

16th annual conference – A report

16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ONLINE

Date: 13 June
Time: 11:00 -13:00

VISION 2020 INDIA
THE RIGHT TO SIGHT

09: 30 - 10:30 hrs
VISION 2020 INDIA AGBM

11:00 – 11: 45
Beyond Cataract

11: 45 – 12:30
Inclusion: a global approach

12: 30 – 13: 00
Discussion on Ayushman Bharat with
Dr Indu Bhushan, CEO, Ayushman Bharat
Government of India

Introduction

The 16th annual conference was the first virtual conference of VISION 2020 INDIA was held on 13 June 2020 with a participation of 183. The 16th annual conference's scheduled host was Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital official however due to COVID-19 pandemic; the conference had to be cancelled.

The scientific program included two sessions: Beyond Cataract and Inclusion in eye health: a comprehensive approach. A special session was featured with Dr Indu Bhushan, CEO of Ayushman Bharat and was moderated by Dr GN Rao Chairman LV Prasad Eye Institute.

Dr TP Das, Vice Chair, LV Prasad Eye Institute and outgoing President, VISION 2020 INDIA Introduced the first session - Beyond Cataract. Anchoring the session, Dr Das said that the recent RAAB survey data showed that we cannot be cataract focused in our country. "By saying that I don't mean that we should not focus on cataract, but that we should add other diseases also."

Dr Umang Mathur, Executive Director, Dr Shroff Charity Eye Hospital moderated this session. Introducing the session he said, "At the stage we are in India, cataract does remain the most important cause of blindness as shown by the recent RAAB survey, the second

most common cause being complications out of cataract surgery. So we still have a lot to do in cataract. But having said that, other diseases like corneal blindness, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and AMD are important.”

The session included topics on: Preventing blindness from Diabetic Retinopathy by Mr Subheesh sharing experience from SNC, Chitrakoot; Children’s eye care- time to take action - Dr Shalinder Sabherwal presenting from Dr Shroff Charity Eye Hospital; Prevention, better than cure, a presentation on corneal blindness by Ms. Shaifali Sharma from SightLife.

For the next session, moderator, Dr Harpreet Kapoor, CBM India welcomed all on behalf of CBM. “With the mandate of important lives of people with disability, CBM over the last decade has tried to reach out to the marginalized population so this session will be about inclusion services.”

The session included topics on: Leave no one behind – *achieving inclusion in Eye Health* by Dr Harpreet Kapoor; Inclusion in Eye Care - *Advocacy efforts*, presented by Dr. Praveen Vashist from his overarching experience from RP Centre, AIIMS; Implementing disability inclusive eye care services by Dr. Deepthi from St. John’s Hospital; Gender sensitive approach for inclusion in eye care by Mr.Kuldeep Singh, SEVA Foundation and Ensuring inclusion in eye health for the elderly and ethnic groups by Dr. Sybil Meshrankar from Velemegna Eye Hospital. Dr Sara Varughese, CBM concluded the session by thanking all for their presentation.

For the special session of the conference on **Government of India’s Ayushman Bharat scheme, Dr TP Das** introduced Dr Indu Bhushan, CEO, Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, National Health Authority, Government of India and invited Dr GN Rao moderate the session.



Dr Indu Bhushan give an overview of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana scheme and its its future plans. Dr Bhushan spoke about the reach and benefit of the program and the progress since its launch. Dr Bhushan highlighted the programme’s feature related to ophthalmology. What Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana was doing in terms of blindness and the packages explain about the packages for ophthalmology under the scheme.

At the conclusion of the conference, Mr RN Mohanty, President, VISION 2020 INDIA thanked all participation. Mr Phanindra Babu Nukella, CEO, VISION 2020 INDIA gave the vote of thanks.

The session links <https://bit.ly/3e9JCHk>

<https://bit.ly/3gBDOrD>