



# WORLD SIGHT DAY REPORT 2017



World Sight Day

Venue: Bhubaneswar

*An impactful announcement by the Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik for an avoidable blindness free state by 2022 and 'Walk for Vision' marked the World Sight Day event in Bhubaneswar observed by VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA Board.*

# World Sight Day Report 2017

MAKE VISION COUNT

On World Sight Day, in what can be termed as a result of powerful advocacy, the Odisha government, in a first, launched the Universal Eye Health programme for an Odisha free avoidable blindness by 2022.

The Chief Minister of the state, Shri Naveen Patnaik formally launched the programme at Jaydev Bhawan at Bhubaneswar on World Sight Day. The state government committed a whopping Rs 600 crores towards Universal Eye Health programme in the state.

The WSD programme in Bhubaneswar was jointly organised by government of Odisha, VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA and LVPEI Bhubaneswar.



*CM, Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik launching the web portal for Universal Eye Health.*



*Dr TP Das, President, VISION 2020 INDIA speaking at the WSD event on launch of UEH.*

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, government of Odisha was strongly represented at the WSD event by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Law, Mr Pratap Jena; Mr. R. Balakrishan, Development Commissioner, Odisha; Dr Pramod Meherda, Commissioner cum Secretary, Minister of Health and Family Welfare department; Dr. Braja Kishore Brahma, Director of Health Service, Government of Odisha.

Dr TP Das, President, VISION 2020 INDIA and Vice Chair, LVPEI will be the Chairman of the Empowered Committee to implement the programme in the state. Speaking at the occasion, he said that the programme would focus on providing comprehensive eye care and not just cataract. Dr Das further added that it will be skill based agenda and programme be in digital mode.

The Chief Minister also launched a dedicated web portal for the UEH in Odisha.

The Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Mr Pratap Jena said that a committee of government officials and eye care professionals had designed this programme and they are committed to provide eye care free to all in the state.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Phanindra Babu Nukella, CEO, VISION 2020 INDIA highlighted the activities



*Mr Phanindra Babu Nukella, CEO, VISION 2020 INDIA highlighting some achievements of the organisation.*

of VISION 2020 INDIA in the past few years, especially on the outcomes of its advocacy with the government.

Mr. R. Balakrishan, Development Commissioner, Odisha speaking on the occasion emphasized that they are looking at creating a movement to promote eye health.

On the occasion of WSD, Shri Naveen Patnaik also launched a comic book brought by Orbis India' titled ' Singing Tree' on refractive error.



Orbis book being launched by the CM

The programme at Jaydev Bhawan was attended by nearly 500 which included ASHA workers, government officials and other from the eye care fraternity.

The events on the WSD at Bhubaneswar were kicked started by 'Walk for Vision' in the morning. A 2kms walk from Capital Hospital to Jaydev Bhawan in Bhubaneswar through the main part of the city witnessed nearly 400 participating including majority of the board members of VISION 2020 INDIA. College and School students, Odisha Government officers & staffs participated in the walk. The walk was flagged off by Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Odisha government, Dr Pramod Kumar Meherda.



Above: walked being flagged off by Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Odisha government, Dr Pramod Kumar Meherda

We thank our Board members who enthusiastically participated in the walk.

We also thank our corporate members: Alcon, Essilor and Pellucid who supported the event.



Right: participants at the walk

# Media Coverage



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