

# eyelights

Number : 17



AMERICA

February 2016

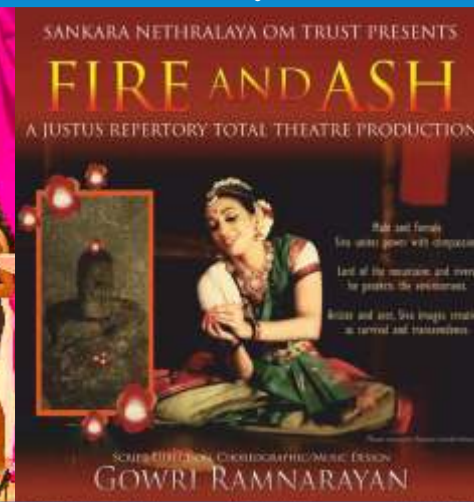


**Sankara Nethralaya  
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**Sankara Nethralaya's cause inspires  
nationalities from across the world**

**A powerful dance drama  
at Maryland**



## **SANKARA NETHRALAYA AND THE SANKARA NETHRALAYA OPHTHALMIC MISSION TRUST**

pay their humble Pranams and Salutations to their beloved MS Amma on her 100th birth anniversary.



The yearlong centenary celebrations being held jointly by the two as a tribute to a Singer beyond compare and a noble soul, whose divine voice stirred souls, captivated hearts and brought relief and joy to millions, would include carnatic music concerts in major US cities, a concert in the UN Assembly, exhibition of rare photos& memorabilia and establishing a 'Chair' for Carnatic music in a reputed US University.

We seek your graceful presence and whole-hearted participation



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## Sankara Nethralaya's cause inspires nationalities from across the world



Mother Theresa once said, "It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving." On September 6th, 2015, a group of 55 high school children from different nations and cultural backgrounds throughout the Dallas Metroplex gathered together for a great cause. Organized by Sahana Prabhu, age 15, daughter of Singer Prabhu, Sankara Nethralaya's moving voice in the USA, the program titled 'Small Acts of Kindness 2015' united these children together under a single cause—'curing blindness'. The opening of the program featured the theme song, "We are the World," and demonstrated that the participants were united under the same cause, wearing matching Sankara Nethralaya logo t-shirts with the inscription, "Mission for Vision."

What made this program most significant was that both the spirited participants and the appreciative audience came from of ethnicities other than Indian, enabling the awareness on the organization's mission to spread past cultural boundaries. The wide genre of songs like "Chains" and mash-ups like "See You Again/Kal Ho Na Ho" through a multitude of modes like vocal and band was truly a unique experience. It is noteworthy to mention here that Ms Sahana compiled and composed music for some of these songs and helped the children in rehearsing the same, resulting in the spectacular success of the show. Dallas Metroplex students Skanda Muthiah and Pravina Ravichandran headed the event as the 'Master of Ceremonies'(MCs), and effectively conducted a charity auction of artwork at the event, which by itself raised \$305.

"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving." The lines espoused by Mother Theresa was evident throughout the show as these highly passionate children put love and much compassion into the act of giving through their 'Small Acts of Kindness'.

### A powerful dance drama awakens the soul and spirit at Maryland



"Fire And Ash" a poignant depiction of the Cosmic unison of Shiva and Shakthi was staged as a powerful dance drama by Shri K.G.Venkatraman, SN OM Trustee at the Jewish

Community Centre, Rockville, Maryland, USA on the 13th of November 2015.

Scripted, choreographed and directed by well known Danseuse and stage personality Gowri Ramnarayan, the program helped in taking the message of Sankara Nethralaya in terms of helping to bring back the light of vision and smile on the face of the visually impaired, indigent patients by dispensing cost free eye care, to the large audience.

A significant sum of money raised through the sale of tickets would help Sankara Nethralaya in its cost free eye care initiatives.

### Texas confers critical role of ensuring best practices, safety and compliance on SN OM Trustee

Shri Sam Kannappan who is among Sankara Nethralaya's oldest well wishers and supporter in the USA and dynamic SN OM Trustee from the Houston region made a mark for himself in the State through his extraordinary professional excellence, deep commitment and active participation in social causes, utmost humility and charitable disposition. The US government and leading technology giants have sought his expertise in diverse and critical areas like ensuring gas pipeline safety from sabotage, waste water management, power peak energy reduction initiatives, safety of satellite and power plants, laser measurement accuracy and so on with great success, in the past.



The latest recognition comes in the form of his being appointed as the Secretary of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, a critical role which would place the huge responsibility of evaluating and certifying nearly 57,000 engineers aspiring to practice in the State, ensure best practices and total safety in all engineering processes through adherence to prescribed compliances.



# Internationally acclaimed ophthalmologist, humanitarian, visionary, Padma Bhushan Dr. S. S. Badrinath shares his thoughts with **India Abroad**

Excerpts from India Abroad January 8, 2016

***Sankara Nethralaya was started on certain strong principles, are you able to adhere to these principles in today's vastly changed scenario?***

The principles on which Sankara Nethralaya was started still remain intact. The Ethics, on which we built this organisation are adhered to this day and observed even by the younger generation of Consultants who practice here. Another core value practiced since inception, with a high degree of commitment is serving the patients from the economically weaker sections of society, totally cost free.

***Has the field of ophthalmology in India kept pace with the advanced West or are we way behind?***

On the clinical side, we are definitely on par with the West, be it in diagnostics or treatment. On the Teaching and Training part, we need more teachers to pass on their knowledge in the field. On the research side, we are still in the growing phase; Research should be made an integral part of learning. If the source of data collection could be standardised, research findings could be put to better use.

***Do you feel that doctors, not just ophthalmologists should be made more accountable, not just morally but also legally, in our country, like the West?***

Even in India, there is a law against negligence and patients have right to information. At Sankara Nethralaya, in my 37 years of experience, we hardly come across 3 – 4 such cases in a year and thanks to the systematic records maintained on the patient's case history, steps, processes and treatment given by us, we have not lost a single case thus far. The laws and accountability have definitely led to improved methods in the maintenance of medical records.

***Sankara Nethralaya has traditionally maintained a low profile in terms of publicity initiatives; in the face of a highly competitive marketplace by healthcare providers would you prefer to maintain the status quo?***

We have always followed the guidelines as per the medical council in all our communication initiatives; publicity is necessary to an extent. For example, many might not be aware of the rapid diagnostic test that we provide. An infection in the eye could now be diagnosed and treated in 16 hours as against the 2 days wait earlier. So it is necessary to market and advertise, but within the Indian Medical Council's guidelines.

***How are you able to maintain quality in your cost free service considering the increasing cost of Medicare delivery?***

Our objective was / is 'Not for profit' and we still believe in it. The income limit determines the paying or non-paying

status of patients at Sankara Nethralaya. Around 40% of our patients are given free treatment and they will certainly vouch for the quality.

***Do you think that healthcare as an essential service should be with the government, rather than with corporate houses that are compelled to show profits to their stakeholders?***

At Sankara Nethralaya, we function as a private public institute – private because of the small group of people with whom decision making lies; public as we are a registered society with a non-profit objective. The profits are ploughed back into the institution. The organisation is for the public and belongs to them as we raise donations; but efficiency is delivered like a private institution.

***Tell us more on your new concept of taking eye surgery right to the villages.***

Though India has significantly reduced cataract caused blindness through timely and effective care, large number of patients with cataract live in remote village and tribal areas not served by Medicare.

We selected the areas that require attention; set aside 2 buses for this, built a theatre that is absolutely sterile with an A class facility and we are performing modern cataract surgery successfully right at the doorsteps of patients living in the most inaccessible and remote rural areas including hilly and tribal belts. We have so far done 23 camps in rural Tamil Nadu and performed 2000 cataract surgeries successfully.

***Tell us about your academic and research activities.***

On the clinical side, we collate data and define peculiar abnormalities. We were the first to identify that the rural population in the country is prone to a high risk of diabetic retinopathy.

16% of diabetics living in rural area have the risk of being affected by this chronic blinding disease. On the basic science, we work in the fields of biochemistry, pathology, molecular biology, genetics and microbiology. We take pride that we are authorities in tuberculosis in the eye.

Likewise, we have done extensive work on the congenital rubella syndrome.

Please visit the following link for the full transcript of the interview.



<http://www.sankaranethralaya.org/pdf/drssb.pdf>

## The Sankara Nethralaya family extends a warm welcome to its new Trustees



Bala Reddy Indurti has joined the SN OM Trust at Atlanta City, an engineer from the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad (JNTU) he did his MS from the University of Texas. His social service endeavours include providing educational aid to needy, deserving children in India and the USA through merit scholarships and conducting cost free health camps for the aged. A man inspired by social causes and ingrained with a deep passion and dedication for serving the needy, he has served with distinction in senior positions in major service organizations like the Telugu Association of Metro Atlanta (TAMA), Andhra Pradesh Physicians and Professionals, North America (APNA) and North America Telugu Association (NATA). Bala Reddy Indurti lives in Atlanta with wife Madhavi and is blessed with an adorable daughter Rithika.



Raja Krishnamurti has joined the SN OM Trust at Los Angeles, a Dairy scientist by profession, he offers expert consultancy for the Food & Pharmaceutical industries. An active member of several religious and social organizations in the LA area, his services include volunteering for the LA chapter of the Chinmaya Mission through several activities including teaching.

Raja Krishnamurti is also a member of the executive committee of VEDA (Vedic education, dissemination and awareness) LA circle and is actively involved in fund raising initiatives for the Athi Rudhram and Maha Chandni Yagna performed at LA, for the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam and for the renovation and upkeep of ancient temples in India.

## How to donate in the United States of America...



### Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust Inc.

9710 Traville Gateway Drive, No. 392, Rockville, MD 20850, Phone : (301) 251-0378

[www.supportsankaranethralaya.org](http://www.supportsankaranethralaya.org)

**Tax Exempt ID No. 52-1611548**

For additional details, feel free to contact S. V. Acharya at (301) 251-0378



**Donating online at Omtrust.org** - All your donations are securely routed through [www.groundspring.org](http://www.groundspring.org).

**United Way** - Mention the above information on your authorization form. Local chapters will remit your contributions to the SN OM Trust Inc.

**Combined Federal Campaign** - If you are a US federal employee, make your donations to Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust Inc. CFC No. 68803.

**Employer Matching Program** - A number of US employers match *dollar for dollar* to employees' contributions. You may be able to double your contributions to SN OM Trust.

**Appreciated Stocks** - You may donate appreciated stocks to SN OM Trust Inc. and avail of a tax deduction. For additional information, please contact the Trust at the aforementioned phone number.

**Contributions by check** - Simply make your check payable to SN OM Trust Inc. and mail to the above address.

**Payroll Deductions** - Please check with your HR office if they are programmed to withhold from payroll and remit to a non-profit organization. A number of organizations provide this as a public service.

**Draft from Checking Account** - Download from our website [www.omtrust.org](http://www.omtrust.org), the direct debit authorization form and forward your authorization with a 'void check' to the above address. We will draft the funds on the 15th of every month. You can stop your authorization any time by a simple notification to us.

**Donate on Special Occasions, as a tribute** Festivals, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, in memory of a loved one and provide support in the form of a bequest.

**All donations to SN OM Trust are 100% IRS Tax Exempted in US, IRS Registered 501 (c) (3)**

### How can you help us?

Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust owes its existence and success to its committed volunteers. To realize our mission of 20/20 by 2020, we need many more volunteers. You can be one of our volunteers and can help us by :

- Spreading the word about Sankara Nethralaya.
- Supporting Teleophthalmology & Glass dispensing vans.
- Conducting events for fundraising.
- Helping with accounting, web management.
- Arranging for American students to undertake summer projects at Sankara Nethralaya.
- Personally making small donations

### The following employers have supported us through GIFT MATCHING or PAYROLL DEDUCTION programs!

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ● Microsoft                   | ● Qualcomm                     |
| ● Deutsche Bank               | ● Educational Testing Services |
| ● American Express            | ● Cadence                      |
| ● Merrill Lynch               | ● Charles Schwab Foundation    |
| ● J P Morgan Chase            | ● First Data                   |
| ● GE Foundation               | ● McGraw Hill Cos.             |
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| ● eBay Foundation             | ● Northern Trust               |