

# Waves of **SUCCESS**



1 Million Sight  
Restoring Surgeries



Mahatma Award  
for Social Good



Great Place to Work -  
Certified™



Sightsavers India  
Fellowship Programme





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On the cover: Kalpana Das after getting her eyes checked at the vision centre on Sagar Island in Sundarbans, West Bengal.

# ABOUT US

Sightsavers is a global development organisation that has been working in India since 1966 to eliminate avoidable blindness and to ensure that people who are irreversibly blind are supported adequately to lead lives of independence and dignity. Over the past five decades, Sightsavers has reached out to over **55 million** people with potential eye problems till date.

As of now, we work in 100 districts across 8 states of India bringing eye healthcare, educational support, counselling, training and leadership development to visually impaired people in some of the least served areas of the country.

We work in a sustainable way to promote lasting change by strengthening existing health systems, seeking to advocate with and influence governments and by demonstrating best practices. We network with like-minded organisations to enable exchange of ideas and to advocate for the rights of the disabled. Sightsavers believes in promoting technologies in eye healthcare enabling a wider reach of health services in India.

## MISSION

We are an international organisation working with partners in developing countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunity for disabled people.

## VISION

Sightsavers' vision is of a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes and where visually impaired people participate equally in society.

Sandhya Das from Sundarbans is able to lead an independent life after receiving glasses.



01



02



03



04



05



06



# Major Highlights

of the Year



## 01 Sightsavers India gets Great Place to Work-Certified™

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Great Place to Work® Institute certification is considered as the gold standard for defining great workplaces. Sightsavers has been certified for a year under the small organisations category by Great Places to Work Institute.

## 02 India Fellowship Program

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Sightsavers India launched its new endeavour – India Fellowship Program 2019 for ophthalmologists. The Sightsavers India Fellowship is an opportunity for promising and passionate ophthalmologists to get trained at some of the leading eye health institutes in India.

## 03 Sightsavers India wins the Mahatma Award for Social Good 2019

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Sightsavers' received recognition for its work in the field of eye health at the India edition of the Mahatma Awards 2019.

## 04 Sightsavers collaborates with Essilor and NDTV

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Sightsavers and NDTV Network in partnership with Essilor generated awareness on eye health through their campaign, Put Vision First.

## 05 Breaking Barriers with Kabir Bedi

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Sightsavers India along with its honorary brand ambassador and internationally acclaimed actor Kabir Bedi took a journey in the cosmopolitan city of Mumbai, by breaking barriers with six visually impaired and blind children who travelled from far-flung areas of India.

## 06 Sightsavers India completes 1 million sight restoration surgeries

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Sightsavers India successfully achieved 1 million sight restoration surgeries across the country between the years 2015 to 2019.



# Message from the Chairman



**Dr SY Quraishi**

Honorary Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Sightsavers (India); Former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India.

Sightsavers' vision is of a world in which no-one is needlessly blind and where everyone who is irreversibly blind or severely visually-impaired enjoys the same rights, responsibilities and opportunities as their sighted peers.

Since 1966, Sightsavers has supported thousands of local partners to become self-sufficient in providing eye care services, helped treat over a million eye patients and brought eye care to some of the least-served areas of the country. In addition, many thousands of irreversibly blind people and persons with disability have received rehabilitation and educational support to enable them to lead lives of independence and dignity.

As Sightsavers India continue with their ground breaking work in diverse areas of eye care, advocacy, inclusive education and social inclusion, this year saw many initiatives receive greater recognition through awards and felicitations from various agencies.

I feel extremely proud to be associated with Sightsavers and I appreciate what the organisation has managed to accomplish over the years. Through Sightsavers' threefold approach covering eye health, inclusive education and social inclusion, the organisation has created a positive impact on the lives of the poor located in urban and rural areas.

2019-20 has been a particularly eventful year for Sightsavers India. We have been making great strides in gradually getting recognition for the efforts we put for the great cause. We received recognition for our work in the field of eye health at the India edition of the Mahatma Awards 2019. With the consistent support of our partners and donors, Sightsavers as an organisation has done remarkable work in the areas of eye health, social inclusion and inclusive education.

Sightsavers India successfully achieved 1 million sight restoration surgeries across the country between the years 2015 to 2019. With India having the largest blind population in the world, this achievement comes as a great solace. It has been possible only because of the relentless effort made by the entire team of Sightsavers, our donors, state governments & partners.

This year, Sightsavers India has also been certified as Great Place To Work™ under the category 'Non-profit and Charity Organizations'. As an organisation working for the prevention of avoidable blindness and for ensuring that people with disabilities lead a respectable life, this certification process helps us look inwards, within our own employee community. This certificate assures us that the respect and dignity which we seek to bring in the life of those outside the organisation exists within our own group of employees.

I feel proud to be associated with such a great cause. We would keep working rigorously towards the cause and put our very best foot forward in curbing the issues related to vision and disability rights in the country.



**RN Mohanty**  
CEO, Sightsavers India.

# Message from the CEO

# OUR TRUSTEES

## **Dr SY Quraishi** **Honorary Chairman** **of the Board**

Dr S Y Quraishi, former Chief Election Commissioner of India is known for his special contribution in social sector reforms covering health, education, population, drug abuse and civil society action.



## **Dr Ashok Dyalchand** **Health Expert**

Dr Ashok Dyalchand is a healthcare professional specialising in the management of primary health care, community ophthalmology, child and adolescent health among others.



## **Srila Chatterjee** **Chief Operating Officer** **and Executive Producer** **at Highlight Films; Founder** **Partner, Blue Frog Media**

Srila Chatterjee is the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Producer at Highlight Films, the first Production House for advertising films in India, and a Founding Partner of Blue Frog Media.





**Rati Forbes**  
**Director, Forbes Marshall Ltd**

Rati Forbes is Director at Forbes Marshall Ltd – a company which has been, for over six decades, building steam engineering and control instrumentation solutions that work for the process industry. Rati is responsible for the Social Initiatives, which the company supports in the areas of community health, education and women’s issues.



**Dr Garimella Subramaniam**  
**Senior Assistant Editor,**  
**The Hindu**

Dr Garimella Subramaniam is a leading editorial commentator at The Hindu on the European Union, aspects of the global economic meltdown and the state of national and global human rights law and practice.



**Naheed T. Carrimjee**  
**Senior Associate, Desai Desai**  
**& Carrimjee, Advocates**  
**and Solicitors, Mumbai**

Naheed T. Carrimjee is a solicitor and a founding partner of Desai Desai Carrimjee and Mulla, a firm specialising in corporate and civil law. Her practice areas include Litigation, Arbitration & Dispute Resolution, Corporate Law, Capital Markets, Foreign Direct Investments, Intellectual Property, Offshore Funds and Venture Capital Funds, Real Estate, Mergers & Acquisitions, Media & Entertainment.

# EYE HEALTH



**NETRA VASANT**  
RURAL EYE HEALTH  
PROGRAMME (REH)



**AMRITA DRISHTI**  
URBAN EYE HEALTH  
PROGRAMME (UEH)



**VIDYA JYOTI**  
SCHOOL EYE HEALTH  
PROGRAMME (SEH)



**RAAHI**  
NATIONAL TRUCKERS EYE  
HEALTH PROGRAMME



IN 2019

# IMPACT

**4,69,899**  
Number of  
Spectacles  
Dispensed



**21,01,375**  
Number of  
People  
Refracted



**54,30,647**  
Number of  
Eye Screenings



**2,79,219**  
Number of  
Sight Restoration  
Surgeries



# NETRA VASANT

## Rural Eye Health Programme

The objective of Rural Eye Health Programme is 'improving vision-related quality of life through strengthened eye health systems' with a focus on poor and deprived sections of the society. The year witnessed systems strengthening, service delivery, multi-level advocacy, partnerships development and evidence generation. With Netra Vasant, we seek to increase the Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR) in the selected districts in order to contribute to a reduction in the prevalence of blindness.

### Key Highlights

▶ District level networking and advocacy meetings organised in the State of Uttar Pradesh:

- District level Eye Health Planning meeting organized in district Kheri. The meeting was chaired by district CMO. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss current coverage and future scope of work in all blocks of the district.

- In district Amethi, Sightsavers partner representatives attended the ASHA monthly meeting to increase referral cases. Along with that one-day follow-up meeting with government Optometrist posted at CHCs in Amethi and Sultanpur was done. The aim was to discuss OPD in public centres, handling eye equipment, documentation and referrals of cases to higher facility.

▶ As State's Technical Eye Care Partner in Bihar, Sightsavers undertook Gap Assessment visit in District Hospitals of Lakhisarai, Jamui, Araria, Saharsa, Nawada, Nalanda and Vaishali and a gap assessment report was shared to the SPO Cell along with concerned Civil surgeons. Further

advocacy was lined in reinforcing the NPCB programme output delivery by strengthening the eye OTs in these hospitals.

▶ The month of June was celebrated as Cataract Awareness month in Odisha. Sightsavers collaborated with Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of Odisha to serve eye health to the most vulnerable communities in 10 districts (Khordha, Dhenkanal, Angul, Mayurbhanj, Kalahandi, Bargarh, Kandhamal, Ganjam, Gajapati and Cuttack).

▶ A mega camp was organized in association with district blindness control society on the eve of world sight day at tribal village, Kawardha district of Chhattisgarh.

## Recountal

# Portraits From The Front Lines...

Hailing from Laharpur in Sitapur District of Uttar Pradesh, 75-year-old **Younus** suffered from poor eyesight for nearly a year.

With each passing day, his eyesight went from bad to worse. Eventually, it became really difficult for him to see. With not much financial support from his children, Younus had no other way but to wait for a miracle to happen. He had started to lose hope.

Younus got to know that an eye screening camp was organised in his village by Sightsavers in association with Sitapur Eye Hospital. He was accompanied by his 5-year-old granddaughter- Sameera to the screening camp. Younus was diagnosed with cataract in both eyes. He was brought to Sitapur Eye Hospital by the team for the cataract operation. The cost of the entire procedure was taken care by Sightsavers. All this while, Sameera was right beside her grandfather.

With his eyesight being restored, Younus feels that he has almost got a new life.



I am happy that there are services like these for the economically poor like me. Without the support, I would have never imagined of getting the operation. Hopefully, next month I will be coming back to get my left eye operated as well.





# AMRITA DRISHTI

## Urban Eye Health Programme

Amrita Drishti - Urban Eye Health Programme (UEHP) focuses on eye health of urban poor living in slums and aims at establishing system of primary eye care through community resource building and strengthening National Health Mission (NHM).

### Key Highlights

- ▶ Sightsavers recently launched eye health screening programme for urban poor in Patancheru, Telengana by integrating eye health with existing general health service centre run by Piramal Swasthya. This initiative is supported by Piramal Swasthya which has started in August 2019. Patients coming to the centre for general health screening are also given free eye screening services.
- ▶ The Urban Eye Health Programme in Bihar has become a complete elaboration under System Strengthening approach through the completion of Urban ASHA training that resulted in generating awareness regarding eye care services and creating community referral linkage in the 17 Urban Primary Health Centres of Patna. The success of this transition is visible as it is being counted amongst the best health practices of Bihar.
- ▶ Sightsavers Amrita Drishti - Urban Eye Health programme in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh integrates yet another vision centre (fourth of its kind) in Urban Primary Health Centre (U-PHC) under NUHM. The U-PHC presently caters to maternal & child health services to a population of 70,000. With the vision centre being functional, eye care services have been made accessible to the urban poor.
- ▶ An all-inclusive model of system strengthening by integrating eye health care in the NUHM framework was introduced. The Urban Eye Health programme in Bihar completed the second phase of transition and inaugurated eye care services in 7 new UPHCs of Patna by opening 7 new vision centres in these UPHCs.



## Recountal

# Portraits From The Front Lines...

**Julekha** is 70 years old, who lives in Bhopal with her four young children. Her husband passed away three years back after which she took care of the family.

Julekha was facing some problem in her eyes since some months and wasn't able to do her work independently. Eventually she got dependent on her daughter Salina who is very close to her. She says, "I always have to be with my mother, because if she needs anything she isn't able to manage." Julekha Bee says, "Although my daughter helps me with everything, I don't like to trouble her. I don't know how I will manage once she gets married."

Salina was searching for options to get her mother's eye treated. She spoke to neighbours, thought of visiting government hospital but couldn't manage. Salina heard about an eye screening camp to be organised by Aarambh with support of Sightsavers two days before. The targeted camp for 'Mothers' was organised under Amrita Drishti Urban Eye Health Programme- Inclusive Eye Health Programme. Without any delay Salina took her mother to eye screening camp and got her eyes screened. After refraction, Julekha was identified with cataract in her right eye and was referred to base hospital for surgery. Salina said, "I will take my mother to the base hospital for eye surgery, I am very happy that my mother will be able to see again."



# VIDYA JYOTI

## National School Eye Health Programme

Vidya Jyoti - National School Eye Health programme aims to screen children in Government school to identify and prevent eye diseases and vision impairments among children that affect learning outcomes.

### Key Highlights

- ▶ A school health project supported by Essilor Vision Foundation was started in the district of Ramgarh in September. This is a 3 year project which will cater to all the refractive error issues amongst school going children in the district.
- ▶ Dissemination of achievements and key learnings of ORBIS supported School Eye Health programme was done in the presence of Government officials in Bhopal and Vidisha districts of Madhya Pradesh. In three years, the programme reached out to 5,72,009 children through screening. Spectacles dispensed to 14,039 children and 61 children had a sight restoration surgery.

## Recountal

# Portraits From The Front Lines...

13-year-old **Gayatri** from Madhya Pradesh would often complain about having blurry eyesight to her parents. As a result, she struggled to cope with her school curriculum and participate in the extra curricular activities. Gayatri felt left out and excluded at her school.

Under Sightsavers' School Eye Health Programme, Gayatri was identified with bilateral congenital cataract by the refraction team visiting her school under Sightsavers' Vidyajyoti School Eye Health Programme. She was referred to Sightsavers' partner hospital for the surgery.

Today, Gayatri can see everything clearly and she has also become quite active in school activities. Gayatri's parents felt gratified towards Sightsavers' team for changing their daughter's life.



# RAAHI

## National Truckers Eye Health Programme

Sightsavers realises the importance of eye health for the overworked truckers' community in ensuring road safety. Since drivers can't get to eye care services, Sightsavers in India have created a system which takes the services directly to them. RAAHI is one of the biggest eye health programmes in the country for the overworked truck drivers' community.

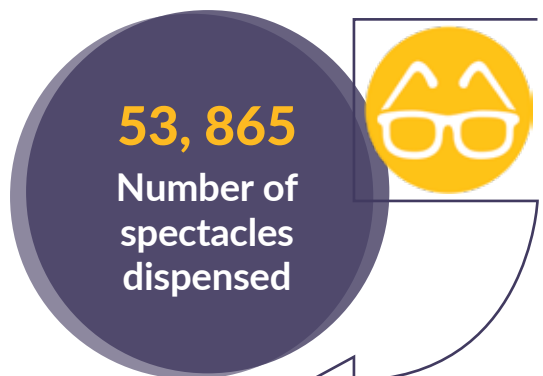
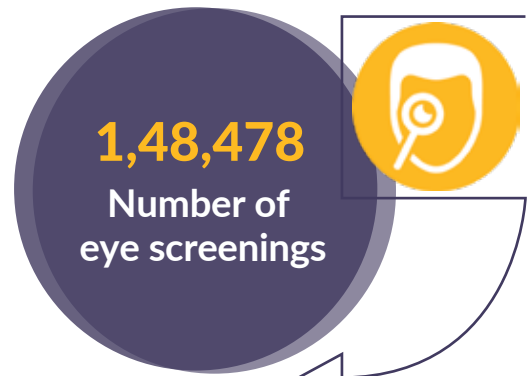
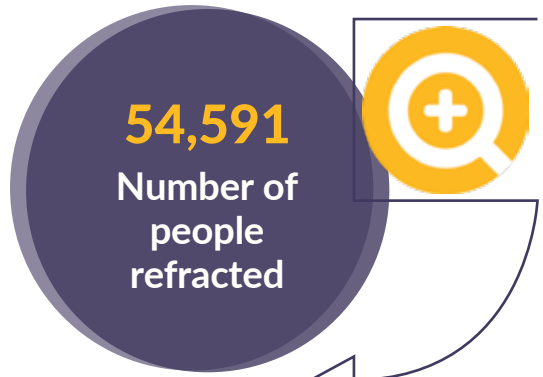
### Key Highlights

- ▶ Sightsavers' supported vision centre was inaugurated at Gangavaram Port trust, Visakhapatnam. The Sightsavers' RAAHI- National Truckers' Eye Health Programme supported vision centre will be accessible for nearly 2,000 truckers that come daily to the site.
- ▶ A fixed centre for Truckers' Eye Health services has been set up in Raxaul, Bihar.
- ▶ A vision centre under RAAHI has started in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.
- ▶ Sightsavers with support from the RPG Foundation initiated eye screening campaign for all staff of the Karnataka Government bus depots in Bengaluru under RAAHI - National Truckers Eye Health Programme.



IN 2019

# IMPACT



# INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

The Inclusive Education Programme is implemented in five states. The programme prioritises technical support to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for training and capacity building of general teachers to address education needs of the Children with Disabilities (CWDs) with special focus on children with visual impairment. The programme aims to demonstrate scalable approaches to strengthen systems and build a cogent institutional response. The thematic focus of the programme is to expedite quality of learning outcomes for the CWDs and secure enablement through teacher training, ICT promotion, technical, infrastructural and community support.

## Key Highlights

- ▶ The first resource centre under the HCL project was inaugurated in Howrah, Kolkata following an approval from the district authorities in the education department.
- ▶ 'Reading Solutions for Children with Print Disability' State level training organised for 89 Mobile Resource Consultants from all 51 districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- ▶ UDYAM scaled up in Odisha - The module "UDYAM" designed by Sightsavers Odisha was supported by SCERT & School & Mass Education Department to assist teachers who want to ensure that the children with disabilities receive quality education in an inclusive setting. Sightsavers with the support of OSEPA, Odisha, conducted two batches of training program (One Teacher Education, One Resource Teacher and one RP CWSN) where 90 participants were trained as Master Trainers.
- ▶ Twenty government school teachers have been provided training on inclusive pedagogy and ICT in Udaipur to support the CVIs of Udaipur in pursuing their education.

IN 2019

# IMPACT

**6,995**

Visually impaired children who received assistive devices



**5,724**

Visually impaired children who received education materials



**90,130**

Number of teachers trained





## Portraits From The Front Lines...

**Soni** is eight years old and resides in Jehanabad district of Bihar. Soni is blind since birth however, having sight would not seem too important a thing once you get to see her enthusiasm for life.

Soni studies in a government school and lives in a residential girls' secondary school run by the Government of India for the economically weaker sections in Bihar- one of the core states of Sightsavers. Under the Inclusive Education Programme, with support from HCL, Sightsavers has been allocating all kinds of accessible devices required by children with visual impairment for educational, recreational and mobility purposes in the government schools of the state.

While Soni's teacher praised her progress over the past couple of years, she quietly solved the mathematical calculations. Maths, a subject which is often seen as dreary and difficult, a subject to be endured rather than to be enjoyed is like a child's play for Soni. She solved all mathematical questions with such ease that maths seemed like playing a simple game.

Soni's teachers said that she was beyond wise when compared to children her age. In future, Soni aspires to become a teacher and a source of inspiration for children with visual impairment.



# SOCIAL INCLUSION

To enable social inclusion of people with disabilities, Sightsavers has concentrated its focus around three core areas: economic empowerment, strengthening Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) and creating an enabling environment. Sightsavers thus supports people with disability through livelihood interventions and facilitates the formation and capacity building of DPOs to carry out effective advocacy for their rights on all platforms and levels.



## Key Highlights

- ▶ Sightsavers has launched a Global Campaign in March 2019, namely #EqualUN, calling on the United Nations to ensure that the work of all its agencies is fully inclusive of people with disabilities. The India launch of the global campaign was conducted here in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 20th July 2019, calling on the Government of India to make all public places accessible for Persons with Disabilities by 2025.
- ▶ Sightsavers developed a Guideline for Formation and Promotion of SHGs and Micro Plan developed in Odisha.
- ▶ Madhya Pradesh DPO members supported under Sightsavers' Social Inclusion Programme have been linked with National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) for national level advocacy.
- ▶ With the support from Sightsavers and Social Welfare Department, nine PWDs DPO members took part in State level Paralympic sports organized by Para Sports Association of Chhattisgarh at Raipur with 166 participants from 16 districts. Four PWDs (1 Locomotor, 1 Low Vision and 2 Blind) secured medals in different sports events.
- ▶ Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS) took an innovative step to integrate eye health under social inclusion programme in Jharkhand. Eye health camps were organized at all the geographical locations in Jharkhand during 15th February to 24th March 2020 where a total of 5,111 people was screened for vision and need based services were provided in eleven REH Operational Districts of Jharkhand.
- ▶ Sensitization on "Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (CEDAW) for women with disabilities and DPO committee members from Hoshangabad, Betul and Jabalpur districts of Madhya Pradesh was organised to raise awareness & how as a member of DPO can apply it as a tool to advocate, promote and protect women rights and linking with SDG Goal 5 focussing on achieving Gender Equality and India ratification to this convention. Also addressed CEDAW Article 12-16, "Reproductive & Sexual health rights of women".
- ▶ Advocacy efforts for PWDs got impetus with the registration of state level DPO of Rajasthan by the name of 'APNO SANSTHAN' under The Rajasthan Societies Registration Act, 1958.





**6,327**

Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) Trained in Livelihood



**12,989**

Total PwDs Trained on Rights and Entitlements



**11,084**

DPO Members Supported



**680**

Number of SHGs Engaged in Livelihood Activities



## Recountal

# Portraits From The Front Lines...

19-year-old **Sarita** is visually impaired and belongs to Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh. In 2014, Sarita was given Braille and ICT Based training under Sightsavers' Inclusive Education Programme. She later participated in a Self- Defence Instructor Training organised by Sightsavers which would eventually transform her life.

In 2018, Sarita participated at the 6th National Blind and Deaf Judo Championship and she returned with the Bronze Medal. A year later, she won Silver Medal at the 7th National Blind Judo Championship.

Playing for India was a dream for Sarita since she started to learn Judo. This dream turned into reality when Sarita made everyone proud by winning Bronze Medal at the 2019 Commonwealth Judo Championship for Visually Impaired in Walsall West Midlands, England.



# FUNDING & MARKETING

- ▶ Sightsavers India collaborated with NDTV network and Essilor to campaign on eye health awareness. The campaign featured two half an hour long panel shows, a documentary and several short stories to talk about the work Sightsavers does and created awareness on eye health.
- ▶ Expansion of corporate partnerships with new companies supporting Sightsavers programmes including Adobe India.
- ▶ Among new business from corporates:
  - RPG project for BMTC approved for 90 lakhs
  - Timkin proposal approved for Saraikela REH district in Jharkhand
  - Ray-Ban proposal approved for Delhi and Udaipur truckers programme
  - APPI – funding a district of West Bengal for five years
  - Standard Chartered Bank – supporting Urban Eye Health Programme in two districts of UP
  - Alcon – supporting two districts of Chhattisgarh for Rural Eye Health
  - Ray-Ban – extending support to School Eye Health
  - RPG Foundation – extended support
  - Baxter – extended support
- ▶ Corporate partnership retentions:
  - Fullerton
  - Chola
  - Baxter
  - Ray-Ban
- ▶ Sightsavers was permitted to spread awareness messages on eye health at ten of Delhi Metro stations from 1st to 10th November 2019.

## Social Media



Debut on Instagram  
**2,309** Followers



**137k** Likes



**1,941** Followers

# Sightsavers in News

Broadcast | Print | Digital | Op-Ed | Vernacular Media | Brand Ambassador Visit

**Seeing the sea**  
Six visually impaired kids get their first experience of the sea

By Kabir Bedi | September 23, 2019 17:24 IST

**Honorary Brand Ambassador for Sightsavers India Kabir Bedi with the six visually impaired children**

When I was 14, Juhu Beach in Bombay was where I first experienced the sea. Foaming white waves crashing towards me washing over my ankles, sand moving stealthily under my feet, gazing in wonder at an endless horizon and a limitless sky. Oh, the vastness of it all! I fell in love with the sea and have loved it ever since. When Sightsavers India asked if I'd give six visually impaired children their first experience of the sea, I jumped at the idea. I remembered my own experience as if it was yesterday, and was happy to share it with them.

Juhu Beach was to be the climax of their day in the big city. We began the day aboard a double deck ferry at the Gateway of India riding the waves of the Arabian Sea, far from where they lived. Rohit and two girls, Hira and Kiran, came from remote hamlets in Jharkhand. Pappu, Sakshi and Sulochana came from small villages in Rajasthan. I asked them to imagine an endless expanse of water which met the sky, far away, at a line called the "horizon". Not being able to see that horizon took its toll almost immediately. Sakshi and Sulochana went downstairs and deposited their breakfast on the deck in instalments. The four survivors above enjoyed the movement of the sea. Kiran said it reminded her of her mother putting her to sleep. Rohit said the air felt nice, just more heavy. Pappu felt queasy but his excitement overcame it. Hira enjoyed the sway with her unseeing eyes closed.

The children asked me what else there was to see. I told them about the Gateway of India. It was built to welcome the "Maharaja of England" in 1911 because he was the first English king to come to India even though England had ruled India for 200 years. What does it look like, asked Sakshi. Like a very tall door between two huge pillars, built with huge blocks of stone from Gwalior. Close to it, the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, "which looks like the palace of a king", was India's oldest and grandest hotel. It was built by Jamsheji Tata, the man who started the Tata company, because the best hotel in the city would not let Indians enter. Rohit wanted to know when it was built—1903. It was the first building in Bombay—as Mumbai was called then—to have electricity. When the Taj opened, it made Indians feel proud. But it welcomed everybody, even the English. Jamsheji Tata believed in inclusion.

"Inclusion" is a major theme for Sightsavers India. Over the last decade their Inclusive Education programme has persuaded mainstream schools to admit over 25,000 visually impaired children, by enabling them with the latest technology and books in braille. And the best is yet to come. Computers with scanners can now read books to the blind with Optical Recognition Technology. This was demonstrated brilliantly by Dr Sam Taraporevala and Ketan Kothari, both blind, at the Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC). The children played with their high-tech devices, thrilled. Kiran and Rohit said they wanted to become teachers of "computers and braille".



On the way to Juhu, we made a pit-stop for chocolate ice cream at Sukh Sagar on Marine Drive, which is often called "the Queen's Necklace". Why, asked Hira. Because the road looks like a half-circle around the sea. And at night, when its lights come on, it looks like a necklace that's made for a queen. They got the picture.

The monsoon was sprinkling the beach with warm rain when we finally reached Juhu. We were all very energised by it. Together we walked towards the welcoming roar of waves. The children jumped and squealed as the sea washed over their ankles, again and again. I asked them to taste the salty sea. "Khara!" they exclaimed in surprise. We walked in deeper. They felt the power of the sea as it pulled at them and moved the sand beneath their feet. They laughed and giggled with excitement. It was a whole new experience, far from the distant villages from which they came. It was an unforgettable day.

Sightsavers had opened yet another world for them. As it has for five million people with free eye operations; for 35 million with free eye treatments; for the 50,000 truck drivers with free spectacles to make India's roads safer for all. That's why I support it as their brand ambassador. I ask all blessed with the miracle of sight to support [www.sightsaversindia.in](http://www.sightsaversindia.in) too.

Kabir Bedi is an actor, presenter, commentator, writer and producer.

**KABIR BEDI** @iKabirBedi

YOU are blessed to be able to see. SEE the work being done across India by Sightsavers India. From crowded cities to remote villages. Your donation, small or large, will enable many to SEE. @SightsaversIN will make it happen, see info graphics. Pls give the miracle of sight 🙏



10:38 PM · Feb 10, 2020 from Mumbai, India · Twitter for iPhone

## Sightsavers on NDTV

ESSILOR & Sightsavers  
SEEING THE WORLD BETTER  
PRESENT  
**#PutVisionFirst**  
In association with NDTV

**Put Vision First |** Sightsavers collaborated with the NDTV Network and Essilor to generate awareness on eye health.

**Duration |** 45 days

**Network |** NDTV 24X7, NDTV India and NDTV Profit.

**EXPRESS HEALTHCARE** #1 HOSPITAL BY THE USA.

HOME BLOG INTERVIEWS FEATURES CEO CORNER HIGHLIGHTS CARE STORES EVENTS VIDEOS

Diabetes can darken your vision

Dr Sandeep Butani, Global Technical Lead- eye health Asia, Sightsavers elucidates on how a diabetic can lose vision due to unavailability

**کیر بیدی نے یوتھ آہتھ لوجسٹ کیلئے انڈیا فیلوشپ پروگرام 2019 لائچ کیا**

18 جولائی، 2019

گلوبل ڈیولپمنٹ آرگنائزیشن سائٹس ایوئرس نے اس کی انڈیا فیلوشپ پروگرام کے تحت 10 نوجوان اphthalmologists کو آٹھ ریاستوں کے لیے دیہاتوں میں سائٹس ایوئرس کی فیلوشپ پروگرام کے لیے لائچ کیا۔

انڈیا فیلوشپ پروگرام کے تحت 10 نوجوان اphthalmologists کو آٹھ ریاستوں کے لیے دیہاتوں میں سائٹس ایوئرس کی فیلوشپ پروگرام کے لیے لائچ کیا۔

**SMES میں ماسٹر آف بزنس ایڈمنسٹریشن**

بلڈنگ کا سنگ بنیاد رکھا گیا

**Sightsavers to upskill 10 eye experts for providing eye care services**

BS RAWAT NEW DELHI, JUL 18 : Global development organization Sightsavers unveiled its India Fellowship Programme to upskill 10 young ophthalmologists from eight states of the country for providing eye care services in rural level.

The selected states include Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

The India Fellowship Programme is a first of its kind initiative which motto is to groom the young ophthalmologists through an innovative course of mentoring and surgical exposure.

Launching the Programme in Delhi, actor and brand ambassador, Sightsavers India Kabir Bedi, said, "During the course of the program, the selected

ophthalmologists will be given 24 months of structured process of learning, hands-on surgical, clinical training at leading eye health institutions, exciting regional postings along with international exposure and residential facility."

RN Mohanty, CEO at Sightsavers India said, "This is a fellowship program for the future ophthalmologists, and with this we aim to train and groom motivated youth to help them transform into exceptionally skilled ophthalmologists early in their career. With this new advantage we hope to bring about positive substantial impact in the country."

Dr. S Y Quarshi, the Honorary Chair of Sightsavers in India said, "The 10 selected candidates will be placed under Sightsavers' partner hospitals. This will be a huge step towards better eye care facilities in rural India and upskilling of young ophthalmologists."

**Shri Adwaita Gadenayak is the Director General of National Gallery of Modern Art. His sculptures carry a heavy scent of spirituality and culture, which he associates with his upbringing amidst nature in Odisha. He has created the National Police Memorial's central structure. Back in his hometown, which is in the heart of a jungle in Dhenkanal, he was just another man who found shape and form in all elements of nature. PNV Foundation felicitated him for his lively sculptural architect.**

**Dr. Ashok Choudhary is working as Associate Professor in the Department of Hepatology and Liver Transplant at Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), New Delhi. For his predominant work, he received the prestigious Best fellow research award by American Association of Liver Disease (AASLD) in 2014 at Boston and young investigator by European Association for Study of Liver (EASL) in 2014 at London. PNV Foundation felicitated him for his outstanding works in Liver Transplant.**

**Shri RN Mohanty is currently the CEO of Sightsavers India, with more than 25 years of illustrious service in the development sector behind him. Before moving into Sightsavers Mr. Mohanty was the Chief Operating Officer of CARE India. He was being felicitated for his extreme developmental works.**

**Kabir Bedi takes visually impaired children to visit iconic places of Mumbai**

By: TRB | Created: Sep 14, 2019, 13:42:57

It was a sight to behold – internationally acclaimed actor.

**TATA Destination 150**

Most Awarded Project By Tata Viceroy Homes In India, Looking Open @ 95 Lacs Only

**'RUCKUS' FOR SIGHT**

The stand-up comedians – Adwaita Gadenayak and Sandeep Butani – will roll into town to host Hyderabad's first charity event for a worthy cause.

**Sightsavers**

**अंधजन बाणकोने कबीर जेदीये**

**ऐतिहासिक वस्तुओं साथे उभर करारवा**

विख्यात स्थानों ऐतिहासिकी कथाओं बाणकोने कबीर

अंधजन बाणकोने कबीर जेदीये

अंधजन बाणकोने कबीर जेदीये

**CITY SCAPE**

**STAND-UP COMEDY: Ruckus Night 3.0**

**Sightsavers**

**STAND UP FOR SIGHT**

**Ruckus Night 3.0**

Stand-up comedy in India is moving out of its infancy and garnering major attention among the working professionals. Sightsavers' wishes to host a charity event "Ruckus Night 3.0" of which the entire funds raised shall be used in setting up vision centers across the nation equipped with quality eye care equipment made freely accessible to everyone who needs it.

**When:** Aug 10, 6.30 pm  
**Where:** Good Shepherd Auditorium: Bengaluru Museum Road

**नेत्रहीन बच्चों के साथ कबीर**

संवाददाता द्वारा मुंबई. साइटसेवर्स इंडिया के आनर्सरी ब्रांड एम्बेसडर अभिनेता कबीर बेदी मुंबई में छह नेत्रहीन बच्चों को प्रसिद्ध स्थानों पर ले गए, वच्चे कबीर बेदी के साथ आहकानिक गेटवे ऑफ इंडिया देखने गए और उन्होंने ताजमहल होटल और गेटवे पर उनसे इतिहास की बातें सुनीं. साइटसेवर्स के ब्रांड एम्बेसडर कबीर बेदी ने कहा कि यात्रा के दौरान मैंने बच्चों को प्रतिष्ठित स्थानों के इतिहास के पीछे की कहानियां सुनीं.

यह भावना एक ऐसी चीज है जिसे हम शब्दों में बर्णना नहीं कर सकते. साइटसेवर्स इंडिया के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, आर एन मोहंती ने कहा कि बच्चों के लिए इस दिन की गतिविधि के साथ, साइटसेवर्स का उद्देश्य स्कूलों, परिवारों के साथ-साथ समुदायों के साथ सकारात्मक दृष्टि से बच्चों की सम्मति शिक्षा का समर्थन करना है.



**Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind (All amounts are in Indian Rupees unless otherwise stated)**  
**Balance Sheet - (Schedule VIII {Vide Rule 17 (I)}) as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**  
**Registration No. E- 4330 Mumbai**

FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	Note	As at 31 March 2020	As at 31 March 2019	PROPERTY AND ASSETS	Note	As at 31 March 2020	As at 31 March 2019
<b>Trust Fund</b>	1	22,183,955	27,715,953	<b>Immovable properties</b>	5(A)		
				Gross block		3,785,188	3,785,188
<b>Retained Fund</b>		20,000,000	20,000,000	Less : Accumulated depreciation		2,880,308	2,832,683
						904,880	952,505
<b>Earmarked Fund</b>				<b>Other fixed assets</b>	5(B)		
Deferred Income	2	75,794,103	21,356,963	Gross block		33,943,915	29,874,007
				Less : Accumulated depreciation		25,461,616	21,853,326
<b>General Fund</b>		-	-			8,482,299	8,020,681
(Created under the provisions of the trust-deed or Scheme or out of the income)				<b>Other Project fixed assets</b>	5(C)		
<b>Project Fixed Assets Fund</b>	3	1,235,940	1,323,370	Gross block		2,793,849	2,156,375
				Less : Accumulated depreciation		1,557,909	833,005
- Gift reserves	4	121,362	198,030			1,235,940	1,323,370
		119,335,360	70,594,316				
<b>Liabilities</b>						10,623,119	10,296,556
- For expenses	6	4,817,143	8,285,555				
				<b>Advances</b>			
-For statutory dues		4,507,987	3,864,969				
- For payment to auditor		826,000	826,000	Prepaid expenses		3,535,359	2,371,314
				Grant receivable		2,627,322	1,985,394
				Deposits and advances:			
- For programme expenses payable		13,217,873	10,469,093	- To employees	7	262,759	289,739
				- To others	8	28,396,694	9,663,661
- For employee benefits							
- Provision for gratuity		8,752,694	7,003,694	<b>Cash and bank balances</b>	9	107,101,138	77,412,764
- Provision for compensated absences		1,089,334	975,801			141,923,272	91,722,872
		33,211,031	31,425,112				
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>152,546,391</b>	<b>102,019,428</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>152,546,391</b>	<b>102,019,428</b>

Significant accounting policies and notes forming part of the financial statements 17

The notes referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements.

For **Walker Chandlok & Co LLP**  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm's Registration No: **001076N/N500013**

  
**Tarun Gupta**


Partner  
Membership No : **507892**  
Place: **Gurugram**  
Date: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020



For **Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind**



**Dr. S Y Quraishi**  
Chairman



**R N Mohanty**  
Chief Executive Officer

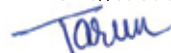
**Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind (All amounts are in Indian Rupees unless otherwise stated)**  
**Income and Expenditure Account - (Schedule - IX {Vide Rule 17(1)}) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**  
**Registration No. E- 4330 Mumbai**

EXPENDITURE	Note	For the year ended 31 March 2020	For the year ended 31 March 2019	INCOME	Note	For the year ended 31 March 2020	For the year ended 31 March 2019
<b>To Expenses in respect of properties:</b>				<b>By Interest</b>			
- Rates, taxes and cesses		12,245	11,856	- On bank accounts	10	3,896,699	3,635,407
- Repairs and maintenance		78,869	142,095				
- Insurance		1,736	1,736	<b>By Donations</b>	11		
- Depreciation	5(A)	47,625	50,132	- From individuals		235,546,417	186,831,647
				- From corporates		84,086,751	91,339,150
<b>To Establishment expenses</b>	13	61,952,109	61,016,132				
				<b>By Grants from Sightsavers, UK</b>		349,645,705	409,078,964
<b>To Legal expenses</b>		3,38,850	3,55,000	<b>By Miscellaneous income</b>	12	9,112	-
<b>To Audit fees</b>	14	8,26,000	8,26,000	<b>By Deficit transferred to trust fund</b>		5,531,998	
<b>To Miscellaneous expenses</b>							
- Consultation charges		4,088,518	5,562,038				
- Rent		10,832,646	12,397,202				
- Travelling and conveyance		14,401,475	11,984,123				
- Other expenses	15	17,238,954	23,457,765				
<b>To Depreciation</b>							
- on other fixed assets	5	3,539,304	2,972,300				
<b>To Expenditure on objects of the Society</b>	16						
(classification is as certified by trustees)							
(a) Religious		-	-				
(b) Educational		34,413,368	21,907,526				
(c) Medical and poverty relief		530,944,983	546,790,910				
<b>To Surplus transferred to Trust Funds</b>		-	3,410,353				
		<b>678,716,682</b>	<b>690,885,168</b>			<b>678,716,682</b>	<b>690,885,168</b>

Significant accounting policies and notes forming part of the financial statements 17

The notes referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements.

For **Walker Chandlok & Co LLP**  
 Chartered Accountants  
 Firm's Registration No: **001076N/N500013**



**Tarun Gupta**  
 Partner  
 Membership No : **507892**  
 Place: **Gurugram**  
 Date: **20<sup>th</sup> November 2019**



For **Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind**

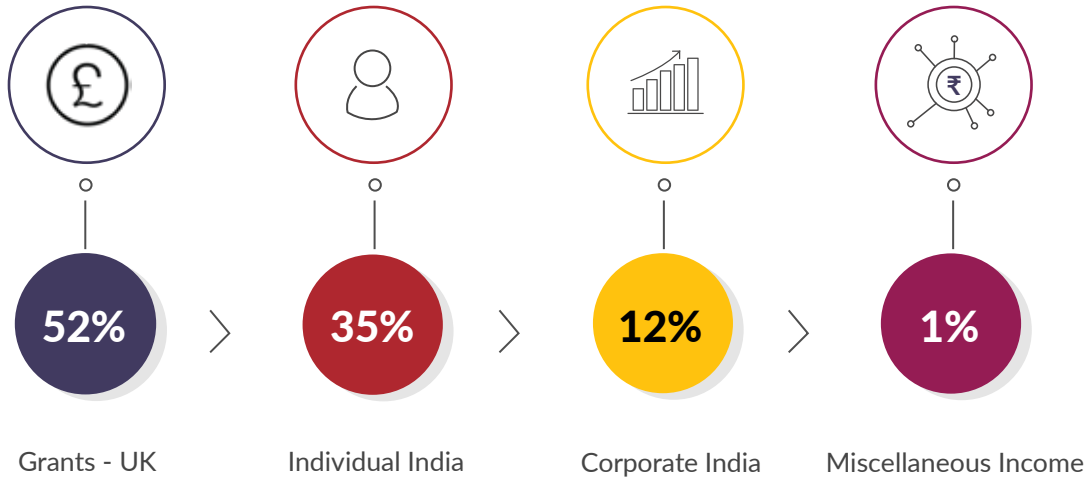


**Dr. S Y Quraishi**  
 Chairman

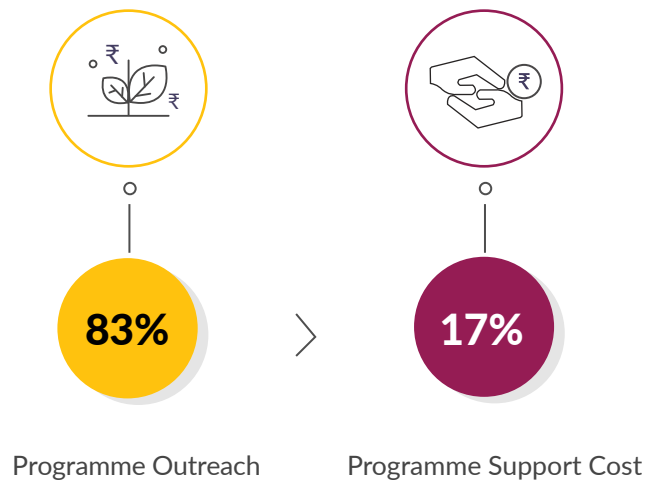


**R N Mohanty**  
 Chief Executive Officer

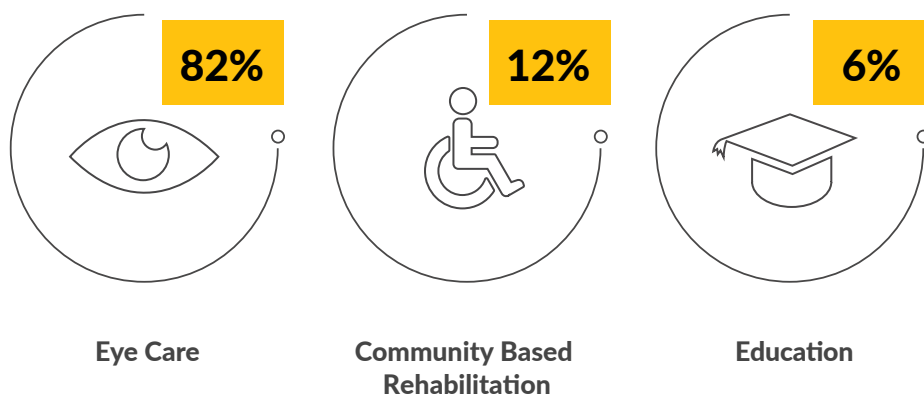
## Income FY 19-20



## Total Expenditure FY 19-20



## Thematic Utilisation



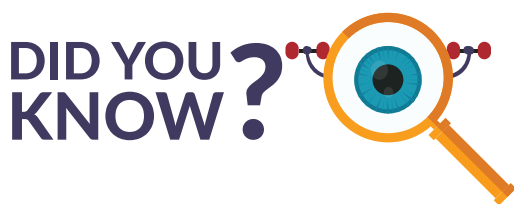
## List of Abbreviations

- CWD: Children with Disabilities
- DR: Diabetic Retinopathy
- DPOs: Disabled People's Organisations
- ICT: Information and Communications Technology
- NUHM: National Urban Health Mission
- PWD: Persons with Disabilities
- RBSK: Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram
- SSA: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- SMC: School Management Committee
- SHG: Self-help Group
- SDG: Sustainable Development Goals
- UEHP: Urban Eye Health Programme
- XRCVC: The Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged
- CRC: Cluster Resource Centre
- NHM: National Health Mission
- DPG: Disabled People Group
- LV: Low Vision
- EVM: Electronic Voting Machines
- VVPAT: Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail
- DDRC: District Disability Rehabilitation Centres



## Sightsavers India completes 1 million sight restoration surgeries

To commemorate this achievement, Mr Ranjan Kumar Ganguly, the international Sand Artist showcased an artwork carving a beautiful sand sculpture at the Gopalpur Beach situated in Odisha. The sculpture depicts a big open palm with an eye placed in the middle of it with a message saying "1 Million Gift of Sight."



- ▶ **1.2** Billion people need glasses to see better.
- ▶ Cataract is number **1** cause of sight loss today
- ▶ Globally, **36** million people are blind
- ▶ **56%** of blind people are women.
- ▶ More than a billion people, about **15** percent of the world's population, have some form of disability.



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