

World Sight Day Celebrations-2005 -INDIA



(Public rally on the occasion)



(Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, Mr. Ashok Mehta, Dr. GN Rao, Mr. Thulasiraj, & Mrs. Panabaka Lakshmi inaugurating the ceremony by lighting the lamps)



(Dignitaries on the dais)

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA in association with Department of Ophthalmology, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Government of India, Lions Club International and Andhra Pradesh Right to Sight Society celebrated World Sight Day on 13th October in Hyderabad in a big way. This was one of the most important events of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA.

The celebrations commenced with a World Sight Day Rally in Hyderabad on 13th morning. Mrs. Panabaka Lakshmi, Union Minister of State for Health and Family welfare flagged off the rally which started from RTC Kalabhavan and culminated at Sundarya Vigyan Bhavan. Dr. G.N. Rao, President, International Agency for Prevention of Blindness, Mr. Ashok Mehta, President, Lions Club International, Founder Members and Members of the VISION 2020-India, Lions Members, Andhra Pradesh Right to Sight

Members, Representatives from Central and State government, School Children/college students, mediapersons and general public took part in the rally. At the end of the rally, there was a prize distribution function to give away awards to winners of elocution and drawing competitions held for school and college students earlier on the theme VISION2020: the right to sight.

At the evening inaugural function, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, Honorable Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Government of India, was the chief guest. He was joined by Mrs. Panabaka Lakshmi, Union Minister of State for Health and Family welfare, Dr. G.N. Rao, President, International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), Sri K Rosaiah, Minister for Finance and Health Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. I.V. Subha Rao, IAS, Principal Secretary Health, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj, President, VISION2020-India, Dr. Rachel Jose, DDG (O), Govt. of India, Mr. Ashok Mehta, President, Lions Club International on the dais.

In the presence of over 200 delegates from different parts of the country, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss released special reports, announced new events and gave away national awards. In his speech he reiterated India's commitment to prevent and control avoidable blindness. He commended the strong bonding of public-private partnership to achieve the noble cause and hoped for continuous support of State Governments make the National Programme for Control of Blindness successful.

On the occasion, the Union Minister released a Global report titled "**State of the World's Sight VISION 2020: The Right to Sight 1999-2005**". He also released the Revised Guidelines for District Blindness Control Society and a Revised Scheme for Participation of Voluntary Organizations for 2000 – 2007 under the 10th Five year plan of the Central government.

Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss declared two Seminars on Childhood Blindness and Diabetic Retinopathy open and felicitated leading national organizations working in the field of eye care. He also gave away the National Awards to the grass root organization recognizing their contribution and dedication to the elimination of avoidable blindness.

These are:

*Serango Christian Hospital, Serango, Orissa and Rethore Mission Hospital, Khurrai, Madhya Pradesh nominated by Christoffel Blinden Mission

*Janakalyan Samakhya, Andhra Pradesh and Prerak Samiti, Chhatisgarh nominated by Sight Savers International

*Thakur Sitaram Seva Kendra, Sarvamangapalli, West Bengal and OEU Lions Eye Hospital, Shreeram Nagar, Andhra Pradesh nominated by Operation Eyesight Universal

*Sri Sadguru Seva Sangh Trust, Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh, and Eye Bank Society of Rajasthan, Jaipur nominated by ORBIS International respectively.

The IAPB president, Dr. G.N Rao, and VISION-2020-India Forum President, Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj, presented the VISION 2020 – Global and India initiatives respectively on the occasion.

The second day's celebrations on 14th October 2005 were marked by two seminars on Childhood Blindness and Diabetic Retinopathy at the LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad. Resource persons and delegates from all over India participated in the seminars and discussed the emerging concerns of all stakeholders as far as Vision 2020 Initiatives are concerned.

As part of ***Sign up for Sight*** Global Campaign, we are happy to inform that more than 300 signatures were collected during the WSD celebrations.

The valedictory function took place on 15th morning at L.V.Prasad Eye Institute, where the Honorable President, His Excellency Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, was the Chief Guest. The President launched four programmes on the occasion. These are Andhra Pradesh Child Health Initiatives, Lions Diabetic Retinopathy Project, Sight for Kids Program and Sight First Campaign II



(Dr. APJ Kalam, Honorable President, addressing in the valedictory function)