



World Sight Day (WSD) is an annual day of awareness held on the second Thursday of October, to focus global attention on blindness and vision impairment. WSD is co-ordinated by VISION 2020 INDIA, as part of the VISION 2020: The Right to Sight initiative in India.

This year it falls on 11th October, 2007. For the last seven years in our country, a theme on an important aspect of eye care is selected every year so that the theme gets adequate coverage, and activities are organized at all levels focusing on those themes. Themes for the last seven years on the occasion of the "World Sight Day" were as follows:

- 2000 Identifying and correcting refractive errors in the school children
- 2001 Gifts of Sight to the aged – IOL
- 2002 Providing eye care to the underserved population
- 2003 Save Children from Visual Impairment & Blindness
- 2004 Improved Community Participation for Eye Care through Public - Private - Partnership
- 2005 Sight for Kids
- 2006 International Theme for the "World Sight Day" was Low Vision and the National Theme was "Prevention and Control of Diabetic Retinopathy"

This year (2007) The Theme is
Vision for Children

India as a nation has the highest incidence of Childhood Blindness. Even though strides have been taken to develop the nation to tackle this issue, every opportunity needs to be utilized to re-emphasize the importance of Pediatric eye Care. This year the global theme for World Sight Day is VISION FOR CHILDREN. It is a good opportunity for us as a nation to take stock of where we stand and what more needs to be done to address this issue of VISION FOR CHILDREN. It is an opportune moment to

advocate this and spread the message deep into every community. After all children are the future citizens of our country.

Main objectives World Sight Day are

- Raise public awareness on blindness as a major national public health issue
- Influence Governments / Ministers of Health in developing countries to participate in and designate funds for national blindness prevention programme
- Educate target audiences about blindness prevention, about VISION 2020 and its activities, and to generate support for programme activities of member organisations

World Sight Day 2007 (WSD07) focuses on Blindness and Childhood. The headline **VISION FOR CHILDREN** encompasses the work of a wide range of VISION 2020 member organisations, as it impacts on the lives of children in various ways.

Our motto is

- "Our **VISION for children** is to grow up with healthy eyes"
- "Our **VISION for children** is for every child to be able to go to school"
- "Our **VISION for children** is that their grandparents can watch them grow"

Brief Objectives of this year WSD

- To create awareness among all the stakeholders on the World Sight Day.
- Sharing experiences in community participation and partnership in pediatric eye care.
- To bring Government, International Agencies, National NGOs and Corporate on a common platform to work for elimination of avoidable blindness with special emphasis on Childhood Blindness.
- To give away national awards for exceptional performance in advocacy & service delivery in Eye Care.

All are welcome to this national event

Every 5 seconds someone in the world goes blind - and a child goes blind every minute

Programme Schedule

Time	Programme
08:45 am	Arrival of Chief Guest
08:50 am	Introduction of VISION 2020 INDIA Board to Chief Guest
09:00 am	VISION 2020 INDIA Flag Hoisting at the venue by Chief Guest
09:05 am	VISION 2020 Gallery Inauguration by Guest of Honor
09:15 am	Children Eye Screening Camp Inauguration by Brand Ambassador
09:30 am	Guests on the dais & pleasantries
09:40 am	Invocation Song by Blind children
09:50 am	Welcome address by VISION 2020 INDIA President
10:00 am	Lighting of Ceremonial Lamp
10:10 am	An overview of Celebrations – Executive Director, VISION 2020 INDIA
10:15 am	VISION 2020 – An exciting journey – Dr. G. N. Rao
10:25 am	Govt. of India for VISION 2020 – Dr. Rachel Jose
10:35 am	Introduction of Brand Ambassador – Secretary, VISION 2020 INDIA
10:40 am	Release of V2I film and TV spots on 6 eye diseases by Brand Ambassador
10:50 am	Message from Brand Ambassador
11:00 am	Release of NPCB Newsletter by Chief Guest
11:10 am	Awards – Introduction by Executive Director, VISION 2020 INDIA
11:15 am	Awards Presentation by Chief Guest & Brand Ambassador
11:25 am	Message from Award Recipient(s)
11:30 am	Introduction & felicitation of Chief Guest by Dr. G. N. Rao
11:35 am	World Sight Day message by the Chief Guest
11:50 am	Felicitation of Guests on the dais
12:00 noon	Vote of Thanks by JPM Rotary Eye Hospital & Research Institute, Cuttack
12:05 pm	National Anthem
12:10 pm	Group Photo
12:20 pm	Press Meet with Chief Guest, Brand Ambassador & team VISION 2020 INDIA
01:00 pm	Refreshment and Adeiu

Programme is subject to last minute changes

Almost 50 percent of the world's 1.4 million blind children are needlessly blind

KEY MESSAGES

- ❖ Blindness and visual impairment affects children both directly and indirectly. Visual impairment in a child limits her access to educational and self-development opportunities. Vision loss in a family member can place a child in the position of carer.
- ❖ Almost 50 percent of the world's 1.4 million blind children are needlessly blind.
- ❖ Keep watch on your child's sight – with early screening, vitamin-A rich foods, eye hygiene and safety.
- ❖ Prenatal and antenatal care can avoid blindness that results from malnutrition, Vitamin A deficiency, and to some extent, retinopathy of prematurity.
- ❖ Setting the child at the centre of blindness prevention efforts ensures a brighter future for all.
- ❖ Glaucoma and cataract are not only adult problems—juvenile cataract and developmental glaucoma are responsible for a significant amount of childhood blindness in many populations.
- ❖ Comprehensive care means timely care. Early intervention is key to avoiding many blinding conditions in children.
- ❖ A pair of spectacles could bring the world into focus for your child! Refractive error is the greatest cause of avoidable visual impairment among children!
- ❖ VISION 2020 programmes address blindness in children as a major public health priority.
- ❖ Vision care for the caregiver is care for the child.
- ❖ Every 5 seconds someone in the world goes blind - and a child goes blind every minute
- ❖ VISION 2020: The Right to Sight is a global collaboration of the World Health Organization (WHO) with the IAPB international coalition of organizations committed to the elimination of avoidable blindness worldwide by the year 2020.



Vision for Children

For further information and registration
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World Sight Day

Vision for Children



Vision for Children



11th October 2007

KIIT- IBAT Auditorium

KIIT Campus, Patia, Bhubaneswar - 751024

In association with



JPM Rotary Eye Hospital & Research Institute