



Dear Members,

From the Board of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA, we wish you a prosperous 2017.

Stepping into a new year is always an opportune time to reflect on the progress in the year gone by and resolve steps for the current year. While doing so, we tend to select best practices from some of the successful programmes to adopt to see what worked.

Scanning the international platform, we can perhaps count two major achievements in public health from last year. One was the remarkable public health achievement by Sri Lanka to eliminate malaria. It demonstrated the importance of grass-roots community engagement and a whole-of-society approach and also a strong vision of its leaders.

And the second achievement worth mentioning is the elimination of trachoma as a public health problem in Morocco. A strong political will, education, awareness, surveillance and most importantly, community engagement, worked to defeat this debilitating disease.

Closer home, in 2016 India successfully eliminated yaws (a disease known to affect the most underserved population) and maternal and neonatal tetanus. WHO described India’s achievement of maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination (MNTE) as a momentous public health feat, as until a few decades ago the country reported 150 000 to 200 000 neonatal tetanus cases annually.

These major achievements in public health gives us hope and strength that a strong resolution backed by a sustained political will, clear policies, awareness and active community engagement and not to forget tireless efforts of the frontline workers makes achievement of a public health goal possible.

In eliminating the major causes of elimination of avoidable blindness in India, collectively and individually, we have made some significant strides with VISION 2020 – INDIA being a viable platform for advocacy with the government and for sharing best practices and learning. In this year too, we will continue to pursue with the government for implementing of practices for better eye care.

**Phanindra Babu**  
CEO

**Dr Sara Varughese**  
President



**BLOCK YOUR DATE**  
**3 & 4 June, 2017**  
**MGM Eye Institute,**  
**Raipur, Chattisgarh.**

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## Advocacy & Updates

### Joint Secretary at Board Meeting

Joint Secretary, NPCB, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Mr Lav Agarwal, IAS, attended the VISION 2020—INDIA's board meeting.

The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Mr Lav Agarwal, IAS, participated in the 52nd Board meeting of VISION 2020 – INDIA held in Delhi on 8 December 2016 at Delhi.

Mr Agarwal suggested a collaborative effort between VISION 2020 – INDIA and the ministry towards achieving the goal of elimination of avoidable blindness. VISION 2020 – INDIA is preparing a workable proposal to be submitted to the Joint Secretary.



*Joint Secretary, Mr Lav Agarwal, IAS, at the VISION 2020—INDIA's board meeting, Dr Sara Varughese, President, VISION 2020—INDIA and other board members.*

The health ministry is thinking about increasing the GIA for cataract surgeries from Rs 1000/ to Rs 2000/- per cataract, but the operable cases have to be blind. This amount will be reimbursed to NGOs for 50% of the total surgeries of blind cases. This was informed by the DDG, Dr Promila Gupta at a meeting with VISION 2020—INDIA.

Following are some suggestions made by the Joint Secretary:

- Make blindness a 'top executive agenda'. It should catch the Prime Minister's eyes.
- Cataract is the major cause of blindness and can be very effectively managed. He felt it is a 'low hanging fruit'. All the stakeholders – public, private, NGOs and others should work in a mission mode to fully eliminate the blindness especially due to cataract.
- Eye donation – while many pledge their eyes, they ultimately do not end up in actually donating their eyes post death. Family members play a huge role at this stage. He felt there should be a system of utilising eyes post death and sensitize family members to respect the wish of the deceased.
- He is looking to leveraging up on film celebrities portraying blind person in their characters.
- Plans to set up a help desk to resolve issues related to HMIS and reimbursements.

## Advocacy & Updates



### WHO SEARO Regional Expert Group Consultation

A one day **Regional Expert Group Consultation - Accelerating Actions for Prevention of Blindness** was held by WHO SEARO from 13-15 December, 2016 at Hyderabad.

Mr Phanindra Babu Nukella, CEO, VISION 2020 – INDIA participated in the consultation making a presentation on outcome on recommendations to address cataract issue out of a group work.



*Delegates at the WHO meeting of the regional expert group*

Addressing the delegates of the consultation from the SEARO countries, **Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, South-East Asia Region** linked the economic growth rates across the Region to the public health gains “public health gains have led to higher growth rates, while higher growth rates provide the means to create ever-healthier populations.”

However, those suffering from visual impairment and blindness are more often left out from this public health gains. “Apart from its interference with daily activities, visual impairment jeopardizes access to education, opportunities for gainful employment and participation in civil, political and social life.”

Dr Khetrpal Singh stressed the importance of integrating comprehensive eye care into existing health systems. Since there are a number of proven risk factors for visual impairment, health services, especially at the primary level, have a fundamental role in preventing and managing these risk factors and avoiding complications. “Strengthening primary health care is the best way to make significant inroads into the burden of visual impairment and blindness.”

## Programme Development

### Workshop on Cost Management in NGO Hospitals

#### Feedback

"The workshop is an eye opener. Being a clinician I was not aware of these issues which are very important for holistic growth of the organisation." **Dr Manish Mahendra, Khairabad Eye Hospital.**

"Superb managed, organised, systematically, well qualified and experienced speakers, good team work of Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya. One of the best workshops I have ever attended. Really no shortcoming."

**Mr Mahesh Dongre, MM Joshi Eye Hospital**

54 delegates from 17 organisations from 10 states participated in the workshop. Professionals involved in the administration & program management benefitted from the workshop.

Sustainability, especially financial sustainability is a challenge for most NGO eye hospitals. In very simple terms financial viability can be defined as income (from all sources) being greater than expenses. Just as increase revenues can improve the financial situation so can reduction in costs.



Mr Subeesh Kuyyadyil, making a presentation ( L ) Delegates at the workshop ( R )

In view of this, VISION 2020: The Right to Sight- INDIA organised a workshop on "**Cost Management in NGO Hospitals**" working in eye care, on 17 December 2016. The workshop was hosted by Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya, Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh and was well attended by leaders, Doctors, administrators, finance managers and coordinators who play an important role in cost management. This workshop was about exploring cost control and cost efficiency without compromising the quality or quantum of services provided. The focus was on comprehensive cost management and not just on absolute reduction of cost.

For full workshop report and presentations visit: <http://bit.ly/2jZRUd7>

### Peer Quality Review

A two – day Peer Quality Review was conducted from 4 to 6 October 2016 at CL Gupta Eye Institute, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh. Ms Anshu Bhargav from LVPEI supported this programme and conducted it over 3 days.

"Dr Bhargav's visit has been most useful and empowering as she has enabled the staff to take up ownership in driving the process forward by sharing knowledge as well as sharing templates. This visit was a turning point in our pursuit and understanding of the NABH quality process and we hope to translate it into a positive accreditation process soon," Dr Ashi Khurana, Vice chairman, C L Gupta Eye Institute.



Quality Review class in progress



## Programme Development

### Roundtable Meet on proposed awareness campaign in India

A consultation on '**Towards Developing a Communications Campaign Aimed at Improving Awareness on Eye Health in India**' was held on 8 December, 2016 at New Delhi.

The initiative was collaboration between VISION 2020 – INDIA and Australian based the Fred Hollows Foundation.

The half day roundtable meet was aimed at brainstorming for a broad framework of the proposed awareness campaign.

In her welcoming remarks by Dr Sara Varughese, President, VISION 2020 - INDIA thanked The Fred Hollows Foundation for stimulating the half a day discussion on designing an awareness campaign.

Mr Phanindra Babu Nukella, CEO, VISION 2020 – INDIA introduced the Roundtable meet saying that this was a much awaited and needed discussion.

The proposed campaign, according to Ms Jennfier Gersbeck, Director, Global Partnership and Advocacy, The Fred Hollows Foundation aims at "a new global movement to unite people" will be initiated as a pilot in India predominantly using the digital media. A similar campaign by The Foundation is also being launched in the USA on a pilot mode.

Thirty one delegates from 17 organisations: VISION 2020 – INDIA board members, NPCB Officials, heads of organisations, programme heads and communication experts from VISION 2020 – INDIA's member organisations participated in the meet.



## News & Events

### World Sight Day - Stronger Together

An awareness walk, a seminar, truly representing the theme of the world sight day – **Stronger Together** – with presence on radio and digital media marked the global day of awareness on avoidable blindness.

This year's World Sight Day (WSD) was observed in Hyderabad, Telangana spread over two days on 12 and 13 October 2016. '**Stronger Together**' was this year's theme and both the programmes justified the theme. On the eve of the WSD a seminar 'Stronger Together' was organised with a panel of six expert speakers to present different perspectives on 'Stronger Together'. On 13 October, an awareness walk of two kms was held.



# News & Events

## World Sight Day: Stronger Together

Flagging off the awareness walk, **Shri C. Laxma Reddy, Minister for Health, Medical & Family Welfare, government of Telangana** said that all efforts should be made to eliminate avoidable blindness by year 2020.

Encouraging the holding of such awareness walks, he said, *"Awareness walks to educate masses on eye care should also be held in rural areas where it is more needed."*

Further emphasizing the need for preventive eye care, the minister said that 80 per cent of all blindness was avoidable and the effort of the community should also be on regular eye check.

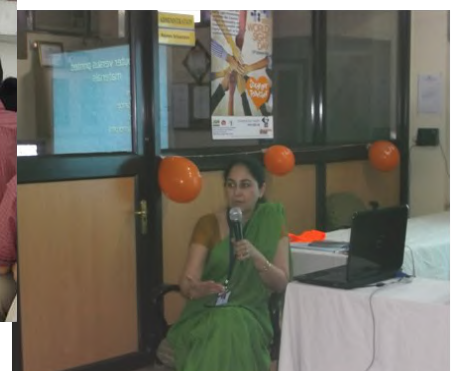
In addition, both in Delhi and Hyderabad, messages on prevention of avoidable blindness were aired through All India Radio FM channels (Gold and Rainbow) in Hindi in Delhi, and in Telugu in Hyderabad (Rainbow) as supported by NPCB/GoI.

For complete report <http://bit.ly/2jTv56W>



## World Sight Day observed across the country

A large number of VISION 2020—INDIA members observed with various events. From left to right: Globe Eye Foundation, Bangalore at an awareness walk | I Care, NOIDA and Anugraha Drishtidaan collaborated for a screening camp and Arunodhya Deseret Eye Hospital held a seminar.





## News from Members

### Prestigious Award for Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital has won the prestigious British Medical Journal Healthcare Awards- South Asia-2016 in the category "Quality Improvement Team of the Year" for their quality assurance efforts in eye banking. Congratulations team SCEH.

### Inauguration of SCALE programme

SCALE – Strengthening Capacity and Learning to Effectively Deliver Quality Eye Care was launched at Dr Shroff Eye Hospital, Delhi on 3 December, 2016. This is an initiative of SEVA Foundation and Seeing is Believing. The aim of the project is to scale up comprehensive quality eye care services through capacity building, directly increasing sight restoration in India by 2020.



*SCALE programme being formally launched*

### LCIF Conclave

The 11<sup>th</sup> Conclave of Lions of Eastern India was held on 18 December, 2016 at Kolkata. 246 participants from various Lions Eye Hospitals around the country, including ophthalmologists, hospital chairpersons, administrators, Trustees and Lion leaders attended the conclave.

Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada, Chairperson, Lions Clubs International Foundation and Lion Dr. Naresh Aggarwal, 1st International Vice President released the "**SightFirst Hospital Manual**" written and compiled by Dr. Divyesh P. Shah, SightFirst Technical Advisor MD322. This manual has been put together to provide a roadmap for lions' hospitals for upgradation, expansion and even establishing new facilities.



*"Sight First Hospital Manual" being released*

A panel discussion was organised on the 'Potential avenues of partnerships with Lions' hospitals' was explored. Dr. Santosh Moses, Country Manager-India, Operation Eyesight Universal (OEU), Mr. Sabitra Kundu, Head of Program Development, Mission for Vision, Ms. Sampa Paul of Sightsevers and Mr. Sanjib Kumar Jha, Business Head – South & East, Essilor India participated in the discussion. Past International Director Lion Bishnu Bajoria was the moderator of this panel discussion.

Mr. R. D. Thulasiraj, Executive Director-Aravind Eye Care System, Madurai, Dr. Debasis Bhattacharyya, Chairman, Disha Eye Hospitals, Dr. Chandra Sekher Shetty, SF Chief Technical Advisor, Mr. Phillip T. Albano, Manager, SightFirst Department made presentations at the conclave.



*Members of the Lion family*

## News from Members

### Screening of truck drivers



Shankar Eye Foundation, Odisha held an eye screening camp for truck drivers on 29 December 2016. This was in collaboration with Jana Jagaran & MKCG Medical college Berhampur, Odisha.

A total of 45 drivers were screened between the age group 20 to 65 years. Only 20 out of the total screened had normal vision.

### Convergence 2016 at SNC



Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya (SNC), Chitrakoot conducted 'Saguru Conclave -CONVERGENCE 2016' - a conference on paediatric ophthalmology and strabismus on 7 and 8 December, 2016. This was in collaboration with AAPOS. International and national acclaimed faculty covered all aspects of paediatric ophthalmology and strabismus. Nearly 300 delegates from across the world attended the conclave.

Some of the highlights of the conference were :

- Interactive case discussions

- Video assisted skill transfer &

- PG Quiz Session



Sadguru Life time achievement award was given to Dr P Viajaylakshmi and Sadguru special award was conferred on Dr Pradeep Shrama.

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