

## Why VISION 2020-The Right to Sight?

### ***Global Scenario***

In the next twelve years, i.e., by the year 2020, the global burden of blindness is expected to increase to 75 million from 50 million in the year 2000, unless special concerted efforts are made to arrest and or reverse this trend.

### ***The Response***

The global initiative, “VISION 2020: The Right to Sight” is a collaborative response initiated by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB).

### ***National Scenario***

As one of the member countries of WHO, India is committed to reduce the burden of avoidable blindness – estimated as 12 million - by adopting strategies advocated for VISION 2020. Over 90% of these 12 million blind people are living in the rural areas, most of whom are unserved and unreached.

This number is likely to rise to 15 million by the year 2020 if current trends continue. To align and collate efforts of different sectors and organizations towards the national plan of action, there emerges a strong need for a representative forum in India, parallel to the global body, to achieve the goals of VISION 2020 in India.

## VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA

The **VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA** initiative has provided a forum for the Government, National and International NGOs working in the Eye Care Sector to work jointly to achieve the common goal of eliminating avoidable blindness by the year 2020.

### ***Our Vision***

Our vision is to have an India free of avoidable blindness, where every citizen enjoys the gift of sight and the visually challenged have enhanced quality of life as a right.

### ***Our Mission***

We collaborate with eye care organizations in India for the elimination of avoidable blindness by provision of equitable and affordable services as well as rehabilitation of visually challenged persons through development of appropriate policies, quality standards, advocacy, training and promotion of best practices with a special emphasis on the poor and marginalized sections of society and underserved areas.

### **What do we aim to achieve?**

Within the mandate of combating avoidable blindness VISION 2020 INDIA Forum will work towards achieving **the three major objectives**, i.e.,

- Support the programmes and strategies of Government of India through close dialogue, mobilization of resources and facilitation of activities of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight.
- Disseminate ideas and information on successful approaches to eye care delivery.
- Increase public awareness on needs and solutions and sharing experiences with others in the field.

### **More specifically, we will achieve the following Objectives**

1. Supportive & Participatory role for the implementation of VISION 2020 National Plan of Action of Government of India especially in underserved areas with primary focus on Community Participation.
2. Advocacy
  - Facilitating the formation of State level VISION 2020-Plans of Actions and programmes, led by governments with intensive input from local and international NGOs.
  - Organizing events like World Sight Day, Eye Donation Fortnight, etc. through active partnership with Government of India.
  - Building a strong network of national NGOs to tackle avoidable blindness in a concerted manner.
3. Information collection and dissemination
  - Mapping of INGOs - information on services, services with partners and plan for enhancement.
  - Facilitating development of Training Modules, Models, Manuals, Protocols, Guidelines, Resource Materials pertaining to the strategic thrust areas of VISION 2020 and making them easily available to eye care institutions.
  - Regular interactions/Interface, capacity building programs and information dissemination for demonstrating successful approaches in the development of comprehensive eye care services and prevention of blindness.
  - Holding National Assembly / events and regional conferences with VISION 2020 themes every year.
4. Research and Publications
  - Publish newsletters/ journals jointly with GOI/ Research Institutes/ INGOs.
5. Resource management
  - Mobilization from members and new sources for carrying out the programmatic activities and the overheads of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight - India.

## **WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED IN FOUR YEARS**

- Successfully organized four World Sight Day Celebrations (2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007) in partnership with Government of India.
- Developed the XIth Five Year Plan (for National Program for Control of Blindness) in partnership with Govt. of India.
- Actively facilitated five VISION 2020 State Plans.
- Had fruitful interaction with different Government officials, Parliamentarians, International bodies like World Health Organization and Corporate for getting support towards achieving the VISION 2020 Goals
- Organized 11 National level workshops on emerging themes in Eye care all over the country. More than 600 eye care professional from all over India participated and benefited.
- Regular publication and dissemination of E-newsletter, Quarterly Community Eye Health Journals and all post programmes reports. The Community Eye Health Journal (CEHJ) is distributed to 5000 delegates all over world.
- Rendered services (off and onsite) to 65 members and more than 300 other eye care NGOs in India.
- Two research projects on “Equipping the Secondary Eye Hospital” and “Estimating work capacities of HR for VISION 2020-India programmes” are being conducted successfully.

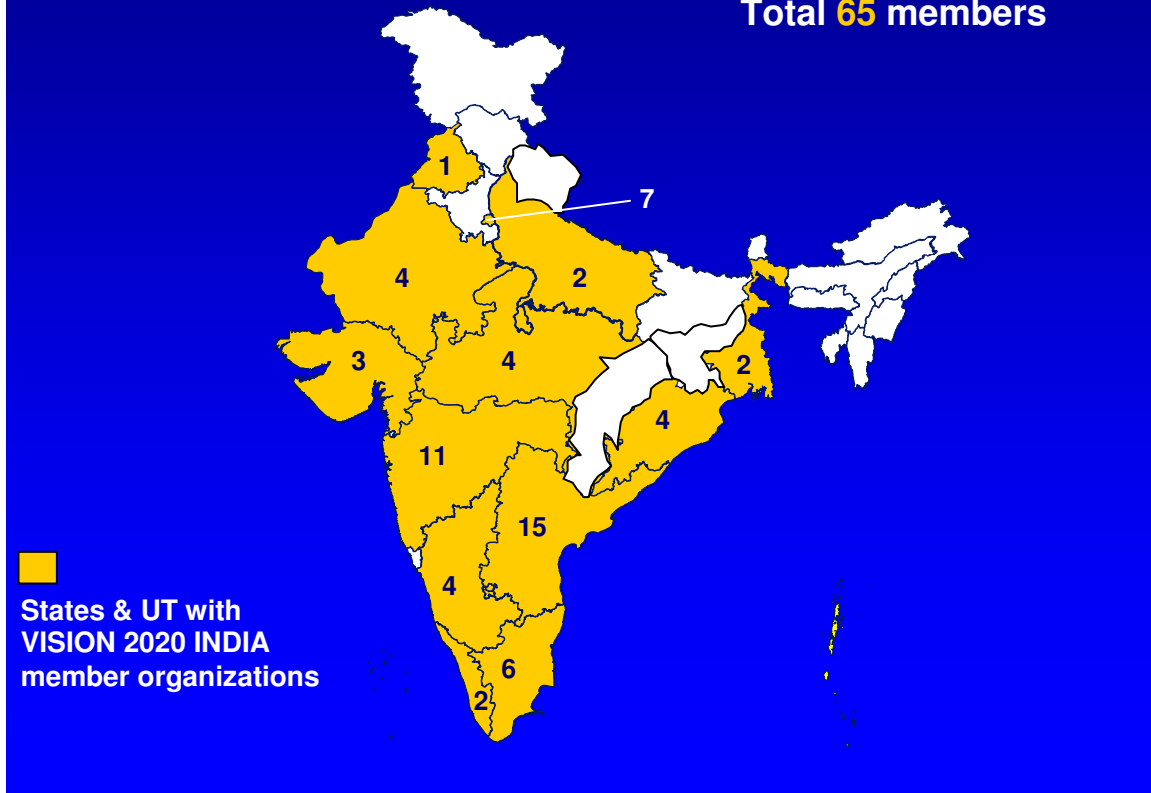
## **OUR FUTURE PLANS**

- Making the Forum a strong body for advocating and Lobbying in the field of Eye Care.
- Pursuing the proposed XI Five Year draft Plan in the concerned Ministry and implementation of it with a special focus on untouched and underserved areas.
- Helping and supporting the development and implementation of various Eye care programmes in North East States with Government of India and International NGOs.
- Support and supplement the work of National Programme for the Control of Blindness (NPCB) in implementing and monitoring the National Plan of action.
- Capacity Building programmes for the needy Eye Care NGOs to enhance their performance.
- Organizing national / International workshops and seminars on the emerging issues in Eye care.
- Develop standards of quality in the delivery of eye care services in India.
- Facilitation developing state VISION 2020 plans (in all states) in alignment with the National Plan of Action.
- Celebrations of World Sight Day and other national / international events with Government of India.
- Invite and increase the membership of the Forum.
- Resource Mobilization for sustainability of the Forum and for the activities.

# Member Organizations

## Member Organizations in 13 States / UT

Total 65 members



### VISION 2020 INDIA Membership

#### (a) Our Founder Members

- **International non governmental organizations (INGO):**
  - Christoffel-Blindenmission, Germany
  - Sight Savers International, United Kingdom
  - ORBIS International, New York, USA
  - Operation Eye Sight Universal, Canada
  - Seva Foundation, USA
  - Lions Clubs International Foundation, USA
  
- **National non Governmental Organizations (NGO):**
  - L. V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad. Andhra Pradesh
  - Aravind Eye Care System, Madurai, Tamil Nadu
  
- **National Governmental Organizations (GO):**
  - Dr. Rajendra Prasad Institute for Ophthalmic Sciences, New Delhi

**(b) Other members:** Membership is open to organizations associated with Eye Care related activities / expertise in the following categories.

- **Members** – Institutions from ‘Not for Profit’ sector like registered under appropriate statutory provisions (include Govt. Institutions).
- **Associates** – Same as above, different fees & ‘holding no office’ condition
- **Industry Members** – (Industries involved in manufacturing of ophthalmic supplies, Equipments, Pharmaceuticals etc.)
- **Honorary Members** – By Invitation

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To know more about our activities please look up at [www.vision2020india.org](http://www.vision2020india.org)

