

### Message from the CEO

The first two months of 2018 in IVI have been a time to plan ahead as well as execute a number of important projects. It was gratifying to see the calibre of young Optometry researchers at the IVI Young Optometry Researcher Rolling Trophy. We also reached 7721 underprivileged children and adults across India through our eye health screening programs.

A spin-off from the 325 eye health screening campaigns we have conducted over the last five years is the increased awareness the camps have created among communities. There have been repeated requests from individuals who missed screenings wanting to know how they could have their eyes checked as well as people with damaged spectacles seeking support. To cater to all these, IVI will soon launch its first outreach centre that will be open to the public on all seven days a week. I thank the Australian Consulate-General, Chennai which made this possible through their Development Assistance Program. IVI is keen to explore support to have more centres in Tamil Nadu targeted at locations where underprivileged communities live.

I'd like to apprise you about a range of IVI screening campaigns and activities being made possible, thanks to our supporters.

With the generous support of Essilor Vision Foundation, we will be able to screen 10,000 children in and around Aizwal, the capital city of Mizoram. IVI is also screening children in Ahmedabad and Pune, thanks to support from Cooper Vision, children and adults in Goa and Ahmedabad through support from the Australian Consulate-General, Mumbai, and children from Chennai, Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram, Madurai Kanyakumari districts in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry with support from Allergan International Foundation. Our partners and the excellent team at IVI have helped us perfect the service delivery aspect and I look forward to expanding this to the far corners of India if we could have more financial supporters assisting us.

Finally, nothing can give us more satisfaction than what our beneficiaries have to say about our work. Umair I Patel, a 13 year old from National Urdu School, Navi Mumbai said "I had difficulty in seeing the black board and copied notes from my friends sitting next to me. I also requested my teacher to seat me closer to the black board to avoid embarrassment. With the spectacles I am more confident and I no longer have to look into my friend's books or sit closer to the board."



Fifty-six-year old, Shantamma, a daily wager at the beedi rolling factory in Tirunelveli felt that her defective distance and near vision affected her work and her productivity, making her lose some amount of her income as she was unable to keep with the target. A simple pair of bifocals provided by IVI worked wonders for her. She has seen a marked improvement in her productivity and is able to meet her daily target.

- Vinod Daniel

### IVI Outreach Centre in Chennai

India Vision Institute is launching an outreach centre in Palavakkam, Chennai to provide accessible and affordable eye care services to underprivileged communities.

The centre will serve as a key facility for all IVI outreach activities, provide an accessible facility for basic eye examination to disadvantaged communities in and around Palavakkam, Kottivakkam and Neelankarai localities, and provide spectacles to those in need. The centre will operationalize by end of March.

*IVI acknowledges the support of the 'Australian Consulate-General, Chennai' for part funding the infrastructural requirements of the centre.*



### IVI is an initiative of



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IVI is a member of **World Council of Optometry**,  
**Asia Pacific Council of Optometry** and **VISION 2020**

## IVI, EVF in vision screening partnership

India Vision Institute and Essilor Vision Foundation will continue their close association and screen 20,000 adults and provide access to 11,000 free spectacles to those in need during 2018.

It has been a story of a strong partnership for the two since 2016. During the two years - 2016 and 2017, as many as 7313 workers from underprivileged communities were screened across Tamil Nadu, with 4084 free spectacles distributed to those in need.



From fishing folk along the Chennai coast, match box industry workers in Srivilliputhur and the Sivakasi firecracker industry, to beedi makers in Tirunelveli, HIV/AIDS affected in Manavur, lepers, daily wagers and slum dwellers in Chennai have all benefited from the campaign. Prison inmates in Chennai and Madurai, gypsy colonies in Thiruvallur, underprivileged auto drivers in Chennai, and factory labourers from the Ambattur

Industrial Estate Manufacturers Association are some of the others who have been helped.



In the vision screening campaigns, IVI has worked closely with the Montfort Community Development Service (MCDS), Krupa Foundation and several other local government bodies.

This year, IVI and EVF have resolved to take the initiative forward and provide eye care solutions to a wider group of adult beneficiaries among disadvantaged communities not only from Tamil Nadu but in states across India.

“Essilor is pleased to have partnered with India Vision Institute to add value to the lives of the community, through the Essilor Vision Foundation. The spectacles provided should help the workers get back clear vision and improve productivity. We hope to continue adding value to another 20,000 workers from the underserved

areas of Tamil Nadu and other parts of india in 2018,” said Milind Jadhav, Head, 2.5 NVG India

Vinod Daniel, CEO, India Vision Institute, said, “Refractive error is one of the most common causes of visual impairment among adults. Through our Eye See & I Work campaign and the support of the Essilor Vision Foundation, we hope to not only provide spectacles to these adults but also raise awareness about issues relating to visual impairment.”

“Adult workers with uncorrected refractive errors are 34% more productive with a simple pair of glasses. These campaigns are our way of reaching out to the underserved communities and creating an impact in their lives. We hope to extend our services to a larger number of people in 2018 and are pleased to continue to be associated with EVF in our endeavors,” Mr Daniel added.



## Capacity building for Ben Franklin sales staff

A thirteen-day capacity building program, organised by IVI from 19 February - 3 March for optical counter sales personnel of Ben Franklin Opticians, will help staff improve competence in technical and communication skills.

With 31 participants, the comprehensive hands-on capacity building program aimed to impart knowledge about refraction, prescriptions and optical



dispensing for improving outcomes in technical-handling and customer satisfaction through role-plays, among other means.

Revanth Kumar, Sheeba Swarna and Chandrashekher, Program Managers from IVI, and Srikanth M, Optometry Faculty, Bausch & Lomb School of Optometry, facilitated the training.

Watch ‘In conversation with Vinod Daniel’ video series only on [www.youtube.com/indiavisioninstitute](http://www.youtube.com/indiavisioninstitute)



Dr. Santhosh Babu, IAS, in conversation with Vinod Daniel



Srinivasan R - Editor, The Hindu Business Line in conversation with Vinod Daniel

TOGETHER, WE MUST CONVINCE GOVERNMENTS THAT EYE CARE FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN IS CRITICAL TO EDUCATION AND HEALTH OUTCOMES.

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Contact India Vision Institute  
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Vision for every child... every year



Members of the Optometric profession and industry are welcome to contact our campaign partner Optometry Giving Sight: [www.giveeyesight.org](http://www.giveeyesight.org)

## Young Optometry Researcher Rolling Trophy 2017-18

The India Vision Institute Young Optometry Researcher Rolling Trophy and Award for 2017-18 has been announced.

I Harini of Vasan Institute of Ophthalmology & Research, Chennai is the recipient of the award for her project 'Evaluation of visual and ocular status in aluminum industry workers'.



The announcement was made at the symposium hosted by the Bausch & Lomb School of Optometry and Brien Holden Institute of Optometry and Vision Sciences, Hyderabad. Harini is selected

from among three other shortlisted students who presented their research projects.

"Since it was instituted, the IVI Young Optometry Researcher Rolling Trophy has inspired optometry institutions to encourage research and has provoked interest among undergraduate students to utilize the platform to present their research work. Presentations of projects made by these young students reassures me about the progress of Optometry research in India" said Vinod Daniel, CEO, IVI.

The award for Harini includes a certificate and travel grant of INR 5000 to enable her to participate in a conference of her choice. This is the first time that Vasan Institute of Ophthalmology & Research, Chennai has won the IVI rolling trophy. The three other shortlisted candidates, who have received certificates of participation, are Sushma Shrestha from Narayana Nethralaya, Bangalore; Faizan

from the Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences, Saifai (Etawah); and Priyanka Bhandari from Bausch & Lomb School of Optometry and Brien Holden Institute of Optometry and Vision Sciences, Hyderabad.



Presentations at the symposium were evaluated by a panel of experts, including Dr B R Shamanna and Dr P S Roopa Reddy from the University of Hyderabad and Nagesh Vuppalla from Neo Retina, Hyderabad.

Last year's winner of the trophy was Navya Deepthi Davara from Bausch & Lomb School of Optometry and Brien Holden Institute of Optometry and Vision Sciences, Hyderabad.

## Job portal revamped

[www.eyecarejobs.in](http://www.eyecarejobs.in) has been revamped. The portal is part of India Vision Institute's Industry and Education support initiative. It seeks to bring recruiters and job-seekers in the field of Optometry and the wider eye care sector face-to-face on a common platform. The portal provides an avenue for Optometrists and other trained optical cadres to seek suitable positions and explore a rewarding career from a pool of opportunities

listed by hospitals, institutions, industry, governments, NGOs and the retail sector.

Launched in September 2014, IVI's sector-specific job portal is available free of cost to both recruiters and job seekers. If you are opting for a career in Optometry in India or simply looking to improve your career prospects, then visit [www.eyecarejobs.in](http://www.eyecarejobs.in). This is also the right platform if you are scouting for qualified

and experienced personnel to join your workforce!

The job portal aims to bridge the gap in requirement and availability of trained eye care personnel by creating opportunities for coming together of suitable personnel and rewarding opportunities.

*IVI acknowledges the support of 'Essilor India Pvt Ltd' for supporting the initiative*

## Call to support IVI in preventing avoidable blindness

Uncorrected refractive error remains a major cause of avoidable vision impairment and the second most common cause of blindness in India. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that approximately 39.3 million, including 1.6 million children in India, are blind or visually impaired due to uncorrected refractive error. A recent report states a yet higher prevalence of uncorrected refractive error - around 133 million people blind or vision impaired including, 11 million children due to lack of access to vision screening and provision of an appropriate pair of spectacles.

It goes without saying that vision impairment and eye disorders not only have broad health implications but also pose huge costs to the national economy

by way of productivity losses. The challenge is huge, not least the shortfall in trained human power – notably adequately trained optometrists. It is estimated India has approximately 9000 four-year trained optometrists and 40,000 two-year trained eye care personnel. To provide comprehensive vision care to all the people of the country, 115,000 four-year trained optometrists are required. The Indian optical industry has been rapidly growing since the last few years and increasing its share in the global eye wear industry. However, the question is, has there been a commensurate growth in vision care delivery services. The answer is not difficult to seek, indicating the urgent need for increased efforts by all concerned.

IVI has been playing its part in trying to provide vision screening and access to a pair of spectacles to disadvantaged communities in far-flung areas. Working in over 18 Indian states, we have organized awareness campaigns, undertaken vision screening and provided free spectacles to the needy.

To further expand our work and outreach activities, we need the support of individuals, government, institutions and corporates. We encourage you to come forward and make individual and institutional donations.

**Please write to [ivi@indiavisioninstitute.org](mailto:ivi@indiavisioninstitute.org) for more details and stay tuned to our website [www.indiavisioninstitute.org](http://www.indiavisioninstitute.org)**

## Eye See & I Learn (Jan – Feb 2018)

As a part of the 'Eye See & I Learn' initiative, IVI screened 1,055 underprivileged children from government, government-aided and panchayat union schools in Melur, Madurai district. As many as 43 children diagnosed with refractive errors will receive spectacles shortly.

Of the 1,170 underprivileged children from government and government-aided schools who underwent screening in Kelambakkam, Palavakkam and Injambakkam, 121 children diagnosed with refractive errors were given free spectacles.



*IVI acknowledges the support of the 'Allergan International Foundation' for funding the program*

As many as 857 underprivileged children from Chennai primary schools in Karappakkam and Ayanavaram, and Dhanalakshmi School, Tondairpet were screened, and 53 children diagnosed with refractive errors were provided with free spectacles.

*IVI acknowledges the support of the 'Lane Cove Cricket Club' for funding the program*

IVI screened 879 underprivileged children in government-aided schools at Ambattur; 108 children diagnosed with refractive errors will receive free spectacles.



IVI vision screened 2,459 underprivileged children from panchayat union middle and high schools in Neelangarai and the government-aided school in Perambur, and distributed 469 free spectacles to those diagnosed with refractive errors.

*IVI acknowledges the funding support by Mr. Bharat Somashekarappa*

IVI screened the vision of 1,162 underprivileged children from Corporation Schools, Pullianthope and distributed 161 free spectacles to those diagnosed with refractive errors.

Of the 3,637 underprivileged children from government schools who underwent screening in Pune, 112 children diagnosed with refractive errors will receive free spectacles shortly.

*IVI acknowledges the support of the 'Cooper Vision' for funding the program*



India Vision Institute (IVI) in association with Avichi Alumni Association screened 489 children of Avichi Higher Secondary School, Vadapalani on 26 and 27 February; 96 children were diagnosed with refractive errors. 11 children who had other ocular ailments were referred for higher care through referral letters. Mr C Chockalingam, Secretary; D Siva Kumar, President and Mr S Subramaniam, Treasurer and other dignitaries of the Avichi Alumni Association were present during the vision screening program.

*IVI acknowledges the support of 'Avichi Alumni Association' in supporting the vision screening program*

## Eye See & I Work (Jan – Feb 2018)

As a part of the 'Eye See & I Work' campaign, IVI screened 70 underprivileged daily wages workers at Palkalai Nagar, Palavakkam. Forty workers diagnosed with refractive error will receive free spectacles. In the slum housing board at Padapai, IVI screened 110 underprivileged community workers; 20 of them diagnosed with refractive errors will receive free spectacles.

*IVI acknowledges the support of 'Krupa Foundation' for coordinating the logistics of the campaign and 'Essilor Vision Foundation' for providing the free spectacles*

### IVI Vision Screening Programs

	Children	Community	Total
No of programs	267	58	325
Individuals screened	105281	40947	146228
Spectacles distributed	8780	7508	16288

#### INDIA VISION INSTITUTE

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