



Concept Note

Event: Webinar cum Panel Discussion —

“Diabetes & Diabetic Retinopathy: Awareness, Early Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention”

Date/Time: Friday, **26 September 2025, 4:00–5:15 PM IST**

Host: VISION 2020: The Right to Sight–INDIA

Format: Virtual (webinar + moderated panel)

Background & Rationale

Diabetes is a major public-health challenge in India, and Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) remains a leading cause of preventable vision impairment among working-age adults. Despite established guidelines, gaps persist in timely screening, referral linkage, and long-term disease management. Marking *World Retina Day*, this webinar aims to translate evidence and clinical best practices into actionable strategies for health systems, institutions, and frontline providers.

Objectives:

1. Strengthen awareness of the diabetes–eye health nexus and the natural history of DR.
2. Promote early detection through risk stratification, screening intervals, and referral pathways.
3. Share current treatment paradigms (laser, intravitreal pharmacotherapy, surgery) and follow-up protocols.
4. Highlight preventive and community-based management strategies, including health promotion and integrated care models.
5. Enable cross-learning between clinicians and public-health implementers for scalable DR services.

Target Audience:

- Ophthalmologists, vitreoretinal specialists, endocrinologists, diabetologists

- Optometrists, vision technicians, program managers, public-health professionals
- Hospital administrators, NGOs, Program officers
- Post-graduate trainees and allied health professionals

Faculty & Roles:

- **Speakers:**
 1. **Dr. Rajesh Khadgawat** (Professor, Department of Endocrinology, Dr. RP Centre, AIIMS)
 2. **Dr. Alok Sen** (Medical Superintendent and Head of Department, Vitreo Retina and Uveitis, SNC, Chitrakoot)
 3. **Dr. Chaitra Jayadev** (Consultant in Vitreoretina Services, Narayana Nethralaya)
 4. **Dr. Manisha Aggarwal** (Director of Vitreoretina and Clinical Research Services, Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital)
- **Moderator:** Dr. Praveen Vashist (Officer In-charge, Community Ophthalmology, Dr. RP Centre, AIIMS)

Session Flow (75 min):

- 03 min: Opening & closing remarks
- 4 × 06 min (24 min): Expert talks on following topics-
 - ✚ **Dr. Rajesh Khadgawat:** *Diabetes—Risk Factors, and Prevention Strategies*
 - ✚ **Dr. Alok Sen:** *Public Awareness and Primary-Level Screening—Technology-Enabled Models*
 - ✚ **Dr. Chaitra Jayadev:** *Contemporary, Evidence-Based Treatment Modalities for Diabetic Retinopathy*
 - ✚ **Dr. Manisha Aggarwal:** *Policy Frameworks and Institutional Initiatives in Diabetic Eye Care*
- 33 min: Moderated panel discussion
- 15 min: Audience Q&A

Key Discussion Prompts (Panel)

- How can facilities implement risk-based DR screening at scale (including primary/secondary care)?
- Practical referral and back-referral loops between diabetology and ophthalmology.
- Choosing screening tools (fundus camera, AI-assisted triage, tele-ophthalmology) within resource constraints.
- Ensuring continuity: counselling, adherence, and tracking defaulters.
- Data capture & quality: indicators, audit cycles, and program dashboards.
- Building capacity in peripheral settings—task sharing and skills upgradation.

Expected Outcomes

- A concise set of actionable recommendations for institutions to strengthen DR screening and management.
- Increased cross-disciplinary understanding between eye care and diabetes care teams.
- Practical takeaways for clinical care, patient counselling, and programme design.
- Creation of a community of practice for continued knowledge exchange.
