

**MISSION FOR VISION**



EIN: 77-6141976

**Distributed By:**

SEF, USA  
3175 Arcola Ct.  
San Jose, CA 95148  
1-866-SANKARA  
www.giftofvision.org

**Board Members:**

K. Muralidharan  
K. Sridharan  
Ahmad Khushnood  
Sundar Radhakrishnan  
Divyogi Patel

**Edited By:**

SEF Team

## WE DID IT..... Congratulations!

Message from our Chairman Murali Krishnamurthy



Dear friends,

You made it happen! Yes. Our new Sankara Eye Hospital near Guntur in Andhra Pradesh was inaugurated on March 2nd, 2004 by the Sankaracharyas of Kanchi. Eye Camps will begin by the end of May 2004 and the plan is to perform around 10,000 FREE Eye Surgeries at this facility this year.

We now operate three Eye Hospitals in India and are planning a total of 60,000 or more FREE Eye Surgeries at these facilities this year alone. This would not have been possible without your solid support and commitment to this cause and our dedicated and hardworking volunteers appreciate that very much.

After all this hardwork can we take some rest now? No! Rest not till the Goal is achieved! What is our combined Goal? 'Vision 20/20 by 2020' - eradicating curable blindness in India by the year 2020! Together, we must make it happen. If we think we *can* do it, we *will* do it! We think we can certainly achieve this Goal with your enthusiastic participation.

Towards 'Vision 20/20 by 2020' we are embarking on the following projects this year. Begin fundraising for:

- 1. Phase II of the Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur**
- 2. A new Sankara Eye Hospital in Bangalore, Karnataka**
- 3. A new Sankara Eye Hospital in Gujarat**

Prime land near the Bangalore Airport is already being donated to us and the paperwork is in progress. We are looking for a generous donation of land in Gujarat.

**Please contribute to 'Vision 20/20 by 2020' in any of the following ways:**

1. Become a founding member of any of our new Hospitals by contributing \$1,000 and we will have the name of your beloved one on the 'Wall of Founders'.
2. Donate land to us in Gujarat for a Modern Sankara Eye Hospital to serve the visually handicapped and poor.
3. Support our current Eye Surgeries by participating in the 'Open an eye a month' project by donating \$30 a month.
4. We are looking for Volunteers and Coordinators all over the USA.

Please call us now for your participation. Please call us now at 1-866-Sankara (1-866-726-5272) or email us at info@giftofvision.org and I promise you that we will respond immediately.

Thank You for your support,

--Murali Krishnamurthy  
Chairman, Sankara Eye Foundation, USA

# Vision clear, his agony ends

By Subha J. Rao

**COIMBATORE, APRIL 9.** After 32 excruciating months, Selvaraj is now able to see his wife and work his way around the hospital ward.

From a lorry driver who was earning well to support his family, he turned into a recluse, who struggled to even potter about his modest home in Navaleniipatti near Namakkal. All due to a condition called ocular phemphigoid, an inflammatory disease, which results in the drying of the corneal surface and eventual opacification of the cornea and blindness.

Under a novel procedure carried out last week, in which the K K-pro corneal prosthesis, developed in-house at the Sankara Eye Centre (SEC) was implanted into his left eye, he now has a vision of 6/60. Selvaraj is still unable to open his eye fully, but J.K. Reddy, Assistant Director at the SEC, who developed the prosthesis and performed the procedure, says his eyelids will soon be lifted up to allow him better vision.

"Normally, such prostheses are about 2.5 mm in width. But, we designed one 4 mm in width because we were not just looking at his rehabilitation; we wanted him to live life independently. He can see a field of

about 40 to 50 degrees," adds Dr. Reddy. Of the five prostheses developed, doctors zeroed in on the one that would suit his condition.

The K K-pro, abbreviation for Kovai Keratoprosthe-sis, was developed after five years of research and man-ufactured by a Chennai firm.

Selvaraj was chosen for this procedure under the "Gift of Vision" programme after stem cell and corneal transplants at a Bangalore Hospital failed. "In his case, transplantation of a live cornea would have failed be-cause a cornea needs lubrication to survive. This cor-nea is made of polymethyl methacrylate, a bio-compatible plastic. Also, there is no risk of rejec-tion," states R. V. Ramani, Managing Trustee.

As for Selvaraj's other eye, Dr. Reddy said that with such procedures it is not ethical to operate both eyes simultaneously. "He wanted his left eye, which was worst affected, to be operated first." The surgery, which would cost more than Rs. 1 lakh, was performed free of cost at the SEC.

Says Sudha, Selvaraj's wife, "I'm thrilled that he can now see. He was only feeling our two children till now. That will change once we go back home."

## Dr. R. V. Ramani, Dr J.K.Reddy and Mr. S.V. Balasubramaniam visit United States

Dr.J.K.Reddy attended a conference in San Diego in April, where he presented his research project. He visited the Bay Area before the conference and attended a dinner event with SEF volunteers.

Dr. R.V. Ramani, Managing Trustee, Sankara Eye Society India, and Mr. S.V. Balasubramaniam, Industrialist and Chairman of Sankara Eye Society, India are visiting the USA in July. They will be in Chicago from July 2nd to July 4th participating in the Tamil Nadu Foundation Conference ([www.tnf2004.org](http://www.tnf2004.org)) and the American Telugu Association Conference ([www.ataworld.org](http://www.ataworld.org)). They will be giving presentations at these events. Please attend the above conferences.

They will be visiting the San Francisco Bay Area from July 4th to July 7th meeting with volunteers, donors and other supporters during this time. Please mark your calendars and come and meet the people who are running our Eye Hospitals in India.

What a Saturday night! On February 21, 2004, an audience of over 1,400 Bay Area residents were treated to awe-inspiring performances of music and dance with an international flavor at Chabot College in Hayward, California. Things got into full swing as the musical band Dhun took over the stage and had the audience dancing on their feet. After a short Indian prayer, followed by a Kathak dance, Indian and International Dance performances took over the second half of the show.

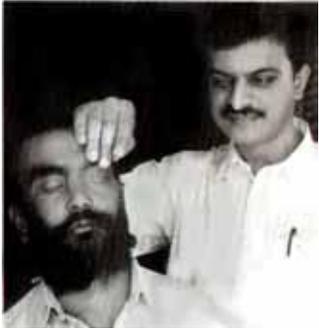
## Rhythm of Light

Sponsored by SAP ([www.sap.com](http://www.sap.com)) and co-sponsored by FIA - Northern California ([www.fiaonline.org](http://www.fiaonline.org)), along with several other bay area companies and establishments, Sankara Eye Foundation's Rhythm of Light was conceptualized and organized by two Silicon Valley engineers, Snehal and Praful Bhaidasna, who were inspired by the Landmark Education program ([www.landmarkeducation.com](http://www.landmarkeducation.com)).

## Roshni Jugalbandi

On January 17, 2004, SEF presented a house-full Carnatic & Hindustani Jugalbandi music program, organized by Shankar Satyanarayanan, co-sponsored by BATA (Bay Area Telugu Association). Hindustani music and Carnatic music have the same base, but over the centuries they have branched into their own distinctive styles.

These distinctive styles blended seamlessly by the way Nachiketa Sharma and Ragavan Manian, accompanied by Hemmige Srivatsan on the Violin, Vivek Datar on the Harmonium, Vadiraj Bhat on the Mridangam and Ravi Gutala on the Tabla, wove them together. The chief guest of the event was the Honorable Deputy Consul General of India, Sri. Akhilesh Mishra.



# Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur Inauguration

By Venkat Tanikella & Venkat Maddipati



A new era in the community eye care for the people of Andhra Pradesh began on March 2nd, 2004, with the formal inauguration of the Sankara Eye Hospital, Guntur by Sankaracharyas of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam. The hospital stands majestically on the Guntur-Vijayawada highway at Pedakakani village and is ready to serve the community. The hospital is well designed to house 400 beds. At present, it has 100 beds for free patients and 20 beds for paid patients.

The President of India Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam had kindly agreed to inaugurate the Hospital on March 2, 2004, but unfortunately he cancelled all his public appearances including ours, due to the announcement of election dates. The Board of Directors of SEF, several volunteers and their families, supporters of SEF (TANA & BATA members and donors) traveled all the way to Guntur, from the United States for the inauguration. The hospital started functioning (Outpatient) on March 3rd and Eye Surgeries will be performed from the last week of May. Eye Camps will also commence in the month of May.



SEF wants to thank all the donors and volunteers who worked tirelessly for the last few years, various local organizations and the media which helped in making this dream project, "Focus-AP", a reality. It is true that we just reached the first milestone in our journey towards eradicating curable blindness in India by the year 2020. Let us continue the mission to spread the gift of vision to everyone.

It was an exhilarating and rejuvenating experience to see the much-awaited Sankara Eye Hospital near Guntur. The experience highlights the need to do selfless service with focus.



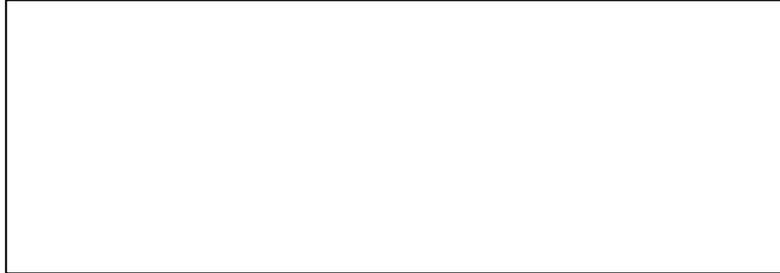
Visit [www.giftofvision.org](http://www.giftofvision.org) for more inauguration pictures.

**Sankara Eye Foundation, USA**  
3175 Arcola Ct  
San Jose, CA 95148



NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SAN JOSE, CA  
PERMIT NO. 437

**Return Service Requested**



**1-866-SANKARA**  
**(1-866-726-5272)**  
**<http://www.giftofvision.org>**  
info@giftofvision.org  
Fax 408-531-1544



**Thank you for your support.**

**SANKARA EYE FOUNDATION, USA**  
**501 (C) (3) Non Profit Organization, EIN: 77-6141976**  
**3175, Arcola Court, San Jose, CA 95148**

Focus Andhra Pradesh     Eye Surgeries     One Time Donation     Monthly Donation

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Request(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  Master Card     VISA

Company Name(\*): \_\_\_\_\_ ( Helps us to find out whether they match your contribution )

Donate Online at [www.giftofvision.org](http://www.giftofvision.org)

For used car donations contact SEF at [cargiving@yahoo.com](mailto:cargiving@yahoo.com)

Please make all checks payable to:  
Sankara Eye Foundation, USA

Please fill out this form if you are  
donating by check or credit card. SEF  
will mail you a receipt for the same.

**SEF, USA thanks you for  
your kind donation.**