

Message From the CEO

Trust you have had a good start to 2024. The future of primary eye care looks bright especially as more and more people would have access to a pair of glasses. Thanks in particular to the work undertaken by several India-based eye care NGOs, the foundation laid by IAPB and the Clear Vision Coalition, the World Health Organisation's SPECS 2030 and the several flagship initiatives by the Government at both the State and Central level.

On a personal note, we have completed a million free eye screenings. Over 80 percent of them have had their very first eye checkup done and all who need have been provided free spectacles through the generosity of our CSR partners. All conducted by our own qualified optometrists who make sure the best quality is maintained.

WHO's SPECS 2030 will be a very important initiative in reaching the

unreached and we are delighted to be a member of this initiative. It plans to help Member States sustainably address the huge unmet need for spectacles while delivering quality care. Affordable access to spectacles and a 40% increase in effective coverage of refractive errors by the year 2030 can achieve the objective, including in prevention of avoidable blindness.

Our professional development programs continued to deliver high-quality projects to upgrade optometry and public health skills as well as develop targeted conferences such as Studometry, for students, and VARS, a conference on Vision and Road Safety. Some of which are highlighted in this news update.

We owe a lot to our Trustees and Advisory Committee members, without whose support, mentoring



and belief in what we have set out to do, IVI will not have got to where we are today. We are also delighted that Patrick Cherrier, Jodi McKay and Yvonne Holden have agreed to join us as honorary Global Ambassadors. A big thanks to our staff for their commitment, dedication and hard work.

- Vinod Daniel

1 Million Underprivileged Benefit from Free Eye Screenings



Our one millionth beneficiary, a Delhi school girl, Vidhi, received her glasses from the Australian Parliamentarian, Andrew Charlton MP, after being vision screened earlier. The Deputy High Commissioner of Australia, Ambassador Nicholas McCaffrey, joined in the event on January 10 at the Delhi Council of Child Welfare (DCCW). Also present was Ambassador Amit Dasgupta.

Australian MP launches Program for School Children



Delhi and Chennai school children's vision screening program, launched by Australian Liberal Party MP and Leader of Opposition in Parliament Peter Dutton, and Shadow Minister Jason Wood MP, November 2, 20,000 benefiting.

Supported by Accor India.

Eye Health NGOs Chart Course for Safer Roads, Clear Vision 3rd Vision and Road Safety Conference

Four eye health non-profits – India Vision Institute, Mission for Vision, Sightsavers India and VisionSpring – hosted the 3rd Vision and Road Safety Conference on January 19 at the IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai.

VARS builds on the past two years' convenings. Through their efforts to-date, the four have screened the vision of 16.46 lakh (1.64 million) commercial vehicle drivers and allied transport workers. The key to each program's success has been through making sight tests convenient by bringing them to transportation hubs, ports, break-bulk centres, and rest areas.

The four organisations announced a joint commitment to screen an additional 3 million commercial driving communities by 2030.



Chennai 2024 Declaration on Vision and Road Safety

At the 3rd Vision and Road Safety Conference convened at the IIT-Madras Research Park on January 19, 2024. We, India Vision Institute, Mission for Vision, Sightsavers India and VisionSpring, delegates to the conference and participants, declare and resolve, in a shared commitment: To foster and promote safer roads for drivers and pedestrians. Recognizing the critical importance of clear vision in enhancing road safety

- We pledge to advocate for comprehensive eye care and regular vision check-ups among the driving community.
- We acknowledge that road safety is a collective responsibility, and we commit to raising awareness about the impact of impaired vision on driving.
- We pledge to work together with governments, policymakers, and relevant stakeholders to prioritise and invest in initiatives that promote eye health and ensure accessible vision care for all, for the good of all – road users, including pedestrians and cyclists.
- We will collectively strive to conduct vision screening for an additional 3 million driving community and allied workers by 2030.
- We will increase our collaboration with road safety organisations, government and others for our common goal of road safety and reducing accidents.
- Together, we stand united for a future where clear vision will make our journeys safer, less prone to risks and dangers, as well as accident-free.

Professional Development & Research

Studometry 24 for Optometry Students



Students in Delhi & Chennai attended on-site, and those in four other cities, joined online for the Studometry 24 conference, January 27, jointly hosted by IVI in association with Jamia Hamdard, Delhi and Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, Chennai. Optician India magazine was the Conference Media Partner. Dr DY Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune, Hari Jyot College of Optometry, Navsari, Shree Bhartimaiya College of Optometry, Surat and Susruta School of Optometry & Visual Sciences, Kochi participated via simulcast. Over 800 students joined the conference.

IVI-Essilor Optometry Wizard of the Year 2023-24



Janani B (Elite School of Optometry, Chennai) bagged the IVI Essilor Optometry Wizard of the Year 2023-24 Award at the quiz final on January 20. The 1st & 2nd Runners-up were Salal Mohammad (Era University, Lucknow) and Bhuvaneshwari (Dr Baratan's Theia Eye Clinic, Chennai). Other finalists included Maheshwari (Optometrist) and Rohan P (The Eye Foundation, Ooty).

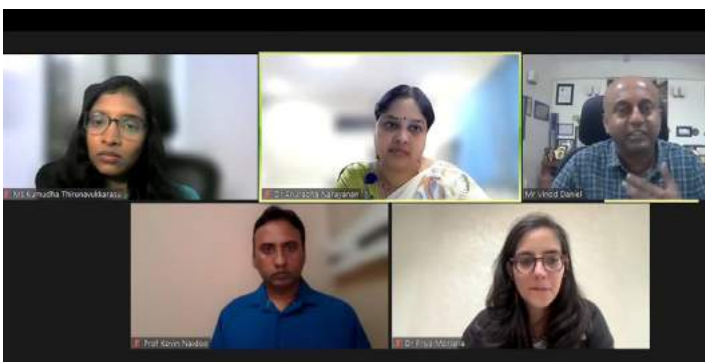
IVI acknowledges the support of Essilor India Pvt Ltd and our hosting partner Dr. Agarwals Institute of Optometry.

Panel Discussions & Lectures

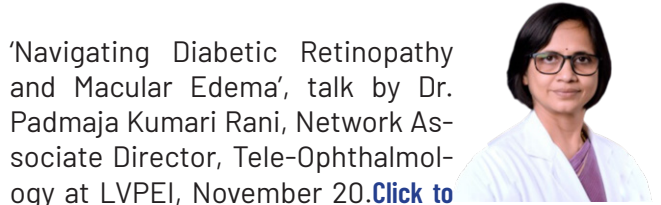
'Invest in Spectacles to Boost Productivity at Work', October 31 - a World Sight Day 2023 panel discussion, with Sabitra Kundu, Dharmaprasad Rai, Chandrasheker Matha, and Kumudha Thirunavukkarasu as panelists. [Click to view the session](#)



'Strengthening School Eye Health Programs in India' (A partnership of IVI, VISION 2020 INDIA and Orbis); panelists Kumudha Thirunavukkarasu, Prof Kavin Naidoo, Dr Anuradha Narayanan and Dr Priya Morjaria, November 8.



'Optimizing Visual Performance for Sports', talk by Professor Graham Erickson of Pacific University, USA, November 16. [Click to view the session](#)



'Navigating Diabetic Retinopathy and Macular Edema', talk by Dr. Padmaja Kumari Rani, Network Associate Director, Tele-Ophthalmology at LVPEI, November 20. [Click to view the session](#)



'Uses of Lenses, Prisms, Filters and Occlusion in Neurological Vision Rehabilitation' talk by Dr. Cathy Stern (OD, FCOVD, FCSO, FNORA), Behavioral and Neuro Optometrist, Boston, December 14. [Click to view](#)

[the session](#)



'Adapting the Optometry Curriculum to Contemporary Professional Demands' Panel Discussion, panelists Dr. Nirav Mehta, Dr. Anitha Arvind and Vijay Kumar Yelagondula, December 19. [Click to view the session](#)

'The Art of Reading and Writing Scientific Papers', talk by Sandhya Shekar, Researcher, Schepens Eye Research Institute Boston, December 29. [Click to view the session](#)



IVI is a Member of



Delhi school children's campaign launched on January 31, in the presence of Sahil Mithal, Director, Star Worldwide Group; 6,000 benefiting.



Launched by Sahil Mithal (Director - Star Worldwide Group) Avinna Vivek (CFO - Star Worldwide Group) and Delhi Police ACP Anil Sharma

Chennai campaign for disadvantaged children; 10,232 screened and 811 identified with refractive error, supported by Five-Star Business Finance Ltd



Launched by S Aravindramesh MLA, TN & D Vishwanathan, Standing Committee (Education) Chairman

Manavalakuruchi, Tamil Nadu school children's campaign, 1,642 vision screened, 103 identified with refractive errors, supported by Mineral Technologies.

EYE SEE & I LEARN



Ayanavaram Government School, Chennai vision screened 717 school children, 50 identified with refractive errors at, supported by Carisma Solutions

Vision screened 7,102 Salem school children, 545 identified with refractive errors, supported by JSW Foundation

Vision screened 10,260 children in Chennai, 707 identified with refractive errors; 8,555 screened in Delhi, 724 identified with refractive errors, supported by OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation.



Vision screened 4,081 school children, 156 identified with refractive

errors in Mangalore, supported by JSW Foundation.

Vision screened 3,173 school children, 199 identified with refractive errors in Bhiwadi, Rajasthan, supported by OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation.

Vision screened 6,096 children, 298 identified with refractive errors, supported by Mission for Vision.



Ten thousand school children being screened in Kadapa, support by ONGC.

Vision screened 8,091 children, 649 identified with refractive errors in Delhi, supported by ICICI Foundation.

EYE SEE & I WORK

Vision screened 1,000 commercial bus drivers in Delhi National Capital Region (NCR), supported by OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation.

Vision screened 1,500 commercial bus drivers in Delhi NCR, supported by Hoya Lens India.

Vision screened the Irula snake catching community in Tamil Nadu



on World Sight Day October 12. Beneficiaries included a transgender community at Kannagi Nagar, Chennai.



IVI campaign benefited community, prison inmates, and school children Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka, supported by JSW Foundation.

Community screenings in Salem district completed 3,888 free eye screening camps across villages in Mecheri and identified with 2,277 refractive error. Supported by JSW Foundation.

Community screenings in Chennai district is ongoing, with 4,931 at Kannaginagar, Injambakkam, Pattinampakkam, etc 2,771 identified with refractive errors. Supported by Five Star Business Finance.

Vision screened 1,032 in Mangalore - Karnataka 1,032, 586 identified with refractive errors, supported by JSW Foundation.

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Community vision screening campaign in Bihar - ongoing; in Uttar Pradesh 957 community screened, 356 identified with refractive errors;

in Odisha, 713 community screened and 481 refractive errors identified; and 530 screened in Jharkhand, with 154 refractive errors. *Supported by IIFL Samasta.*

Intern at IVI

An opportunity for Optometry students to build their skills and gain experience by interning with us for 6 or 12 months.

You will be part of our vision screening and education programs, earn a monthly stipend, as well as gain clinical experience.

Write to ivi@indiavisioninstitute.org

Vision Centres

Thiruvanniyur Vision Centre supported by Sightsavers India screened 1,708 individuals, diagnosed 1,074 refractive errors, with 184 referrals.



Choolaimedu Vision Centre supported by Sightsavers India screened 1,636 individuals, diagnosed 951 refractive errors, with 184 referrals.

Sightsavers India supported UCHC Perungudi screened 1,623 individuals and identified 732 with refrac-



tive errors and 274 referrals.

IVI Mobile Van supported by Sightsavers India: 2,192 individuals screened 1,434 identified with refractive errors, 195 referrals.



Our Global Ambassadors

We welcome our three eminent and distinguished Global Ambassadors: Jodi McKay, Patrick Cherrier and Yvonne Holden.

Jodi McKay was the Leader of the Opposition and served as Cabinet Minister in the New South Wales Parliament. She is the Director of the Australia-India CEO Forum with the Business Council of Australia. The Forum was established by the Prime Ministers of Australia and India to draw upon the expertise of leading CEOs to deliver investment and business outcomes for both countries. Jodi is also National Chair of the Australia India Business Council (AIBC), Australia's leading bilateral business chamber



dedicated to supporting SMEs and promoting trade and investment between India and Australia. She is the Vice Chancellor's Fellow, South Asia with Western Sydney University.

Patrick Cherrier has had a 25-year tenure as CEO of Essilor Asia Pacific, Middle East, Russia and Africa region (AMERA). He was responsible for the strategic management and direction of the 140 subsidiaries in the region. He spearheaded the company's market expansion through organic growth, joint-ventures and acquisitions into countries such as India, China, Korea, Japan,



Middle East and Russia. He was a member of the Essilor Group Executive Committee.

Yvonne Holden is a retired sport and primary school educator. She has taught for 35 years in Melbourne, London and Sydney, lectured at Teachers' College and held positions of Primary School Deputy Principal and Acting Principal. Over many years, Yvonne, wife of the late Professor Brien Holden, has volunteered in sports administration (soccer and cricket) and also in establishing, and Board Member of, two not-for-profit pre-school day care centres.



What they say about IVI

"I have had the privilege to work with India Vision Institute since 2014, and have been impressed by their dedication to elevating optometry in India and providing eye care services to those in need. This dedication to the profession extends far beyond basic services, seeking to enhance the quality of life for patients through education to help optometrists expand the range of vision services offered." - **Dr Graham Erickson, Professor, Paediatric Optometry, Vision Therapy and Sports Vision, Pacific University, Oregon, USA**

"Good vision is critical for creating safer roads. Elevating vision on the road safety agenda represents an opportunity to not only save lives but also to work across sectors toward solutions. Forums such as VARS 2024 in India play a transformative role in inspiring multi-stakeholder actions toward a unifying goal - safer roads for everyone." - **Eva Lazuka, Onesight Essilor Luxottica**

"It is good to visit an IVI project and see the work being done to benefit disadvantaged communities, including children. I am happy that the beneficiaries are able to lead a better life, with improved work potentials and better grades for children in school. Congratulations to IVI for achieving the significant milestone of one million vision screenings. I wish IVI and the team all the best in future." - **Andrew Charlton MP, Australian Federal Parliament**

"We welcome the Studometry initiative by India Vision Institute, which provided Optometry students an insight into potential career opportunities and also to be work-ready

professionals." - **Prof. Dr Mohamad Afshar Alam, Vice Chancellor, Jamia Hamdard**

"SRIHER is proud to join hands with IVI in a collaborative effort to enhance educational experiences. Together, we believe in empowering students through the synergy of academia fostering knowledge exchange at the Studometry conference." - **Prof. Dr. Radha Annamalai, Head of Department of Ophthalmology and Optometry, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (SRIHER)**

"It was a real honour to meet the children who are benefiting from this program and to see the effectiveness that their corrective eyewear has in assisting with their education. I congratulate IVI and their professional team of optometrists who work so hard to provide this service in schools and for the larger betterment of society." - **Peter Dutton MP, Australian Federal Parliament at the launch of IVI's school children vision screening program supported by Accor India in Delhi:**

"I express my sincere appreciation for the work and dedication IVI's team has shown at the eye camp at the Shell Centre in Chennai. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and I believe it's important to acknowledge and celebrate the IVI team member's hard work. I look forward to working with you on more projects." - **Karthick- Key Account Manager - TN, KL & AP- Shell India**

Drive Safe India

Drive Safe India campaign, supported by Shell Pahel Social Welfare Association, vision screened commercial vehicle drivers in Bengaluru, Chennai and Namakkal. Some 38,960 drivers have been screened so far, and 20,364 identified with vision correction requirements are



being provided with spectacles. The screenings are being undertaken through IVI's vision centres and eye camps.



Defensive Driving Training for Safer Roads: The campaign has provided some 5,000 bus and truck drivers with Defensive Driving Training (DDT). The program covers many areas that are essential to road safety, including defensive driving techniques, understanding traffic rules and regulations, identifying and mitigating risks on the road, emergency response procedures, and creating a positive road safety culture.

The campaign also included programs for mental health awareness among commercial drivers and allied workers.

IVI acknowledges the support of Shell Pahel Social Welfare Association.

Support IVI Programs

To DONATE ONLINE

and for additional information, please visit

www.indiavisioninstitute.org

or write to us at ivi@indiavisioninstitute.org

All donations shall qualify for deductions u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961

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