

There is some good news to share with all of you. In a big relief to the hospitals working in the community, the government has finally increased the Grant In Aid for cataract surgery to Rs 2000. SPOs have been advised to consider increased grant-in-aid (GIA) while preparing PIPs for FY 2018-19.

We had made a representation for an increase in GIA to the ministry and had been persistently advocating it with relevant ministry officials from the DDG (O), NPCB, Deputy Secretary and Economic Advisor at health ministry. The new rates are likely to come into effect from April 2018.

We have also submitted a representation to the ministry of finance and Goods and Service Tax Council office seeking rationalization of GST rates on Intra Ocular Lenses. The Industry associations have also submitted a separate letter seeking a relief in GST rates. Mr Govind Hari, Secretary on VISION 2020 INDIA board has been representing our case in the GST meetings and the discussions do point toward a positive outcome.

The 14th annual conference 'Advocacy & Inclusive Partnership for Eye Health' is little more than a month away on 9 & 10 June 2018 at Sri Sankaradeva Netralaya, Guwahati. The scientific committee for conference has designed a stimulating programme that aims to debate and discuss some very topical issues in community eye health. The conference will also provide a platform for our members to share their experiences and share knowledge. Please do avail of this excellent opportunity.

See you all in Guwahati.

Dr Taraprasad Das
President

Phanindra Babu Nukella
CEO

Advocacy

During a meeting with Dr Promila Gupta, DDG (O), NPCB, she gave following updates:

- Revised Grant-in-aid will come into effect from April 2018
- Revised HMIS will be implemented soon. Some of the new features likely to be included:

There exists good possibility to reimburse the GIA directly to NGOs' account from Centre or State level. 10% data verification is likely to be automatic – 5% on SMS based and 5% IVR based.

DPM will have only 10 days for further review of data, after which is considered deemed approved.

Programme Development

In our series of skill building initiative, two workshops were held. We thank our corporate members: Alcon, Allergan, BioMedix, Essilor, Hoya, Pellucid, Appasamy and Carl Zeiss for supporting the workshops. Access workshop reports: <https://bit.ly/2GUgTdW>

The workshop on 'Patient Care Counsellors' was designed and hosted by Aravind Eye Care Systems on 5 & 6 January 2018. The workshop was designed to refresh the essential clinical knowledge required by counsellors and attended by 70 Counsellors from 20 member institutions across 9 states.



'The workshop on Standardising Primary Eye Care' was conducted on 10 & 11 March 2018. The workshop was designed by OEU and Pushpagiri Vitreo Retinal Institute faculty and hosted by Pushpagiri Vitreo Retinal Institute Hyderabad and attended by 48 vision technicians/optometrists from 21 member institutions across 9 states.



Organisation Development

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

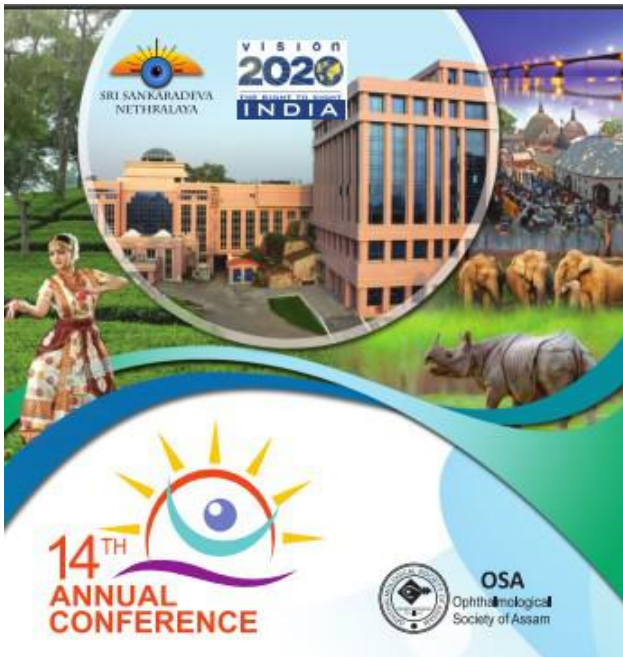
*It is a great pleasure and an honour to extend to you a warm invitation to attend the **14th Annual Conference of VISION 2020 India, to be held June 9 & 10, 2018 at Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya, Guwahati, Assam.***

We hope you will join us for a symphony of outstanding science, and take a little extra time to enjoy the spectacular and unique beauty of this region.



Dr. Harsha Bhattacharjee

Medical Director, Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya,



**VISION 2020 INDIA's
14th Annual Conference
Advocacy & Inclusive Partnership for
Eye Health
Date: 9 & 10 June, 2018
Venue: Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya
Guwahati, Assam
For details visit:
vision2020indiaannualconference.org**

The Guwahati conference is designed with 4 tracks:

Advocacy for Eye Health |

Eye Care Delivery to the Unreached |

Improving Patient Outcomes in Cataract Surgery |

Skill Enhancement for Optometrists & Ophthalmic Assistants

22 courses designed to cover all the relevant, current aspects of community ophthalmology.

<http://vision2020indiaannualconference.org/>

Organisation Development

The 57th board meeting of VISION 2020 INDIA was held on 24th February 2018 at Coimbatore.

News from Members

Dr. Bk Jain, Trustee & Director of Shri Sadguru Seva Sangh Trust, Chitrakoot was presented with 'The life Time Achievement Award' for his dedicated service to Indian Ophthalmology at All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS) - Annual Conference 2018, Coimbatore.



Alcon, a division of Novartis, won the prestigious Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) Medical Technology Excellence Award in two categories, Best Technology Solution in Surgical and Best Technology Solution in Ophthalmology.

Shri Y. S. Chowdhary, Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Government of India presented the Award to Alcon India in a glittering ceremony held in New Delhi

Climate Change is reality hard to ignore and any small green step toward mitigating it is appreciable.

Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital, Vyzag recently installed a 100 kw solar power plant. The unit would generate 400 units per day. Mrs. Manimala, Managing Trustee said that using solar power Sankar foundation is getting a benefit of 1lakh rupees in Electricity bill.

