

January—March 2021



Quarterly Newsletter

HIGHLIGHTS

Amidst the COVID pandemic, the year 2021 began on one positive note. The advocacy initiative by VISION 2020 INDIA for Universal Eye Health in West Bengal was launched on 4th January 2021. The eye health plan was initiated by Sightsavers, our national coordinator and east zone representative. [VISION 2020 INDIA advocacy brings 'Choker Alo' in West Bengal](#)

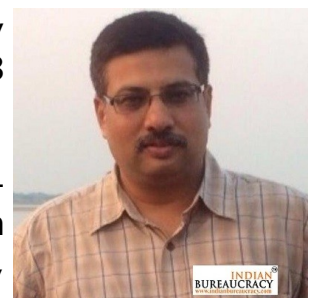
The revised Guidelines for Management of Cataract was published with the support from Orbis and was uploaded on our website for larger dissemination. [Manuals | VISION2020 \(vision2020india.org\)](#)

VISION 2020 INDIA's Strategic Plan to guide our activities for the next five years is well underway. Dr Dyalchand has been appointed as the consultant to draft it. All the scheduled interviews have been conducted for inputs and an online discussion with the Board is also over. We expect the final plan to be ready by end of April.

ADVOCACY

Shri Vishal Chauhan IAS took over as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. He is 1988 batch IAS officer of Sikkim cadre.

His key focus areas would be blindness control, non-communicable disease, chronic kidney disease, nation program on mental health, deafness control, oral health, palliative care, rare disease and related institutes like NIMHANS etc.



CEO, VISION 2020 INDIA, Mr Phanindra Babu Nukella met the Joint Secretary to apprise him of the work VISION 2020 INDIA is doing.

ADVOCACY

Following issues were submitted to the Joint Secretary for his consideration:

- Cornea blindness backlog free initiative
- the need for shift in government policy on reimbursement of processing fees to eye banks
- Developing a decadal road map for eye health and 3 years action plan for the national programme
- DBCS pending dues and reimbursement system revamping

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

Three webinars conducted in this quarter

29 January 2021: "NABH Accreditation". The session was conducted by *Dr Kaushik Murali*, President Medical Administration, Quality & Education, Sankara Eye Foundation India and *Dr Geeta Fulari*, Manager Quality Assurance, Sankara Eye Foundation India. Seventy-five participated.

18 February 2021: "*Hospital Management - Lessons, Experiences and Ongoing learning of Covid 19*". The session was conducted by Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital. Forty Four people participated.

22,24,26,27 February 2021: An Education Series was held on "*Progressive Addition Lenses and Trends in Ophthalmic lenses*" on online. The session was conducted by Essilor India Pvt. Ltd. 135 participants attended in day one, 124 attended in day two, 109 participants attended in day three and 92 attended in day four.

World Glaucoma Week was held from 7 – 13 March 2021. This year's slogan was: The world is bright; save your sight. At VISION 2020 INDIA, we spoke to Dr Surinder Pandav, President, Glaucoma Society of India about the challenges faced in India to prevent and manage glaucoma. [The world is bright, save your sight: glaucoma awareness week | VISION2020 \(vision2020india.org\)](https://www.vision2020india.org/)

ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT

The 69th Board meeting of VISION 2020 INDIA was held online on 20 February, 2021.

MEETINGS

02 February: CEO, VISION 2020 INDIA, participated in IAPB strategy development for 2030 meeting. IAPB conducted country specific meetings in south East Asia region seeking inputs for its strategy development for 2021 -2030. India meeting took place on 2 February.

24 March: CEO, VISION 2020 INDIA, participated in the panel discussion on the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2020, organised by IVI and OCI.

26 March: CEO, VISION 2020 INDIA, discussed with Mr Chris Cooper and Mr Govind from Purpose regarding eye health awareness campaign. The discussion focused on plans and strategies for phase 3 and possible states for replication.

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