, IAS, Commissioner for Differently abled- Special Visit

Thiru. Vijay Rajkumar, IAS, State Commissioner for Differently Abled – Book Release Function

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.

Tmt. Kannegi Packianathan, IAS, Secretary, Welfare of the Differently Abled Department – State Level Chess Competition for the Visually Challenged.

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

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

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

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

Thiru. Prasanna Kumar Pincha, Chief Commissioner

for Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of India – Anniversary Celebrations

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

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

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 - Anniversary Celebrations

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

Thiru. E. Sundaravalli, I.A.S, District Collector, Thiruvallur – State Level Felicitation of the visually challenged.

Thiru. S. Murugiah, IAS, State Commissioner for the Differently Abled, Govt. of Tamil Nadu- State Level Chess Competition for Visually Challenged .

Thiru. V. Arun Roy, IAS, State Commissioner for the Differently Abled, Govt. of Tamil Nadu-Anniversary Celebration.

## The IPS family at Nethrodaya

Thiru. Alexander, IPS, DGP – Anniversary Celebrations

Thiru. Mukherjee, IPS, DGP – South Indian Adapted Volleyball Tournament

Thiru. K. Ramanujam, IPS, DGP – Anniversary Celebrations

Thiru. T.K. Rajendran, IPS, DGP – Anniversary Celebrations

Dr. C. Sylendra Babu, IPS, DGP – State Level Conference on Career Counseling & Guidance for the Visually Challenged

Commodore R.S. Vasan, Commander Coast Guard Region (East) Indian navy – Anniversary Celebrations

Inspector General Thiru. S.P. Sharma PTM TM, Commander Coast Guard Region (East) Indian Navy- Anniversary Celebrations

Thiru. Vijayakumar, IPS, ADGP – Special Visit to Nethrodaya.

Thiru. Nataraj, IPS, ADGP – Computer Training Centre Inauguration

Thiru. Sekar, IPS, ADGP – South Indian Adapted Volleyball Tournament for the Visually Impaired.

Thiru. Radhakrishnan, IPS, ADGP – South India Adapted Cricket Tournament for the Visually Challenged.

Thiru. Md. Shakeel Akther, IPS, ADGP – Interface Meet of the Visually Challenged Families

Thiru. G. Nanchil Kumaran, IPS, ADGP – Anniversary Celebrations.

## Milestones

### 2002 - Establishment of a Free Hostel for Visually Challenged college students



Visually challenged boys & girls approach city colleges to pursue their higher education. After admission, they are denied boarding & lodging facilities due to their poverty. Nethrodaya identified this pressing need and

established a free residential facility for underprivileged visually challenged students who hail from remote villages of Tamil Nadu. More than 1,500 students have benefitted from this initiative.

### 2003 - Establishment of an Exclusive Computer Training Centre



The visually challenged have been deprived of part-time computer training programs for many decades. Nethrodaya identified this much-felt need and understood the potential this skill had in widening the range of opportunities for the visually challenged. Nethrodaya's Computer Training Centre, exclusively catering to the visually challenged students has been a boon to them and has benefitted more than 1,000 students so far. Students also use the centre for browsing services after college hours.

2004

### Launch of an Exclusive Medical Help Line for the Visually Challenged



To provide 24X7 quality medical services for the underprivileged visually challenged, Nethrodaya launched a cost-free helpline 044-26533680. The helpline has received more than 2,000 calls and provided medical care to more than 1,000 Visually Challenged.

### Creation of Audio Study Material for the Visually Challenged



daya to address the immediate need by launching

Audio Study Material for the underprivileged visually challenged children who pursue their education in various districts of Tamil Nadu. 8,000 Audio Books have been distributed so far, free of cost.

### Self-Employment Scheme

This scheme provides seed capital to families of unemployed visually challenged persons, whose day-to-day survival proves to be a huge challenge. Nethrodaya procures and distributes marketable products to visually challenged persons who then sell them in trains and earn a living on a daily basis. The beneficiaries feel motivated and independent, and strive to do better every day.



### Supporting the Children of Visually Challenged Parents

Nethrodaya devised a scheme to fund the education of the children of Visually Challenged parents. These sighted children of visually challenged parents not only get to complete their education unhindered but also grow to be sensitive caretakers of their parents.



2006

### Allotment of Land – GO No. 748

The Government of Tamil Nadu issued a Historic GO No. 748 dated 20.11.2006 for allotment of land to Nethrodaya towards establishing State of the Art Resource Centre for educating economically backward differently abled students from remote villages of Tamil Nadu.



### Cow Project

Launched in 2006, the scheme provides families of visually challenged persons with a Cow and a Calf. The livestock given free of cost helps economically backward families to get a stable income and lead their life with self-esteem.







### 2009 - Inauguration of State of Art Infrastructure facility for Differently Aabled



Foundation stone was laid in 2008 and state of art barrier-free building was inaugurated in 2009 towards educating Differently Aabled, underprivileged students of Tamil Nadu.

### 2012 - Establishment of Free Residential Higher Secondary Special School



A Government recognised Free Residential Special School for the Visually Challenged and Physically Challenged for both boys & girls was inaugurated in 2012.

### 2015 - Nethrodaya College of Special Education



Nethrodaya College of Special Education was inaugurated in the year 2015. It is recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India and affiliated to Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University. It provides free admission to visually challenged

and orthopedically disabled boys and girls from poor families, completely free-of-cost

### 2018 - Death with Dignity

The scheme was launched in 2018, in all 38 districts of

Tamil Nadu. Nethrodaya believes that the death of visually challenged persons must be treated with dignity, assuring a decent cremation/burial. Due to lack of family support and poverty most of them are unable to perform the last rites for their loved ones who are visually challenged. With this initiative, they will now be able to perform the final rites and funeral of their loved ones, giving them a dignified final farewell.



### 2022

#### Establishment of an Exclusive Fitness Centre

The first-of-its-kind exclusive Fitness Centre for the differently abled was inaugurated in the year 2022, setting new norms in encouraging independence and accessibility for the differently abled community in Tamil Nadu.



#### Monthly Free Grocery Scheme

Nethrodaya provides free monthly groceries to families of visually challenged persons who are unable to make ends meet due to poverty. 200 families have benefitted from this scheme so far.





## Advocacy

Nethrodaya strongly believes that vibrant advocacy is the need of the hour to bring about real changes in the lives of differently abled persons. Standing its ground and consistently fighting for them, Nethrodaya obtained favourable orders from the Madras High Court and Government of Tamil Nadu benefitting the visually challenged community at large.

Nethrodaya fought a legal battle in the High Court of Madras against the Resident Welfare Association who had challenged the Government's allotment of Land to Nethrodaya on the grounds of Social Untouchability. After carefully examining the petition, The Chief Justice of Madras High Court passed a landmark judgement on 17th October 2008 condemning the association's objection and also imposed a fine on the petitioner.



Disability and poverty together restrain many visually challenged individuals from completing their education. Nethrodaya approached the Department of School Education and obtained a GO to exempt fee for visually challenged private candidates appearing for board exams conducted by the Directorate of School Examinations (GO No. 220 dated 09.07.2013). Furthermore, to make it convenient for the community, Nethrodaya was also instrumental in obtaining a GO from the Department of School Education to permit visually challenged students to apply online for their board exams (GO NO. 220 dated 09.07.2013).

Nethrodaya understood that non-availability of scribes was a major impediment in visually challenged persons' education and hence approached the Madras High Court requesting to direct the Government of Tamil Nadu to frame new guidelines and issue Government Orders for the appointment of scribes who can appear with visually challenged students at their board/university exams. The historic judgement that came on 28th January 2016 directed the Government of Tamil Nadu to issue modified guidelines by incorporating suggestions from Nethrodaya. Our rigorous follow up also ensured that the orders were issued by the Department of School Education and Higher Education, and implemented soon after.





Nethrodaya's advocacy efforts were channelled by its founder's long term vision and determination to set up a favourable ecosystem in the society that allowed support services for the visually challenged persons to prosper. This vision led the institution to a new milestone – obtaining a judgement from Madras High Court that exempts building approval fee from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The GO has not only benefitted Nethrodaya but has also favoured many other welfare institutions run for the differently abled (GO No. 31 dated 09.03.2018).

The Department of Welfare of Differently Abled Persons provides a maintenance allowance of Rs. 2,000/- to each severely disabled person affected with mental retardation, muscular dystrophy, and leprosy. Nethrodaya's Public Interest Litigation (PIL) to consider the visually challenged persons on par with other differently abled led to a judgement from the Madras High Court on 19.09.2022, directing the Government of Tamil Nadu to consider extending the Monthly Pension Scheme for visually challenged persons, under the Differently Abled Category (WP No. 50052). Every order, every judgement has not only helped thousands from the visually challenged community and their families, but has also enabled other welfare institutions for the differently abled to work with dignity.



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## Disability self-help unit exempted from Infrastructure and Amenities fee in Tamil Nadu

*CMDA told to approve building plan permit for construction*

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CHENNAI: The Madras High Court has granted a self-help institution an exemption from paying Infrastructure & Amenities (I&A) charges and has asked the CMDA to approve the building plan permission for construction.

The petitioner, Nethrodaya, had sought to quash a letter from the CMDA that denied them an exemption from payment of Infrastructure & Amenities (I&A) charges. Nethrodaya is a self-help institution that works for the betterment of the differently-abled community.

They approached the High Court to seek approval for building plan permission for the second floor construction to the petitioner without having to pay infrastructure, amenities, regularisations fee and security deposit.

The CMDA in its letter had said that Nethrodaya would not be exempted from paying the charges as no institution has been exempted from paying the I&A charges. Further, the CMDA mentioned that if such a relaxation was given, it would set a precedent for others to claim.

The judge, M Sathyanarayan, cited Section 113 of the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971 that specifies that the government may, subject to certain conditions, by notification, exempt any land or building or class of lands or building from all or any of the provisions of this Act or rules or regulations.

"In the light of the welfare acts being performed by the writ petitioner as pointed out, it is entitled to apply for the exemption of payment of the I&A charges under the above said provision," said Justice Sathyanarayan.

The court said that the CMDA, being the statutory authority, shall also bear in mind the objects of the Disabilities Act, 2016. The government of TN shall also take into consideration this act and amend the Section 63 (8) of the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971 in respect of similar institutions.

"The plea is partly allowed and the impugned letter of the CMDA is set aside and the petitioner is at liberty to submit a representation seeking exemption for payment of I&A charges, within a period of two weeks from the date of receipt of the copy of this order to the Housing and Urban Development Department." The court provided the Housing and Urban Development Department 12 weeks to issue appropriate orders regarding the same.

In light of welfare acts

Justice Sathyanarayan said "In the light of welfare acts being performed by the petitioner as pointed out, it is entitled to apply for the exemption of payment of I&A charges under the above said provision. As and when any representation is received in that regard from the petitioner, the Housing & Urban Development Dept shall positively consider it within a stipulated time."

THE HINDU  
Our code of editorial values

TAMIL NADU

## Visually impaired woman, who alleged she was denied posting, gets fresh appointment order

STAFF REPORTER

CHENNAI: NOVEMBER 19, 2020 17:25 IST

UPDATED: NOVEMBER 19, 2020 17:25 IST

**K. Tharamani, who said she had earlier received an appointment order, but had not been allowed to join at her workplace, has now started work as a junior assistant at an office of the printing and stationery department in Salem**

Following repeated appeals about being denied a posting despite having an appointment order, K. Thamarai, a visually impaired woman who had cleared the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) Group IV exams, received a fresh appointment order and took up a posting as a junior assistant on Thursday.

"I am extremely happy that I have joined work. I was keen on becoming financially stable and helping my family. This is the first step towards that," said Ms Thamarai, who hails from Thiruvannamalai. While she had initially received a posting in Chennai, she has now taken up charge at an office of the printing and stationery department in Salem.

Ms Thamarai had cleared the Group IV exams with a score of 202.50 marks. The TNPSC and the Commissioner of the Printing department had issued appointment orders for her to join in the post of junior assistant. However, when she appeared at the printing department in Chennai in August to take up her posting, Ms Thamarai alleged that she had been told that since she was visually impaired, the job wasn't suitable for her. Furthermore, she alleged that the printing department had also issued a memo contrary to their own office proceedings issued for her appointment and that she wasn't able to join.

A complaint had been raised regarding this by C. Govindakrishnan, Founder, Nethrodaya with the the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. The Commissioner, having the powers of a civil court, had from the Commissioner, Stationery and Printing Department and the Secretary, TNPSC based on the complaint given. In his complaint, Mr. Govindakrishnan had alleged non-implementation of the statutory rights granted under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

"We are extremely happy that Thamarai has received her joining orders and was able to begin working from today," Mr. Govindakrishnan said.

## Services Offered at Nethrodaya

Nethrodaya's Special School and College of Special Education for the Visually Challenged and orthopedically disabled, is a unique and the only Educational Institution in Tamil Nadu which is being run by a visually challenged person. Benefitting hundreds of visually challenged 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 challenged students and the orthopaedic students co-exist to learn and leverage upon each other's strengths, by overcoming their disability. Implemented successfully, this practice provides an opportunity for the orthopaedic students to read and write for the visually challenged and to share and exchange their books of knowledge.

### **Nethrodaya Free Residential Higher Secondary Special School for the Visually Challenged and Orthopaedic**

Recognized by the Government of Tamil Nadu, we have been imparting the best quality special education to the economically backward visually challenged as well as orthopedically disabled boys and girls from classes 1 to 12.

### **Nethrodaya College of Special Education**

Nethrodaya College of Special Education is approved by the Rehabilitation Council of India and affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Teachers' Education University (College Code 10229). It provides free admission to visually challenged and orthopedically disabled boys and girls from poor families, completely free-of-cost. With qualified faculties in special education, it ensures that young students with disabilities have the skills and ability to enter the workforce and gain meaningful employment, remain employed, and grow in their jobs.

### **Differently Abled Students Availing State of the Art Facility at Nethrodaya**

Nethrodaya's esteemed faculty comprises qualified special educators who have in-depth knowledge and hands-on experience in specialized teaching-learning methods. They value the empowerment of underprivileged differently abled students and strive to enable their active participation in the evolution of our society.

### **Computer Lab**

Nethrodaya's well-equipped computer lab equipped with the best quality screen readers, braille printers and free browsing facility for the visually challenged is the first of its kind in Tamil Nadu. It provides much needed training for the visually challenged 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 years.

### **Digital Audio and Braille Library**

Nethrodaya's Library is one of the best of its kind in India

with thousands of audio study materials for the visually challenged. Our library has a wide variety of books and study materials ranging from Tamil Nadu school and college textbooks to competitive exam study materials and motivational books. These books and materials have benefitted over thousands of differently-abled students in Tamil Nadu.

### **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 challenged students. These readers who read textbooks also lend voice for recording study materials and take the role of a scribe for the visually challenged to appear for their exams. They very often turn out to be excellent teachers and a window to the outer society for our students, thereby contributing to their holistic development.

Nethrodaya calls for retired people as volunteers too, who can lend their voice for reading and recording lessons for the visually challenged.

### **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 bodybuilding. Specialized masters are invited to conduct yoga classes for our students on a routine basis so that they stay physically fit and mentally sound.

### **Auditorium**

Nethrodaya also has a well-equipped auditorium complete with tactile flooring and ramps for orthopaedic students which can accommodate 300 persons at a time, serving as a multi-functional hall to host seminars, workshops, conferences and marriages for the differently-abled providing quality service to the differently-abled population in Tamil Nadu.

### **Free Boarding Facilities**

Nethrodaya provides user-friendly, high-quality boarding and lodging facilities for its inmates, with nutritious, balanced food cooked by an in-house cook three times a day, clean drinking water, round-the-clock electricity with backup generators, and fire safety systems.

With separate dormitories for both boys and girls, the residential block is a barrier-free new building with a ramp facility. These facilities are provided completely free of cost and are being utilized by the underprivileged differently-abled students from remote villages of Tamil Nadu.

### **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.





*Auditorium*



*B.Ed College*



*Higher Secondary School*



*Computer*



*Boarding - Men*



*Boarding - Women*



*Digital audio and Library*



*Reading*



*Yoga*



*Physical Fitness*



*Music*



*Park and Recreation*





## Outreach Activities

### Nethrodaya's Free Medical Helpline (+91-44-26533680)

Through its 24/7 Medical Help Line Nethrodaya provides timely and quality medical assistance to visually challenged and physically challenged persons who are suffering from various medical ailments, free of cost. Our helpline has come in very useful during need and over thousand visually challenged persons have benefitted from this service. Launched in 2004, the helpline is backed by a committed, hard-working team of volunteers and professionals, who pledge to serve those in need immediately.

"Amma, can you hear me?" could be a normal, day-to-day phrase in a conversation between any mother and child. But for us at Nethrodaya, it is a memorable moment filled with emotions, as our student, Komalnath, 17 years old boy with vision and hearing impairment, was able to hear his mother reply to his question for the first time! The medical team worked tirelessly to identify the right hearing aid for him and today, Komalnath can recognise the voices of all his loved ones. This gift of hearing has opened up a world of experience and possibilities for this hardworking young student of class 11, preparing for his board exams at Nethrodaya's Free Residential Special School.



### 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 challenged 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 challenged. 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.

### Nethrodaya's self-employment schemes for the Visually Challenged Families

Initiated 20 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 challenged 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 challenged parents. This initiative is supported by Shree Saritha Jain Foundation. Thousands of such children, who are sighted, have benefited from this scheme, easing the burden of school fees on their visually challenged parents.

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



Vasantha, a visually challenged lady lost her husband and was unable to educate her daughter due to poverty. She learnt about the scheme and applied for assistance. Nethrodaya paid for her daughter's fee in class 12 and encouraged her to pursue graduation against all obstacles. Her daughter, Indhuja, aims to become a Chartered Accountant and take care of her mother in her old age.

## 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 localities. 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 challenged families. Through this project, in the past

20 years, more than 400 Families have benefitted from all 38 districts of Tamil Nadu.

One such family is Krishnan, who is an illiterate and visually challenged, hailing from a remote village the in Dindigul district. He had no source of income. He has two kids and was unable to look after his family. Nethrodaya provided a cow and a female calf to his family. The new source of livelihood changed life for the family, who now feel secure with a stable income in their pockets.

## Monthly Free Grocery Distribution Scheme:

There are Visually Challenged 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 monthly basis. This initiative has benefitted many such families. We thank D. Imman Educational Trust for their unconditional support.



## Success Stories

“Able does not mean enabled. Disabled does not mean less able”

### Selvamani

Affected by low vision from class five, Selvamani hailing from Pudukkottai district of Tamil Nadu, fought all odds and completed his school education. He graduated in English Literature and aspired to become a Civil Servant. He approached Nethrodaya for support in 2019. Determined and hard-working, Selvamani cleared his IAS Prelims in June 2022 and IAS Mains in December 2022 and is confident of becoming an IAS Officer to inspire youngsters like him.



### Madhan Kumar

Madhan Kumar from Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu was visually challenged by birth. His single mother struggled very hard to run the family and provide for his special needs. She learnt about Nethrodaya and sought help. Soon, Madhan was given a free admission to Nethrodaya's Free Residential Higher Secondary Special School. With consistent performance in academics and extra-curricular activities, Madhan brings fame to Nethrodaya. He recently won the State Level Quiz Competition that was organised by Quizabled, Chennai.



### Preethi

Preethi, a physically challenged student at Nethrodaya has successfully completed her education. She is now married to a caring and understanding person, happily leading a family of her own.

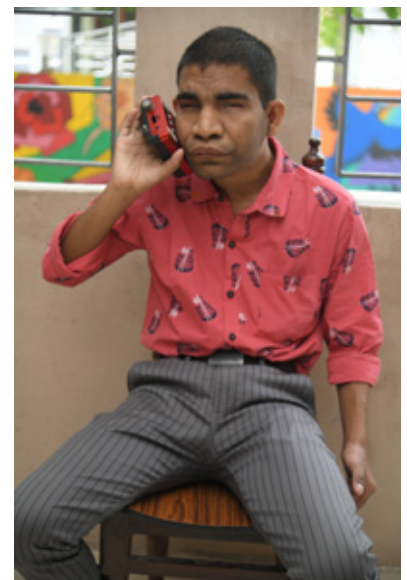


### Shankar

Shankar, a visually challenged student was abandoned by his parents. Nethrodaya rescued him from Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai. He successfully completed his schooling at Nethrodaya Free Residential Higher Secondary Special School and is now pursuing his Bachelor Degree in Economics from a leading College in Chennai.

### Yogaraj

Yogaraj from Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu, lost his sight at the tender age of seven years. While in class six, he also developed hearing deficiency. But Yogaraj never allowed any of these deficiencies interfere with his studies. He approached Nethrodaya College of Special Education in 2019 seeking free admission in B.Ed course and completed it successfully in 2021. His dream of becoming a teacher and serving the underprivileged, needy in our society has become a reality now.





## Events

### Nethrodaya Award of Eminence 2022

NETHRODAYA hosted the inspiring, Annual "Nethrodaya Award of Eminence 2022" with the Launch of Exclusive Fitness Centre for People with Disabilities on 27th March 2022.



Honourable Justice of Madras High Court - Thiru. P.N. Prakash inaugurated the first-of-its-kind, exclusive gym and fitness centre for the differently

abled at Nethrodaya, Chennai, setting new norms in encouraging independence and accessibility for the differently abled community. This inauguration coincided with the exciting annual "Nethrodaya Award of Eminence 2022" ceremony, which celebrates achievers and trendsetters who have dedicated their lives in improving the lives of the differently abled. The awardees include Mr.K.Kannaiyan (visually challenged) who heads an educational institution in Thanjavur district and Ms. Revathy Meyyammai (visually challenged), who runs an educational institution at Mylapore, Chennai. This ceremony also marked the inauguration of "Monthly Free Groceries Distribution Scheme" for poor and visually challenged families who hail from remote villages of Tamil Nadu which was launched by the renowned music director D.Imman.



### South Indian Chess Competition

Nethrodaya hosted the South Indian Chess Tournament for the visually challenged, in affiliation with the All-India Chess Federation of the Blind on 30th July 2022. Hundreds of rated chess champions from Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Pondicherry, Telangana and Tamil Nadu participated. The tournament was officiated by world class arbitrators. We strongly believe that this South Indian Level Tournament hosted by Nethrodaya will send a strong message to the International Chess Fraternity that Visually Challenged Chess Players deserve an arena like Chess Olympiad to prove their exemplary skill in this game. The Tournament was inaugurated by Hon'able

Justice of Madras High Court - Thiru. M.

Dhandapani. The valedictory function was presided over by Hon'ble Minister Mrs. P. Geetha Jeevan - Minister of Social Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu who gave away the trophies for the winners.



Mr. Bamba Bakya and Mr Sathyaprakash, renowned playback singers and Ms C. Sathya a, renowned Music Director, graced this historic event.

### South Indian Singing Competition

Nethrodaya hosted the South Indian Singing Competition for the visually challenged on 24th September 2022. This competition saw fierce battle of wits between the singers from Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Pondicherry, Telangana and Tamil Nadu. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Pappa Vidhyakar, Indian Humanitarian Aid Worker, Mrs. Sarala, Dy. Director Differently Abled Department & Mr. G. Sriram, Managing Trustee Karma Corps. Hundreds of visually challenged singers from all the five South Indian states participated and competed for the title - South Indian Singing Icon.



The renowned Music Composer Mr. G.V. Prakash gave away the Winners' trophy and a cash award to Mr. Purushothaman from Tamil Nadu. Ms. Saleena from Kerala received the first runner up and Mr. T. Manikandan from Pondicherry received the second runners up.

Playback singers Mr M.L.R Karthikeyan, Mr Pawan and Mr Prasanna shared valuable musical inputs and their vast knowledge at this memorable event.





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

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 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



Merchant Name: NETHRODAYA  
VPA ID: NETHRODAYA@ICICI

Steps to Pay  
Open UPI app > Select 'Scan to Pay'  
> Scan QR Code > Enter amount

Scan QR code



## 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. Vasan

Advisory Committee: Mr. Dinesh M.D. Kovai Pazhamudir Nilayam  
Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pugazhendhi, 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.

## Details of The Organisation:

Vision: Creation of a suitable environment for nurturing the abilities and talents of the Visually Challenged 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 Visually Challenged by enabling fulfilment of their true potential

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-RCI/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



**Nethrodaya**  
LET'S SHARE THE LIGHT

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