



# CONFERENCE REPORT

**Advocacy & Inclusive Partnership For Eye Health**

**Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya | Guwahati | 9 & 10 June 2018**



Inaugural Programme of the conference.

## TABLE OF CONTENT

<b>SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CONFERENCE INAUGURAL.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS.....</b>	<b>8</b>

# Conference Report

## Summary

**F**or the first time, the annual conference of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India travelled to the northeast – to the gateway state of the region - Assam.

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual conference titled ‘Advocacy & Inclusive Partnership for Eye Health’ was held over two days 9 & 10 June, 2018.

Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya, Guwahati hosted the conference with aplomb. The conference was held under the aegis of Ophthalmology Society of Assam.

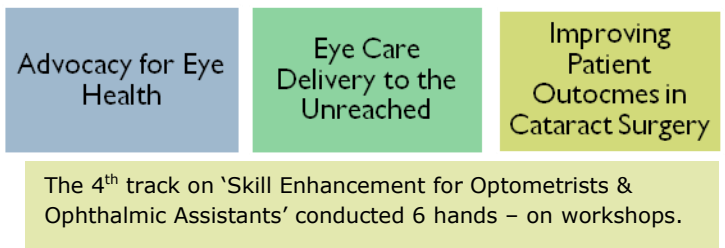
The broad aim of the conference is:

- ✚ Increasing the capacity of eye care fraternity towards meeting the goal of reducing visual impairment
- ✚ Creating networking opportunities and overall atmosphere of upgrading knowledge and technology use
- ✚ Share experiences and good practices in the area of eye health for better planning and implementation of eye care services

More than 500 delegates – head of organizations, programme managers, outreach staff, optometrists and students - from across the country attended the conference.

“The conference was a perfect place to meet, share and interact”,  
**Dr Madhu Bhaduarua.**

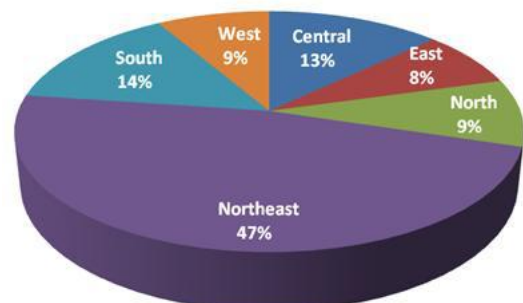
The conference featured 20 sessions under 3 parallel tracks



**At the conclusion of the conference, VISION 2020 INDIA submitted recommendations to the NPCB on improving HMIS. The recommendations were generated from the discussion in the said session.**

**Four key recommendations pertained to Claims, NGO Registration, Data Entry, Design and Submission, Data Management.**

## Zone wise Participation



## Scientific Committee

A five member scientific committee designed the scientific programme with extensive brain storming and deliberation over the months.



Dr Umang Mathur



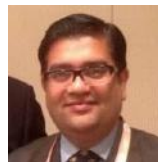
Dr Kasturi  
Bhattacharjee



Dr Praveen Vashist



Dr Rohit Khanna



Dr Sandeep Buttan

The conference offered a wide canvas beyond the scientific sessions for sharing information. Oral and Poster presentations drew extensive response. Seventy four abstracts were presented under oral presentation and 45 selected for Poster.

A photo contest was introduced from this year. A total of 42 entries were received with the theme of the contest on 'Eye Care for All'

## Plenary Session

Two speakers, masters in their own fields addressed the packed auditorium at the Plenary Session of the conference. Swami Shantamandaji, Secretary Ramakrishna Mission, Delhi spoke on 'Spirituality in Medical Profession'. In an interactive talk, Swami Shantamandaji spoke how those involved in this noble medical profession, which according to him is at a cross road, need to understand the deeper dimension of the work to find the true meaning.

Dr DVR Seshadri, Professor spoke on 'Reconciling Paradoxes for Excellence' He discussed reconciling the various paradoxes inherent in providing high quality eyecare. What it means to create organizational excellence and discuss the paradoxes. [His presentation can be accessed.](#)

Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Finance, Transformation & Development and PWD was a guest of honour at the plenary session. Dr Sarma addressing the delegates highlighted the importance of National Health Protection Scheme launched by the Centre and the progress they were making in Assam in reaching healthcare to the unreached



*Minister Dr Himanta Biswas at the plenary session*



*Nearly 500 delegates attended the conference*



## Conference Inauguration

A galaxy of eminent personalities from Assam, the Executive Committee of VISION 2020 INDIA, Secretary, Ophthalmology of Assam and Dr Harsha Bhattacharjee, Medical Director, Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya graced the conference inaugural programme.

His Excellency Shri Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam Chief Guest for the occasion formally inaugurated the conference on 9 June, 2018 at Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya.



*His Excellency, Shri Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam*

Inaugurating the conference, His Excellency Shri Jagdish Mukhi welcomed the conference delegates and hoped that the two day deliberation will help solve the problem of blindness. He further said that as Assam has the highest prevalence of blindness in the country, he hoped the deliberation of such conferences is “key to solve the issue”.

Dr Promila Gupta, Director General of Health Services, Government of India spoke about NPCB which was the 1<sup>st</sup> such national programme in the world to tackle avoidable blindness. She recognized the significant role played by NGO in addressing the issue country wide and with their help “we hope to reach our target of 0.3%”.

Dr Gupta highlighted one of the main barriers in tackling blindness in the country - lack of trained manpower and lamented that most of

the trained manpower is concentrated in urban areas.

To overcome the problem, she said, government was thinking of shorter courses but not comprising on quality.

Dr Rajen Gogoi, General Secretary, Ophthalmological Society of Assam (OSA) welcoming the delegates to Assam said that the national conference was being held under the aegis of OSA. Dr Gogoi said that the conference held in Assam crates awareness that our people should reach the unreachable.

President, VISION 2020 INDIA, Dr Taraprasad Das addressing the audience said that it was heartening to see that our mindset was moving to community. He said that to reduce the blindness in the country calls for a greater effort. It was a matter of concern that 65% of our population in village is still not reached. We certainly can do better. Dr Das said if we, as a fraternity can devote 25% our time towards community, our health seeking behaviour will improve. One of the main barriers is lack of manpower. But we have innovative ways with shorter courses. This conference aims to do that – build skills.

Dr Harsha Bhattacharjee, Medical Director, Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya delivered the welcome speech.



## AWARD PRESENTATION

Each year, VISION 2020 INDIA presents three awards for its member organisations:

**Shri Dharamsey Nansey Oman Award** for Outstanding High Quality High Volume Comprehensive Eye Care Service Delivery,

**LOTUS Award** for Holistic Development of an Organisation to Serve Community Better

and **Shri S. N. Shah Award for Equity:** to provide comprehensive primary eye care screenings with a focus on women and children

A three-member jury assessed the applications received for these awards.

The awards were presented by His Excellency Shri Jagdish Mukhi, Governor, Assam at the conference inaugural programme.

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## Felicitation

This year all the organizations who had conducted the annual conference since 2004 were felicitated.

## Photo Contest

The winners of the photo contest 'Eye Care for All' were awarded at the inaugural.

Winner: India Vision Institute

1<sup>st</sup> Runner up: Aravind Eye Hospital

2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up: Pellucid

[Read More](#)



*Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital, Bhopal was awarded the Shri Dharamsey Nansay Oman Award. Shri L C Janiyani received the award*



*Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital received the Lotus Award. Dr Umang Mathur receiving the award.*



*Sri Kiran Institute of Ophthalmology, Kakinada was awarded the Shri S N Shah award. Dr Madhu Uddaraju receiving the award.*

## Scientific Sessions

The scientific sessions were spread across 4 parallel running tracks.

### 1. Advocacy on Eye Health

Challenges in Delivering Eye Health in Northeast Region

Advocacy for Allied Ophthalmic Personnel

Optimizing Ophthalmic Residency Training in India

HMIS: Challenges & Recommendations

Universal Eye Health

Advocacy for Research in India

Towards a Disability Inclusive World

### 2. Eye Care Delivery to the Unreached

School Screening & Refractive Error

Approach of Diabetic Retinopathy Management in Community

Transforming District Eye Health Systems

Successful Outreach models/approaches

Innovations & innovative approaches in community outreach in technology & processes

Strategies for Screening Emerging Eye Problems

HR: Critical Component in Service Delivery

Quality Assurance: Strategies, Tools & Evidence for Improving Eye Care Service Delivery

### 4. Improving Patient Outcomes in Cataract Surgery

Infection Control – Principles & Practices

NABH Accreditation

Equity in Eye Care Services

Advocacy and Leadership

How to generate demand for services

Quality measures in Cataract surgery

Cataract Basics to Advanced

### 5. Skill Enhancement for Optometrists & Ophthalmic Assistants

Pediatric Refraction & Amblyopia

Contact Lens

Biometry

Orthoptics & Binocular Vision

Low Vision

Ocular Prosthesis

## THANKS

*The conference would not have been possible without the able support of: The scientific committee: to give their precious time for meetings and coordination and brainstorming to design the programme.*

*Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya: Dr Harsha Bhattacharjee, Dr Kasthuri Bhattacharjee, Dr Sumita Sarma Barthakur and the dedicated team of volunteers who worked round the clock to ensure that all went without a hitch.*

*We thanks our Corporate Advisory Board for supporting us for this skill transfer initiative.*

*We thank OSA, NPCB, Speakers, and not to forget the Chair/Co-Chair and Moderators and all other participants who made the conference vibrant place for learning and sharing of ideas.*

*We would also like to thank the Jury for selecting the awards.*

*Thank you all.*