



Sightsavers
India

Annual Report

2024-2025





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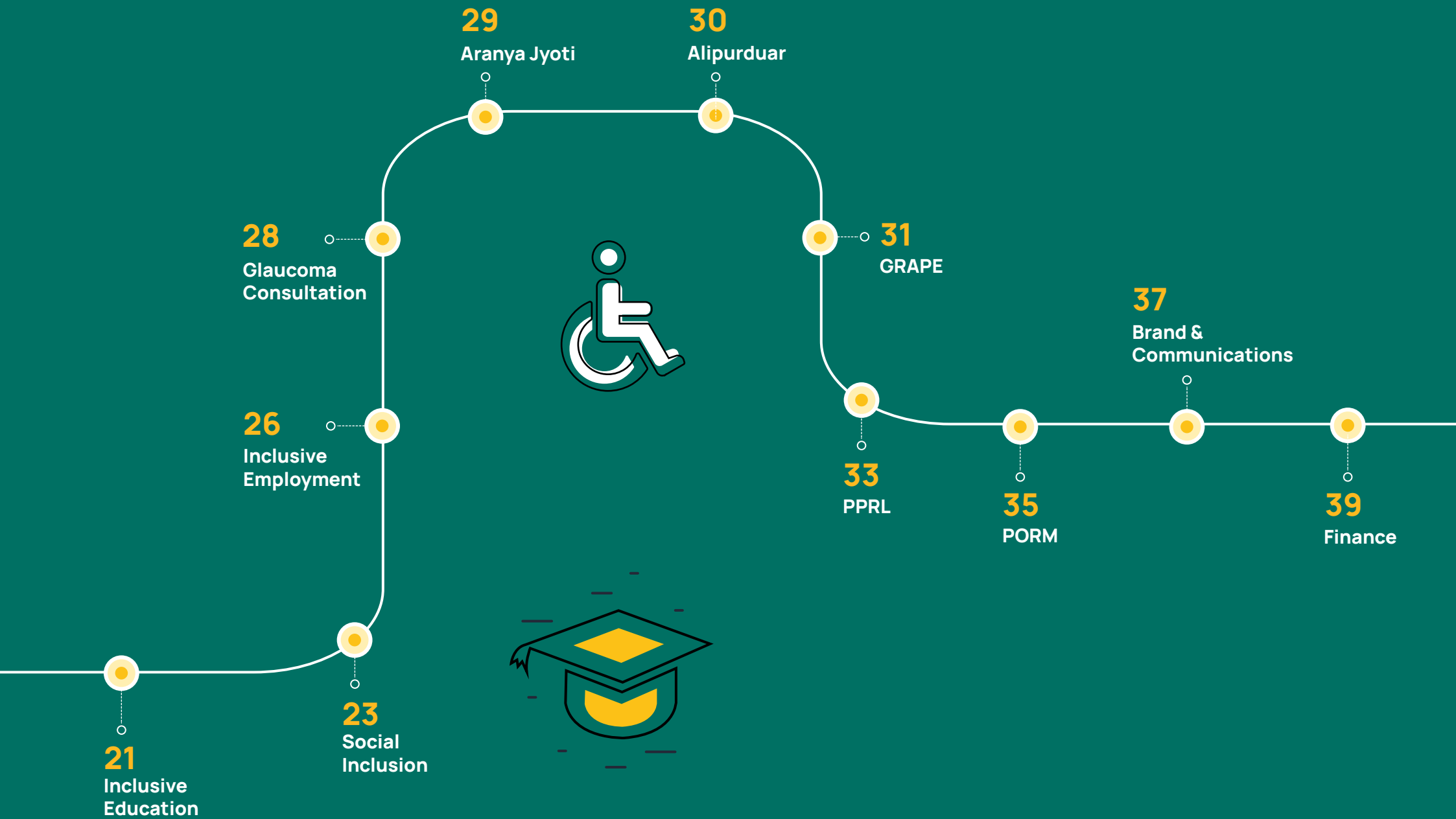
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Eye Health



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About us

Sightsavers India also known as Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, is a development organisation working with partners to reduce avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunity for people with disabilities.

Sightsavers India collaborates with various departments of the respective state governments to scale up operations for Social Inclusion, Eye Health and Inclusive Education— our three core areas of work.

We work in a sustainable way to promote lasting change by strengthening existing health systems, seeking to engage with the governments, and demonstrating best practices.

Mission

We are a development organisation working with partners in underserved areas of India to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

Vision

Sightsavers India's vision is of a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes and where people with disability participate equally in society.

Our values

Protecting sight | Equal opportunities | Collaboration

Since 1970,



8.5 million

sight restoration surgeries
were facilitated



103.3 million

eye screenings were done
to detect vision issues

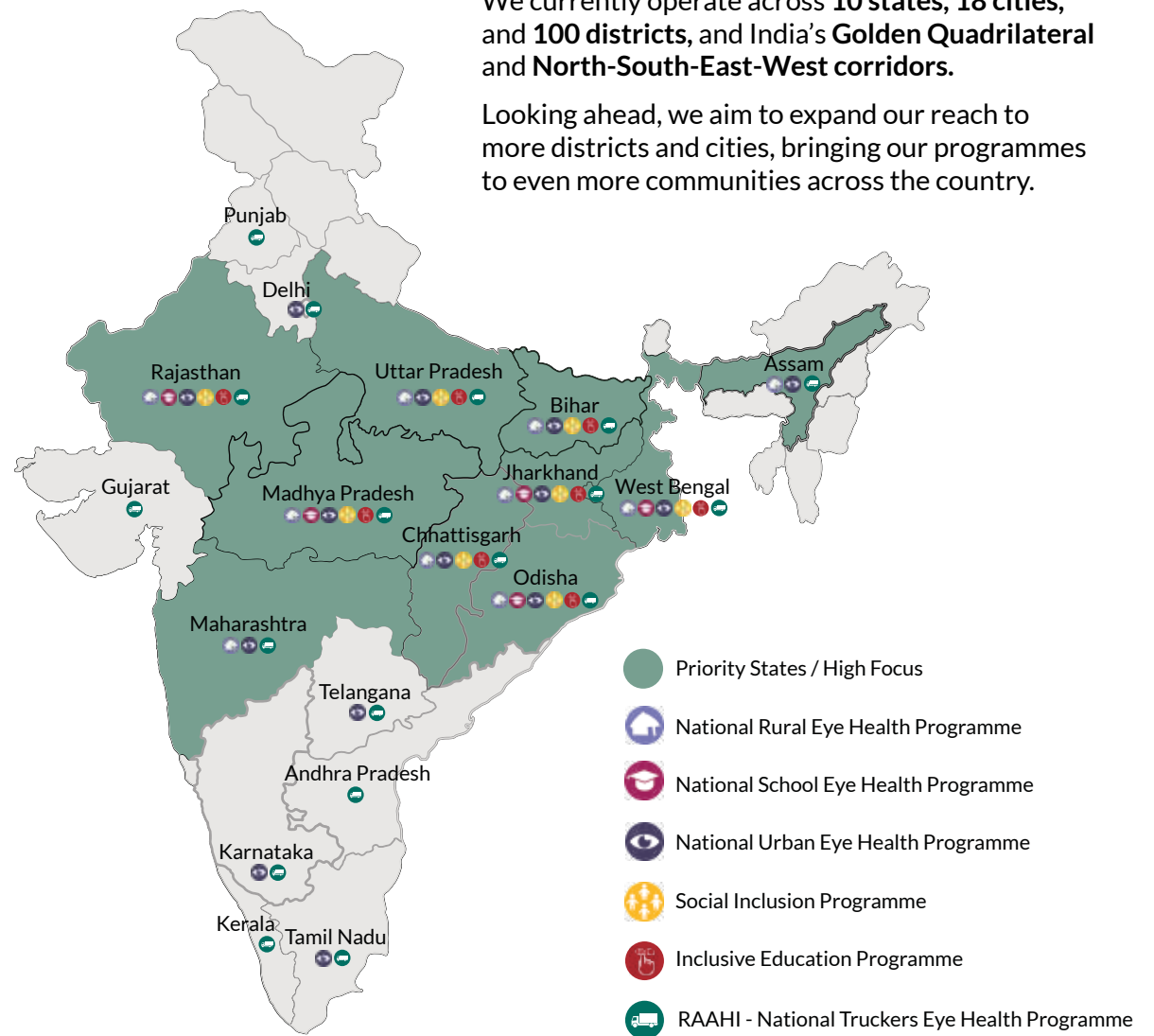




Geography

We currently operate across **10 states**, **18 cities**, and **100 districts**, and India's **Golden Quadrilateral** and **North-South-East-West corridors**.

Looking ahead, we aim to expand our reach to more districts and cities, bringing our programmes to even more communities across the country.





Major Highlights of the Year



Cataract Blindness Backlog-Free Initiatives Across States

Significant strides were made in the Cataract Blindness Backlog-Free (CBBF) initiative across multiple states. Udaynarayanpur and Bagnan II blocks in Howrah, West Bengal and 33 Panchayats in Patratu Block, Jharkhand, were declared CBBF. In Bihar, the process was initiated in Ward 9 of Patna under the Urban Eye Health pilot and in Bargainia Block, Sitamarhi, with Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers conducting door-to-door screenings, creating Village Blindness Registers, facilitating referrals.



Sightsavers India Expands REH Programme to Madhya Pradesh

Sightsavers India initiated its Netra Vasant - Rural Eye Health (REH) programme in a new district - Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh. A stakeholder workshop, led by Chief Medical Health Officer (CMHO) Dr. G.P. Gupta, brought together 61 participants from Health, Education, Women and Child Development, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and other departments to build district-wide support.



Myopia Progression Research Project Launched in Madhya Pradesh

A first-of-its-kind Myopia Progression Research Project has been launched in Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh, through collaboration between Sightsavers, Wen Giving and Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya. Over the next 3.5 years, the project aims to screen 150,000 children across 2,000 schools in Katni, provide advanced glasses and train 2,000 teachers to support eye health awareness. The children will also receive cutting-edge low-vision devices and vital surgical care, while ophthalmic assistants and government optometrists will receive skill-building support.



Jeevan Jyoti Project Launched in Rajasthan

Sightsavers India, in partnership with the District Medical and Health Department, Alwar and Metso India Private Limited, launched the 'Jeevan Jyoti' Project to reduce avoidable blindness in Alwar district. The project supported by Metso CSR, is part of Sightsavers India's Rural Eye Health Programme. It aims to upgrade vision centres at Community Health Centres (CHCs) in Laxmangarh and Ramgarh, enhance door-to-door cataract screenings with support from Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and provide guided pre- and post-operative care. The project also focuses on grassroots engagement through training sessions for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members to strengthen community ownership and awareness of eye health.



School Eye Health Programme Launched in West Bengal

The Vidyajyoti Programme was officially launched in Bankura through a stakeholder meeting with education and health officials. Key participants, including representatives from the Education and Health Departments, school administrators, and district administration, pledged their support for its successful implementation.



GAIL Partnership for Truckers Programme

Sightsavers India has signed an MoU with GAIL, our first Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) to launch our RAAHI - National Truckers Eye Health Programme across five locations, expanding its reach in providing essential eye care to the trucking community.



Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) - Supported Programmes Across India

Special launch events and eye health camps marked the beginning of SCB-supported Rural Eye Health programmes across five states- West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Odisha and Maharashtra. From reaching women in South 24 Parganas to expanding direct service delivery in Rajnandgaon, these events brought together local partners, community members and teams to kick off new projects aimed at improving access to quality eye care in underserved districts.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The year 2024–25 has been one of progress and deepened purpose for Sightsavers India. As we continue our mission to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote inclusive development, our work this year stands out for the way it has combined compassion with data, and local innovation with global vision.

From remote forest villages to crowded urban settlements, we have seen first-hand the power of partnership in transforming lives. In Alipurduar, West Bengal, the declaration of the district as Cataract Blindness Backlog Free marks not just a public health victory but a demonstration of what collective resolve and data-driven planning can achieve. The Aranya Jyoti project, launched in India's national parks, has brought essential eye care to tribal communities living in some of the most remote parts of the country ensuring that inclusion extends to those often left beyond the margins.

Equally inspiring has been our work in education. Through the Inclusive Education Programme, Sightsavers India continues to support children with visual impairments across 15 districts, ensuring they not only access school but thrive within it. At the policy level, our Government Relations and Policy Engagement (GRAPE) unit has worked closely with state and national bodies to integrate eye health, inclusive education, and disability rights into governance frameworks.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our partners, government agencies, donors, medical institutions, community organisations, and our dedicated teams for their steadfast support. Together, we are not just restoring sight; we are building systems of equity, opportunity, and dignity.



Rati Forbes
Honorary Chairperson
of the Board of Trustees,
Sightsavers India;
Director,
Forbes Marshall Ltd

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The past year has reaffirmed Sightsavers India's belief that lasting impact lies at the intersection of evidence, innovation, and empathy. In 2024-25, our programmes not only expanded in reach but deepened in quality, supported by strong research insights, technology adoption, and government partnerships.

Underpinning all our efforts is our Programme Performance, Research, and Learning Department, whose studies from the RAAB in Alipurduar to the RARE study in Kasganj, are informing the design of future interventions. The journey from evidence to impact is not always linear, but our teams have shown that rigour and empathy can coexist. In Eye Health, we continued to expand our reach through an integrated network of Vision Centres and partner hospitals. We also advanced our mission against preventable blindness through targeted campaigns such as the glaucoma awareness initiative, which reached over 22 million people (online & offline) through multi-state consultations and screenings. I am grateful to all our corporate partners for their continued support towards our mission.

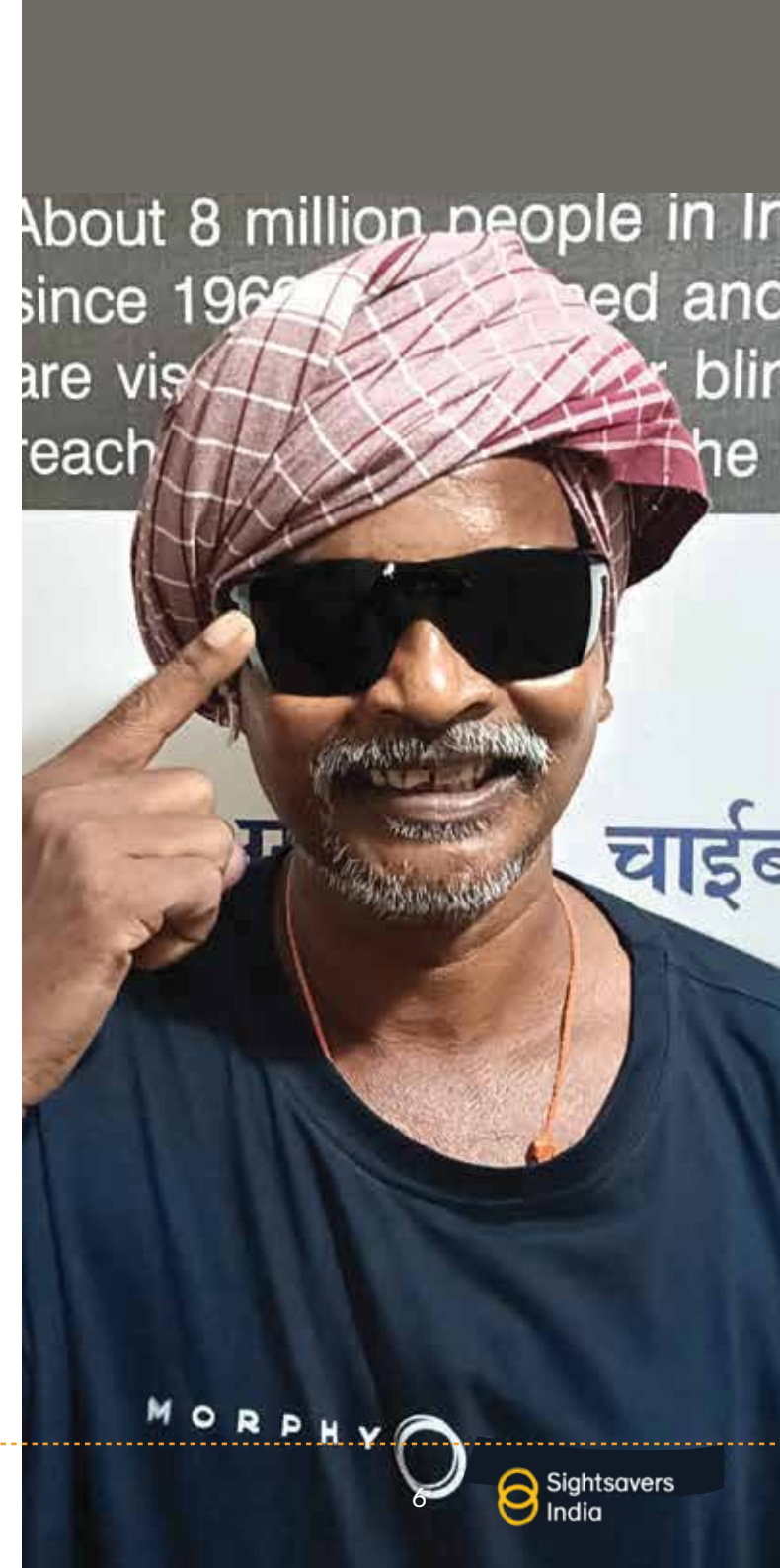
While in Social Inclusion, the focus has been on improving livelihood opportunities and strengthening self-help collectives of people with disabilities. Our teams have worked to integrate financial literacy, digital enablement, and market linkages into ongoing programmes, creating pathways for long-term economic empowerment.

We endeavour to align our community-based initiatives with local governance structures, which helps embed our work more sustainably within government systems.

Our aim is to make eye health, inclusive education, and social inclusion not just service areas, but integral components of India's development framework.



RN Mohanty
CEO, Sightsavers India



Our Trustees



Rati Forbes

Honorary Chairperson, Sightsavers India Board

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.



Naheed T. Carrimjee

Senior Associate, Desai & Carrimjee, Advocates and Solicitors, Mumbai

Naheed T. Carrimjee is a solicitor and a founding partner of Desai Carrimjee and Mulla, a firm specialising in corporate and civil law. Naheed is a conscious environmentalist and keenly interested in social & development issues. She supports and is closely involved with several charitable organisations.



Dr Hemachandran Karah

Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras

Dr Hemachandran Karah teaches English Literature at the Humanities and Social sciences faculty at IIT Madras. Dr Karah works in the fields of disability studies and medical humanities. A PhD in English Literature from the University of Cambridge, Dr Karah is also Member, Society for Disability Studies, USA and Member, Disability Studies Association, UK.



Dr Alka Barua

MBBS and MD in Paediatrics from Nagpur University and PhD in Sociology from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay

Dr. Alka Barua is a pediatrician, independent consultant, and researcher with a focus on women's and adolescent health, training, capacity building, and action research. She has served as a resource person for training workshops organized by NGOs, the National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health (ICMR-NIRRH), and the World Health Organization.



EYE HEALTH



NETRA VASANT
RURAL EYE HEALTH
PROGRAMME (REH)



AMRITA DRISHTI
URBAN EYE HEALTH
PROGRAMME (UEH)

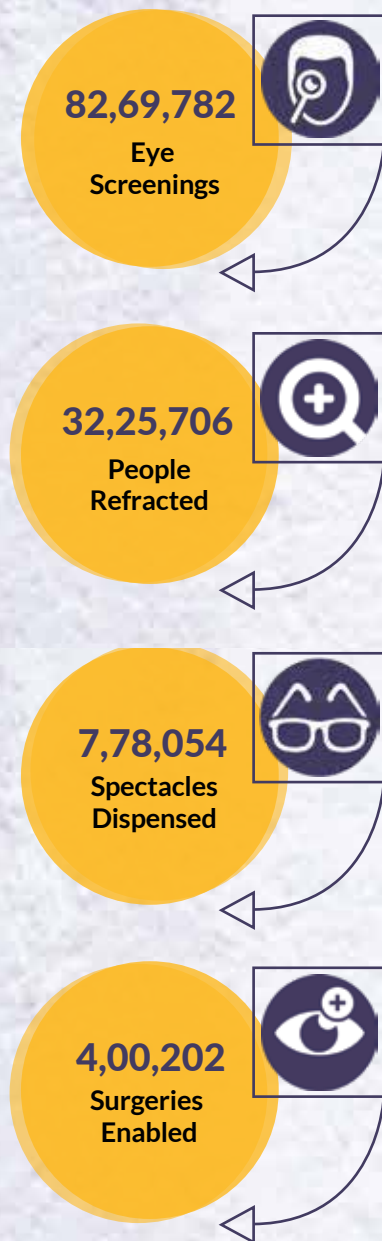


VIDYA JYOTI
SCHOOL EYE HEALTH
PROGRAMME (SEH)



RAAHI
NATIONAL TRUCKERS
EYE HEALTH
PROGRAMME





April 2024 - March 2025
(Including RAAHI)



Netra Vasant

Rural Eye Health Programme

Sightsavers India launched the Netra Vasant - Rural Eye Health Programme, currently operational in **94 districts**, to improve vision-related quality of life by strengthening rural eye health systems in India. With **over 100 static vision centres across ten states**, the programme focuses on reducing blindness, increasing Cataract Surgical Rates (CSR), and ensuring equitable, sustainable eye care for underserved communities. We aim to achieve universal coverage vis-a-vis eye health services by reducing blindness prevalence, providing equitable coverage, and financial and programmatic sustainability.

Key Highlights

- Talbro's Support for REH Programme in Bihar**
 Talbro's-supported Rural Eye Health (REH) activities in Araria, Sitamarhi and Nawada included four outreach camps, facilitating cataract surgeries and awareness-building to educate the community and improve primary eye care access.
- ASHA Training in PVTG-Majority Block for Eye Health in Chhattisgarh**
 A total of 40 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) were trained in Rajnandgaon (Chhuikhadan) to strengthen outreach in the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)-majority block of Salehwara, supporting progress towards eye health service saturation.
- Policy Engagement to Strengthen Eye Health Services in Jharkhand**
 A policy engagement meeting was held with the Medical Officer In-charge (MOIC) at Primary Health Centre (PHC) Daru, a High Priority Block in Hazaribagh District to integrate eye health services and provide affordable, accessible eye care services at PHC-level through inclusive camps across the block. The effort was actively supported by Jharkhand State livelihood Promotion society (JSLPS) and Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- Women-Led Eye Health Campaign in Madhya Pradesh**
 In collaboration with the National Rural Livelihood Mission, our partner hospital in Rajgarh district conducted a month-long campaign to promote women's access to eye care. The initiative targeted seven villages in Gadiya Charan, Karkara, Budanpur, Abdapur, Abhaypur, Nishana and Sherpura across three blocks: Khilchipur, Sarangpur, and Narsingarh.

We reached 54 villages in Zirapur block and covered 121 villages. The campaign aimed to empower women as informed health advocates within their communities.

- **High-Impact REH Programme Initiatives Begins in Maharashtra**

A three-year High Impact Rural Eye Health (REH) project supported by Standard Chartered Bank and JSW Foundation was launched in Raigad district, implemented by Khan Bahaddur Haji Bachooali Ophthalmic & Ent. Hospital (KBHB) and Laxmi Charitable Trust Eye Hospital (LCT), with a formal launch held in April at Navi Mumbai. Additionally, REH projects were initiated in three remote districts - Hingoli, Gondia and Ahilyanagar with support from Bridgenext, Sunflag and Tata Elxsi respectively.

- **Eye Care for Daily Wage Labours on International Labour Day in Odisha**

On World Labour Day in Nagaur, 96 mine workers joined a special event attended by Labour Department officials. As part of the celebration and broader outreach, 42 eye screening camps were held at MGNREGA worksites and mines in high-priority blocks, reaching over 6,100 daily wage labourers, 55% of them women. The screenings led to early detection and care, including free glasses for those in need.

- **Addressing Refractive Error Through Spectacle Distribution in Rajasthan**

A total of 14,000 free spectacles were distributed across Nagaur, Sikar, Chittorgarh, Dungarpur, Udaipur, Sirohi and urban slums of Jaipur in Rajasthan. It was done with support from OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation, significantly improving vision support in underserved communities.

- **Promoting Women's Eye Health through Gender-Sensitive Outreach in Uttar Pradesh**

In December, a gender sensitivity awareness and promotional session was conducted in the Sarvakhera Block of Kanpur Dehat to highlight the importance of prioritising women's eye health. The session, titled "Prevailing Eye Ailments in Rural India: Causes and Precautions," aimed to dispel myths and improve understanding of common eye conditions. Forty women participated, gaining awareness about available eye care services and the need for early intervention.

- **Sundarban Screening and Awareness Campaign in West Bengal**

In the remote Sundarbans, special screening camp was organised offering free eye examinations and support services for the elderly population. Vivekananda Ashram Mission (VMA) and Sundarban Social Development Centre (SSDC) - based hospitals conducted awareness drives with workshops, testimonials and materials for elderly care.

Chronicles from the Field

A New Light in Dulari's Life

Seventy-one-year-old Mrs. Dulari from a small village in Aurangabad, Bihar, had been living with deteriorating vision for years. A widow and caregiver to her grandchildren, her worsening eyesight had made even simple daily tasks, like cooking or farming impossible. Gradually, she withdrew from social interactions, relying entirely on others for support.

During a community health camp organised by Daudnagar Organization for Rural Development (DORD) under Sightsavers India's Rural Eye Health Programme, Dulari was diagnosed with mature cataracts in both eyes. With support from the programme's donor partners, she underwent free cataract surgery at a nearby charitable hospital.

Within a week, her vision was restored, allowing her to resume her household and farming activities with confidence. Dulari now participates actively in community gatherings once again. Her restored sight has brought independence and joy back into her life.



Chronicles from the Field

Clearer Sight and Renewed Confidence



Mrs. Mandakini, a 70-year-old resident of Navi Mumbai, had been struggling with poor vision due to cataracts in both eyes. Everyday tasks became increasingly difficult, leaving her dependent on her family and unable to enjoy her usual independence.

During a door-to-door screening under Sightsavers India's Amrita Drishti-Urban Eye Health Programme, she received

information about the nearby Vision Centre and decided to visit. After a detailed examination, she was counselled about cataracts and the benefits of timely surgery. Given her financial constraints, she was assured that the procedure would be provided free of cost, along with transport support to and from Laxmi Charitable Trust's Hospital in Panvel.

In November 2024, Mrs. Mandakini underwent cataract surgery in her right eye. The operation was successful, and her vision improved significantly, bringing back comfort and confidence in her daily life. She now looks forward to her second surgery with renewed hope.

Her story reflects how timely interventions and accessible services can restore sight and dignity, enabling elderly individuals to live fuller, independent lives.



Amrita Drishti

Urban Eye Health Programme

This programme enables eye care for low-income residents in **18 cities** by integrating its vision centres with Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs), establishing vision centres with partner collaboration, building community resources and strengthening the National Health Mission. The programme currently operates eight static vision centres in collaboration with partners. It also deploys healthcare Mobile Vans offering teleconsultation, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy screening, portable perimetry, and spectacles. We aim to establish robust primary eye care systems in urban areas lacking essential support.

Key Highlights

- **ASHA Capacity Building in Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu**
Under the Urban Eye Health (UEH) programme, a state-level meeting with 40 Urban ASHAs was held at the Urban Primary Health Centre in Edalhatu, Ranchi, Jharkhand, to strengthen eye health delivery in slum areas. Similarly, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, 27 ASHA workers received training to identify and refer common eye health conditions, enhancing early detection and referral networks.
- **Mobile Vision Centre Launched in Karnataka**
The Mobile Vision Centre, supported by Alcon Laboratories Private Limited, commenced operations in Bengaluru to expand community access to eye care services.
- **Civil Society Organisation Consultation held in Rajasthan**
A consultation in Jaipur brought together 10 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working on diverse social issues to plan joint awareness and screening efforts in urban slums of Jaipur, resulting in successful organisation of eye screening camps in December.
- **Inclusive Eye Health Initiatives in Uttar Pradesh and Odisha**
Eye screening camps were held in Uttar Pradesh and Odisha to promote accessible vision care. In collaboration with the Kanpur Metro Development Authority, screenings were conducted for Metro Yard staff in Kanpur, with free spectacles provided to those with refractive errors. In Odisha, screenings for persons with disabilities and children took place at the Swami Vivekananda National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, along with blood sugar and pressure checks and sessions on eye health and holistic well-being.



Vidya Jyoti

School Eye Health Programme

This programme is dedicated to enhancing eye health among school children. Currently operational in 5 districts, over the past five years, the programme has **screened 14,93,397 students**. We aim to integrate eye health into broader school health efforts, with key components including teacher training, service delivery, and eye health awareness, to screen, identify, and prevent vision issues from Grades I to XII.

Key Highlights

- **Orientation and Awareness sessions in Jharkhand**

In collaboration with the Education Department, Sightsavers India conducted eye health orientation sessions for 1,406 students across 23 schools under the Vidyajyoti School Eye Health Programme in Ramgarh, aiming to build awareness and inspire student eye care champions.

- **School Screening Led by Trained Teachers in Madhya Pradesh**

In Raisen, 126 teachers were trained to conduct eye screenings for 46,128 children across over 2,100 schools. With support from Community Health Officers (CHOs), 12,433 students from 41 schools were screened. Among them, 578 students were identified with refractive errors, 350 received spectacles and 184 were referred to Katni city clinic for further care. The teachers were oriented and sensitised to understand the eye conditions of school children and about the follow-up procedures for children identified with refractive errors and spectacles compliance.

- **Paediatric Eye Screening and Surgical Support in Odisha**

A special camp was conducted to identify children with paediatric cataracts, low vision, and refractive errors. Those requiring further intervention were referred for specialised care, with surgeries facilitated in collaboration with Kalinga Eye Hospital, Dhenkanal.

- **Eye Health Corridors introduced in Rajasthan**

Ten schools in Pratapgarh have introduced eye health corridors to raise awareness among students about the importance of eye care. Eye health corridors are dedicated spaces within schools developed as part of Sightsavers India's School Eye Health strategy. They include IEC materials with information on eye health, an E-chart placed at a marked 6-metre distance and encourage self-screening among children. This initiative is helping foster a proactive culture of eye care among students through fun, interactive learning.

- **Memorandum of Understanding signed in Tamil Nadu**

Sankara Eye Hospital signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Institute of Siddha in May 2024 to conduct fortnightly eye screening camps. The initiative targets diabetic and elderly patients, aiming to detect Diabetic Retinopathy and other conditions early, while raising awareness.

- **Promoting Eye Health through School Wall Art in West Bengal**

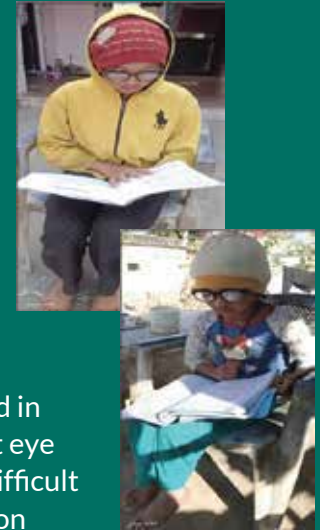
Eye health-themed wall paintings were completed in five schools across Bankura to raise awareness among students and encourage regular eye check-ups.



Chronicles from the Field “

From Blurred Blackboards to Clear Lessons

In Rajgarh, Rajasthan, two sisters- Geetanjali, 13 and Tanisha, 9, were quietly having their lives shaped by undiagnosed vision problems. Their father works as a labourer and their mother earns a small income as a domestic worker, leaving little room for medical care.



For months, both girls struggled in school. Blurred vision, constant eye pain and watery eyes made it difficult to see the blackboard or focus on lessons.

Their turning point came when a screening camp was held at their school under Sightsavers India's Vidya Jyoti- School Eye Health Programme. They were examined and referred to the Rajgarh Eye Examination Centre and later to Alwar Hospital, where specialists diagnosed their condition. Both sisters received free spectacles through the programme.

The change was immediate. “Before the glasses, I could not focus on my studies or see distant objects. My eyes hurt constantly,” said Geetanjali. “Now I can see clearly and study with ease.” Tanisha expressed the same joy, and their parents are equally relieved.

When Awareness Meets Action

Key days such as World Sight Day, World Diabetes Day, International Women's Day and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities were marked across Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Tamil Nadu. These observances featured eye health camps, walkathons, community outreach, inclusive education showcases and targeted screenings. Collaborations with state departments, health officials, local partners and community networks helped amplify awareness and reinforce the importance of inclusive and accessible eye care.

These efforts highlighted strong partnerships and a shared commitment to inclusive eye health and disability inclusion.





RAAHI

National Truckers Eye Health Programme

As one of the largest eye health programmes in the country, RAAHI delivers essential eye care services directly to truckers. With presence in 67 locations along India's major haulage routes, including the Golden Quadrilateral and North-South-East-West (NSEW) Corridor, the programme features static centres in transport hubs, outreach camps at key locations and mobile vision centres. We also have a cloud-based technology called the RAAHI App that enhances the delivery of eyecare services to truckers on the move.

*Static vision centres: 27
Mobile vision centres: 3

30
Vision centres*
established



1,03,284
People
refracted



2,05,062
Eye
screenings



93,923
Spectacles
dispensed



April 2024 - March 2025

Key Highlights

- **Expansion of Eye Health Services on Key Transport Corridors**

The programme expanded its presence along the Golden Quadrilateral and the East-West and North-South transport corridors, improving access to eye care across major national highways.

- **Over 200,000 Truckers Screened**

During the reporting period, 205,074 truckers were screened and 91,424 spectacles were dispensed, addressing significant vision needs within the trucking community.

- **Holistic Health Screenings for Truckers**

Beyond vision care, the programme also offered basic health screenings for blood sugar, blood pressure, height, and weight, supporting the overall well-being of truck drivers.

- **Financial Literacy Training for Truckers**

Financial literacy training was organised in Jalandhar, Salem, Bengaluru, Guwahati, Howrah, and Indore, benefitting 378 truckers through classroom sessions and practical walkthroughs.

- **Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Initiated**

Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) screening was introduced in Kanpur, Balasore, Delhi, and Bharuch, screening 3,564 truckers, with 469 identified as DR suspects and referred for further care.

- **Advanced Diagnostic Equipment Installed**

To strengthen diagnostic capabilities, Autorefractometers and Fundus Cameras were installed at multiple Raahi Drishti Kendras (vision centres), enhancing the quality of eye examinations.

- **New Raahi Drishti Kendras Inaugurated**

A key milestone was the inauguration of new centres in Shahpura (Rajasthan), Bhuj (Gujarat), and Bharuch (Gujarat), significantly improving access to quality eye care for the trucking community.





Chronicles from the Field ”

When the Highway Came Back into Focus

For 25 years, the winding roads of Uttar Pradesh had been Ramvriksh's workplace and lifeline. A 48-year-old driver from Banaras, he supported his family of three children through long hours behind the wheel. But in recent months, the road had started to blur. Persistent eye-watering, headaches and poor distance vision made driving increasingly difficult and dangerous.



A conversation at Pahalwan Dhaba changed everything. Ramvriksh learnt about free eye check-ups being offered at the Raahi Drishti Kendra in Prayagraj, part of Sightsavers India's RAAHI- National Truckers Eye Health Programme. At the centre, he underwent a detailed eye examination and was prescribed spectacles for both near and distance vision.

He received his near-vision glasses immediately, with distance spectacles ready a few weeks later, all free of cost. The results were transformative. The headaches subsided, the tearing stopped and his confidence behind the wheel returned.

Back on the road, Ramvriksh drives with clarity and ease once again. His story reflects how access to eye care can restore not just vision, but also livelihood and peace of mind for those who keep India's highways moving.

Sightsavers India's Fellowship Program

The Sightsavers India Fellowship is an opportunity for promising and passionate young ophthalmologists to get trained at some of the leading eye health institutes in India. It is a unique initiative by Sightsavers India aimed at addressing the shortage of trained ophthalmologists in rural and remote districts of the country. Alongside, the fellows also get a chance to apply these skills and knowledge in a real-world scenario while being placed under Sightsavers India Eye Health Programme.

The fellowship program identifies promising young ophthalmologists from India and grooms them through an innovative 24-month course to enhance their perspectives on rural eye health. After a rapid 4-month training in cataract, the fellows are placed in the peripheral centres of one of the 8 states- Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. The process involves skill upgradation components and personal interactions with eminent leaders in the eye care and development sector.

Key Highlights

- **Fellow Placements and Surgeries Performed:** In just 18 months, fellows from the 2022 and 2023 batches have performed over 15,000 surgeries, making a significant impact on eye health services in rural and remote districts. These eleven fellows continue their service in peripheral locations across Aurangabad (Bihar), Bankura (West Bengal), Gaya (Bihar), Jamalpur (West Bengal), Jhabua (Madhya Pradesh), Kalahandi (Odisha), Kasganj (Madhya Pradesh), Rajnandgaon (Chhattisgarh) and Satna (Madhya Pradesh).
- **International Exposure for Fellows:** Two fellows from the 2022 cohort attended the prestigious Annual Ophthalmology Congress 2024 in Sri Lanka. The event provided an invaluable platform to engage with ophthalmologists worldwide, exchange knowledge, and discuss advancements in the field.
- **Induction of 2024 Batch of Fellows:** Two new fellows have been inducted into the 2024 batch and commenced their training. This marks the start of their journey in the Fellowship Programme, where they will receive comprehensive training and mentorship in Small Incision Cataract Surgeries (SICS) and contribute to the rural communities of Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.
- **Participation of Fellows in Rapid assessment of avoidable blindness survey:** Two fellows participated in the Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) endline survey in Alipurduar district to assess blindness and visual impairment.





Chronicles from the Field

Sightsavers India Fellowship Opportunity: Global Exposure and Growth at the Island Meeting



As part of the Sightsavers India Fellowship Programme, Dr Aniza Nagpal and Dr Reshma Sonowal attended the 32nd Annual Ophthalmology Congress in Colombo, Sri Lanka (11–15 September 2024). The international platform brought together experts from across the globe to discuss emerging trends and innovations in eye care, offering me valuable exposure to global practices.

A key highlight was the session on phacoemulsification technology, where they trained on cost-effective machines such as the Hummingbird (Aurolab) and Cube Alpha (Nidek). These devices combine affordability with precision, making them highly relevant for cataract surgeries in resource-limited settings.

Sessions on global eye health emphasised increasing access to quality services, tackling cataract blindness, and addressing glaucoma. Innovations like selective laser trabeculoplasty (SLT) in Sri Lanka provided insights into new treatment pathways, while discussions on managing normal-tension glaucoma enriched their clinical perspective.

Networking with leading ophthalmologists, including Dr Ronald Yeoh and Dr Dushyantha Wariyapola, provided practical tips on accurate IOL calculations, equipment calibration, and surgical techniques. Overall, the congress was an inspiring experience, and the fellows expressed their gratitude to Sightsavers India for this opportunity. They said it will strengthen their practice and benefit the patients they serve.



2,355

Children with
visual impairment
who received
assistive devices



7,610

Teachers
trained



4,557

Children with
visual impairment
who received
education
materials



April 2024 - March 2025



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Sightsavers India promotes an inclusive environment for children with visual impairments in **15 districts**, having supported **3,280 children** by providing assistive devices, accessible materials, and skills training to both teachers and students while ensuring infrastructure accessibility. The Student Tracking Assessment and Reporting (STAR) App tracks the progress of children with visual impairments to strengthen the Inclusive Education programme, aiming to integrate them into mainstream education and ensure equal opportunities for all.

Chronicles from the Field

Independent Learning Made Possible

Puja, a 16-year-old from Bankura, West Bengal, lives with her father, a carpenter, and mother, a seasonal labourer. With an annual household income of less than ₹60,000, the family struggled to support her needs. Living with severe low vision due to albinism, Puja often faced exclusion at school, though she always dreamt of excelling in her studies.



In 2024, Sightsavers India supported Puja through its Inclusive Education Programme. She received a laptop with accessible software and training, enabling her to study independently, complete assignments, and prepare for her board exams with confidence.

She was also given self-defence training, which boosted her confidence and sense of safety. Once dependent on others, Puja is now self-reliant and recently appeared for her Class 10 exams, hopeful of achieving a first division.

Her parents, once worried about her future, now take pride in her determination. Beyond her own growth, she now supports other CVIs during practice sessions at the Block Resource Centre (BRC), setting an example for her peers.

With renewed confidence, Puja dreams of continuing her education and building a future on her own terms.

Key Highlights

- **ICT Training for Children with Visual Impairments (CVIs) held in Chhattisgarh**
CVIs were trained in foundational and digital literacy, Braille and abacus use, with Sightsavers India providing technical support as Master Trainer. A four-day Information & Communication Technology (ICT) training at the Block Resource Centre in Balodabazar-Bhatapara further equipped CVIs with assistive technology skills, promoting independent learning and educational inclusion.
- **Appreciation for Inclusive Education Implementation in Jharkhand**
The State Project Director of the Jharkhand Education Project Council in Ranchi issued a letter of appreciation to Sightsavers India for their effective implementation of Inclusive Education Programmes in the state.
- **Resource Centre Strengthening in Madhya Pradesh**
The Block Resource Centre (BRC) and District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) in Katni District have been strengthened through the development of a resource centre in collaboration with Sightsavers India.
- **School Renovation for Accessibility in Madhya Pradesh**
Renovation and painting work is currently in progress at Government Middle School NKJ, Katni, and Government MS, Raipura, with the aim of improving accessibility for children with visual impairments (CVIs). These upgrades will help create a more inclusive learning environment for all students.
- **Udyam Module 2.0 and TLM Pilots Across Four Districts in Odisha**
Building on the success of Udyam for Classes 1-5, Sightsavers India developed Udyam Module 2.0 for Classes 6-8 through 11 expert consultations with Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA) and DIET. A Teaching Learning Material (TLM) workshop in Bhubaneswar resulted in 30 teaching-learning materials in Maths and Odia, which were piloted across 16 schools in four districts of Khurda, Ganjam, Dhenkanal and Kalahandi. Observations and feedback informed the final version, now under design for submission to SCERT.
- **Performance of Children with Visual Impairment (CVI) in Board Examinations of Rajasthan**
In this year's class 10th and 12th Board Exams, 55 students with visual impairment (CVIs) from all three Inclusive Education districts took the exams. Impressively, 45 of these students passed. A particularly inspiring achievement was the 83.3% scored by a visually impaired girl from Pratapgarh, the highest score overall. The average pass percentage for all passing CVIs was a commendable 58%.



SOCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMME

Through this programme, Sightsavers India are committed to empowering people with disabilities by providing essential skills, tools, and support to help them achieve financial independence and lead fulfilling lives. With a presence in **12 districts**, the programme has **engaged 2,58,471 people with disabilities (PwDs)** so far. Our Social Inclusion efforts focus on three core areas: Institution Building, Economic Empowerment, and Creating an Enabling Environment. We also adopt a comprehensive gender approach, offering adolescent girls self-defence training and health and hygiene education.



6,618

Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) Trained in Livelihood



73,407

Total PwDs Trained on Rights and Entitlements



38,106

PwDs as members of the OPDs



10,417

SHGs Facilitated (North & East)

April 2024 - March 2025

Key Highlights

- **Rudraksha Stitching Producer Group Formed for PwDs in Bihar**
The Rudraksha Stitching Producer Group was formed in Gaya, Bihar for Persons With Disabilities (PwDs) trained by National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC). Many members have started home-based tailoring units, garment shops or training centres, while others are pursuing diverse livelihoods like mobile repair, food stalls and craftwork. The initiative is fostering economic inclusion and self-reliance.
- **Interface Meeting on Disability Rights held in Chhattisgarh**
An interface meeting with block-level officers was held in Mahasamund, Chhattisgarh, where government officers were sensitised to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPWD) and the needs and challenges faced by persons with disabilities (PwD). The officers assured their support for strengthening the inclusion of people with disabilities.
- **Livelihood Support for Persons with Disabilities in Jharkhand**
Sightsavers India identified and facilitated training in mushroom cultivation for 7 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) candidates at the Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI), Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand. Additionally, 13 PwDs in Hazaribagh received 65 goats under the Mukhya Mantri Pashudhan Yojana, supported with a 90% subsidy by the District Livestock Department.
- **Social Security Camps Conducted in Madhya Pradesh**
To raise awareness about rights, entitlements, and government schemes for persons with disabilities in Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, 34 social security camps were conducted in March 2025 with the support of government departments and PRI members.
- **OPD Banking and Policy Engagement Milestone marked in Madhya Pradesh**
A key milestone was marked in Madhya Pradesh with the opening of a bank account for our Organisation of People with Disability (OPD), Disha Divyang Samiti, promoting financial transparency and operational ease. Policy engagement efforts also gained momentum as members engaged with the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation Of India ALIMCO, leading to the distribution of assistive devices to individuals with newly issued disability certificates.
- **RPWD Act Training for OPD Leaders and SSEPD Staff conducted in Odisha**
Sightsavers India trained 31 OPD leaders and five SSEPD staff on the RPWD Act, 2016 in Odisha, highlighting key sections and real-life implementation gaps. The session encouraged participants to use the Act to raise awareness among officials.
- **Entrepreneurial Development Programme held in Odisha**
An Entrepreneurial Development Programme held in Odisha that encouraged 45 persons with disabilities from 18 villages in Junagarh and Lanjigarh to pursue self-employment and strengthen household resilience through alternative livelihoods.
- **Inclusive Leadership in OPDs in Bihar and Rajasthan**
The Organisation of Persons with Disability (OPD) in Gaya, Bihar, held its 2024 elections, ensuring leadership rotation and creating opportunities for other persons with disabilities (PwDs). A woman leader was elected Vice President, reflecting the gender sensitivity fostered through the training programme. Similarly, in Pratapgarh, Rajasthan, APNO Sansthan elected three women with disabilities to its five-member core committee, marking a significant milestone in promoting gender equity within the OPD structure.

- **Inclusive Voter Participation Led by OPD in Rajasthan**

State Organisation of Persons with Disability (OPD) APNO Sansthan played a significant role in driving inclusive voter participation across Sirohi and Chittorgarh in Rajasthan. In collaboration with the SJE Department and Election Commission, they led door-to-door campaigns, rallies and introduced Divyang Doots at the panchayat level. Their efforts also enabled 250 PwDs to vote from home. For their contributions, four members were recognised by the SJE Department and Preeti Taneja of APNO Sansthan was felicitated and honoured by the Additional CEO – Zila Parishad for her contribution.

- **Policy Engagement for Inclusive Employment in Uttar Pradesh**

In Uttar Pradesh, OPD Mahila Prakosth Adhyaksha, Gyan Devi submitted a memorandum to the District Magistrate in Kasganj, urging the inclusion of persons with disabilities in Anganwadi vacancies. Her policy engagement highlighted the need for accessible and inclusive community services. Gyan Devi, now employed as an Anganwadi worker in Manpur Nagaria Panchayat, is earning ₹6,000 per month reflecting both progress and impact.

- **Skill Training Held for Persons with Disabilities in Uttar Pradesh**

Training was held for persons with disabilities and Self Help Group (SHGs) members on buffalo farming, machan construction, vermicomposting, leadership, gender sensitivity, accessibility, and OPD strengthening in Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh.

- **Livelihood Consultation Held in West Bengal**

A livelihood consultation meeting was held across six blocks in Howrah district of West Bengal, engaging 126 families with PwD members to discuss strategies for improving their economic status through livelihood generation.

Chronicles from the Field ”

From Computer Training to Career Success

Born partially blind in a small village in Jharkhand, Ramesh grew up with a curiosity to learn. Despite limited resources, his parents ensured he studied in a regular school, learning through Braille and audio materials.



His turning point came when he learnt about a TCC computer training programme for visually impaired students, organised under Sightsavers India's Social Inclusion Programme. During the course, Ramesh mastered screen readers like JAWS and NVDA, improved his typing skills and became proficient in Microsoft Office and internet applications.

After completing his training, he took on small online projects and pursued an advanced certificate course to strengthen his digital skills. Eventually, Ramesh began teaching mathematics at local coaching institutes while preparing for government exams.

In 2024, his determination paid off. He secured the top rank in the Jharkhand Municipal Corporation recruitment exam and now serves under the Jharkhand Municipal Housing Project.

Ramesh's journey reflects how access to technology, training and confidence can transform lives and create new paths to independence.

Inclusive Employment: Impact and Collaborations Across India

Sightsavers India continued to strengthen inclusive employment initiatives through a series of job fairs, interface meetings, career counselling events and entrepreneurial development programmes across several states. These efforts were supported in close collaboration with government departments, private companies and local partners, ensuring persons with disabilities (PwDs) had access to meaningful livelihood opportunities.

In Bihar, a combination of soft skills training, online learning, interface meetings and employment fair were organised in Gaya, in collaboration with Youth4Jobs and the District Labour and Employment Exchange. These initiatives connected PwDs with employers such as Tata Motors, Hindustan Unilever and Godrej, laying the groundwork for inclusive hiring practices.

In Chhattisgarh, an inclusive employment fair connected job seekers with potential employers in a setting supported by local leaders and beneficiaries, reinforcing the value of community-led action.

In Jharkhand, Sightsavers India in collaboration with Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS), BPCL, Youth4Jobs and the National Career Service Centre (Ranchi) hosted a series of job fairs across districts. Focused mobilisation ensured the participation of eligible candidates, while strong coordination facilitated access to job opportunities and skill-based training.

In Madhya Pradesh, job fairs, interface meetings, and industrial visits were held in Raisen, Mandla, and Katni in collaboration with All India Society for Electronics and Computer Technology (AISECT), Government ITI Raisen, and the Jila Sevayojan Department. Events like the Mega Job Fair on World Disability Day and the Rojgar Mela in Kasganj (with 33 companies including Lenskart, PhonePe, LIC) were supported by district stakeholders, MSMEs and corporate partners for promoting inclusive hiring through employer sensitisation, candidate profiling and structured follow-up.





In Odisha, an inclusive job fair was held at the National Career Service Centre for Differently Abled (NCSCDA) campus with the support of over 13 companies. This was further complemented by a career counselling programme in Bhawanipatna, organised in partnership with the District Employment Exchange Office. Participants engaged with institutions such as SBI RSETI, Central Tool Room and Training Centre (CTTC) and Vedanta to explore training and employment avenues. An entrepreneurial development session was also conducted to encourage self-employment among PwD SHG members.

In Rajasthan, Under the Bajaj-supported Social Inclusion project in Pratapgarh, PwDs were supported to participate in a job fair with some advancing to further rounds. Separately, a district job fair was organised with the Employment Department in Dungarpur, where Sightsavers India set up an information stall and facilitated employer-candidate engagement. Additional placements were secured through field-level linkages and capacity-building efforts, including roles with Pahal Foundation and local institutions.

In Uttar Pradesh, in December 2024, Sightsavers India, in collaboration with the Jila Sevayojan Department, organised a Rojgar Mela in Kasganj under the Social Inclusion Programme. A total of 33 companies, including Lenskart, PhonePe, and LIC, offered diverse job opportunities. Five local companies were exclusively reserved for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), resulting in the selection of 10 candidates, with three receiving multiple offers. The event marked a significant step towards inclusive employment in the district.

In West Bengal, Howrah, Sightsavers India facilitated an interface meeting and job orientation programme with organisations such as Delhivery, Samarthanam Trust, Anudip Foundation, and Roop Plust Enterprise. Ongoing engagement included counselling sessions, workplace visits, and a WhatsApp group for job updates. A Mega Job Fair was later organised in collaboration with West Bengal State Rural Livelihood Mission (WBSRLM) and the District Administration, with participation from companies including Flipkart, LIC, Royal Enfield, Great Eastern, and Rana Telecom. Structured communication platforms, such as WhatsApp groups, were established to ensure ongoing support and information sharing with job seekers.

Glaucoma Awareness Campaign

As part of a collaborative campaign with AbbVie India, Sightsavers India led a series of consultations across five states to address the 'silent thief of sight' i.e., glaucoma, a leading cause of irreversible blindness. These state-level events focused on the prevention of visual impairment and the importance of early detection, diagnosis and treatment adherence.

Held in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha and Delhi, these consultations created vital platforms for discussion among ophthalmologists, public health professionals, civil society organisations and media to promote early detection and encourage policy alignment on glaucoma care. The campaign extended its reach beyond event venues garnering over **22.2 million** impressions through social media and reaching more than **1.78 million** people via print media coverage.

Often progressing without symptoms, glaucoma remains a major public health challenge, especially among people aged 40 and above. Each consultation emphasised the importance of regular screenings, early diagnosis and treatment adherence, particularly in communities with limited access to eye care. Practical demonstrations and free eye screening kiosks enabled direct access to glaucoma testing, allowing participants to experience the value of proactive eye care. Across the consultations and associated camps, over 5,300 people were screened.

This initiative marked a meaningful step in advancing joint efforts around eye health and ensuring that glaucoma is prioritised within India's broader vision care agenda.



Aranya Jyoti: Bringing Eye Care to India's National Parks

Launched on World Sight Day 2023 with support from Standard Chartered Bank, the Aranya Jyoti Project addresses the eye health needs of tribal communities in and around India's national parks- Bandhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh), Kaziranga (Assam), and Sariska (Rajasthan).

Over the past year, the project has combined community mobilisation, advanced medical interventions, and strong partnerships with forest and health departments to deliver comprehensive services. This includes household surveys, a three-step screening process, teleconsultations, and monthly screenings for forest staff. Volunteers and 244 trained ASHAs have played a vital role in mobilising communities and supporting early diagnosis and referrals.

Key achievements in 2024:

- **6,035** people screened, including **2,257** women (37%)
- **3,695** refracted, with **1,261** women (34%)
- **1,337** spectacles dispensed, with **325** women (24%)
- **922** cataract surgeries, with **321** women (35%)

In addition, 456 forest personnel were screened, 242 provided spectacles, and 21 identified for cataract treatment.

Findings from the District Eye Health Assessment (DEHAT) and Health Behaviour Analysis have highlighted critical service gaps and cultural barriers, providing actionable insights to strengthen public health systems in these regions.

Through SCB support, community ownership and government collaboration, Aranya Jyoti has laid a strong foundation for scalable, sustainable eye care in some of India's most remote and underserved communities.





Journey of Alipurduar Becoming Cataract Backlog Blindness Free

In a landmark achievement, Alipurduar district in West Bengal was officially declared Cataract Blindness Backlog Free in December 2024, marking the successful conclusion of a four-year journey led by Sightsavers India in collaboration with the Alipurduar District Health and Family Welfare Department.

The journey began in 2020, following a Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) survey that revealed a blindness prevalence rate of 1.4% which was close to the state average. Despite the district's remote location and logistical challenges, the data showed the urgency of intervention and shaped the decision to focus efforts here. What followed was a rigorous, data-driven initiative grounded in community engagement and strong government partnership.

Work began block by block, with teams navigating difficult terrains to reach people affected by avoidable blindness. The initiative facilitated over 15,000 cataract surgeries, supported by both government and NGO hospitals. Critical infrastructure improvements were undertaken, including the renovation of the District Hospital's Operation Theatre and capacity enhancement at the Falakata Super Speciality Hospital.

Community awareness campaigns, patient mobilisation and consistent follow-up were key to achieving saturation. As patient numbers declined in early 2024, an endline RAAB survey confirmed what years of effort had aimed for- Alipurduar had met the threshold to be declared Cataract Blindness Backlog Free, with prevalence reduced to below 0.3%.

Additionally, with support from the District Administration, over 196,000 students in government schools were screened, and spectacles were provided where needed. This ensured that poor vision did not hinder their education or quality of life.

This milestone reflects the strength of multi-stakeholder collaboration and the power of targeted intervention. It also stands as a model for replication, proving that with collective will, inclusive systems and community trust, eliminating avoidable blindness is not just possible, but inevitable.

Government Relation and Policy Engagement (GRAPE)

The Government Relations & Policy Engagement (GRAPE) Unit is responsible for building strong external relationships and networks to advance Sightsavers India's initiative against avoidable blindness and to promote equality of opportunity amongst people with disabilities.

The GRAPE unit works to strengthen Government relations and develop strategic alliances, networks, partnerships, and circles of influence to positively impact people-centred policy changes in eye healthcare, disability-inclusive development, and inclusive education in India.

Key Highlights

- **Working in partnership with Government towards SDG-2030 & India@2047:**

In 2024–25, Sightsavers India strengthened strategic partnerships with state governments and national agencies across seven states, advancing eye health, inclusive education, and social inclusion aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being):** Collaborations in West Bengal, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Rajasthan focused on system strengthening, cataract and refractive error management, school and rural eye health, primary eye care integration, and occupational eye safety.
- **SDG 4 (Quality Education):** Partnerships with Rajya Shiksha Kendra (Madhya Pradesh) and IIT Madras promoted inclusive pedagogy, assistive technology, teacher training, and ICT-based learning for children with visual impairments.
- **West Bengal (SDGs 1, 3, 8, 10):** Collaboration with the State Rural Livelihood Mission supported economic empowerment of persons with disabilities (PWDs), inclusive self-help groups, entrepreneurship, and social security coverage.

- **Promoting Inclusive and Accessible Elections 2024:**

In Jharkhand, Odisha, and Rajasthan, Sightsavers India's OPD partners promoted disability-inclusive elections by training polling officers, mobilising voters with disabilities, providing accessible materials, and advising on accessibility through District Monitoring Committees on Accessible Elections.





- **Strengthening OPDs and Localising SDGs:**

In 2024, Sightsavers India established direct partnerships with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, expanding the total to four direct partners across Odisha, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh. These partnerships enhance institutional and leadership capacities, enabling OPDs to collaborate with district administrations on disability inclusion in local development and SDG localisation efforts, ensuring that no one is left behind.

- **Localising Eye Health and Disability Inclusion through Panchayati Raj Institutions:**

Sightsavers India piloted an initiative in 30 Gram Panchayats across three blocks in Kasganj to strengthen local governance for eye health and disability inclusion through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The project helped integrate these priorities into Localised SDG (LSDG) plans and budgets, generating key insights and tools, including a Localisation Strategy Paper, SOPs, and communication materials to support replication. The initiative aligns with the Government of India's Local (Panchayat) Development Index (PDI), promoting healthy, inclusive, and gender-responsive villages.

- **Collaborating on 'Equity and Inclusion' under NEP 2020:**

Samagra Shiksha (2017–2025) is India's flagship school education programme under NEP 2020 and SDG 4. In developing the National Guidelines on Equitable and Inclusive Education (NGIFEIE), Sightsavers India contributed state-to-national inputs and is honoured to be recognised as a collaborative partner advancing inclusive education.

- **Sightsavers India at VISION2020 Annual Conference:**

At the Annual Conference in Ludhiana, Sightsavers India, as the founding member of Vision 2020-The Right to Sight, the national eye health alliance, presented eight research and program papers on eye care equity, women's eye health, road safety, and policy gaps, influencing discussions with 1,000+ stakeholders on shaping national and global eye health agendas.

- **Sightsavers India at APFSD 2025:**

At the 12th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD 2025, UN-ESCAP, Bangkok), Sightsavers India joined civil society and disability organisations to advocate for a disability-inclusive future and accelerated SDG implementation for marginalised communities.

Programme Performance, Research and Learning Department

The Programme Performance, Research and Learning (PPRL) department is at the core of our commitment to organisational-based action across all our thematic programmes. This team diligently gathers analyses, and interprets data from various programme activities, offering invaluable insights into programme performance through robust monitoring and evaluation.

By continually tracking Key Performance Indicators and conducting comprehensive assessments, the PPRL unit empowers us to make real-time, informed decisions, adapt strategies as required, and ensure our programme remains aligned with its goals.

The PPRL department conducted crucial studies for project evaluation and community outreach.

Key studies include:

Endline Study – Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB), Alipurduar, West Bengal:

The High Impact Rural Eye Health Programme, supported by Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI), aimed to reduce blindness to 0.3%. Through focused efforts on cataract surgeries, refractive error correction, and improved access in remote areas, the programme successfully brought the prevalence down to 0.1%. Its community-driven approach and quality outcomes present a strong, replicable model for eliminating avoidable blindness.

Eye Health Access among Tribal Communities – Similipal National Park, Odisha:

The study revealed significant gaps in eye health awareness and access to services among tribal communities. Although 90% of participants expressed willingness to seek eye care, misconceptions, inadequate infrastructure, and long travel distances hindered service utilisation. With only 12 Ophthalmic Assistants serving 26 blocks, communities largely depended on NGO-led eye camps. Gender and socioeconomic disparities further limited care-seeking behavior. The findings highlight the need to strengthen infrastructure, enhance community awareness, build local capacity, and promote teleophthalmology to improve eye health access in remote tribal areas.



**Study on Urban Eye Health Programme - Asansol, Vadodara, Surat, Jaipur and Indore:**

Rapid urbanisation in India has led to a growing population of urban poor residing in slums, where access to basic amenities and health services remains limited. Despite the proximity of health facilities, barriers such as overcrowding, high costs, and systemic shortcomings make it difficult to access to eye care. A feasibility study conducted in Asansol, Surat, and Vadodara underscored the urgent need for targeted urban eye health interventions. Concurrently, a gap analysis in Jaipur and Indore identified deficiencies in service availability and delivery.

Gender Equality and Inclusion Policy:

Sightsavers India is committed to eliminating avoidable blindness and promoting equal opportunities through gender equality and inclusion. The Gender Policy integrates gender perspectives across all operations, addressing biases and barriers while fostering a respectful, empowering workplace. Guided by equity, inclusion, and accountability, it ensures sustainable and inclusive development through governance and monitoring.

Vision Centre Study:

An internal study by the PPRL department assessed Vision Centres to improve efficiency and service quality. It identified gaps in equipment, staffing, data systems, and financial practices. Recommendations include standardising protocols, enhancing training, adopting digital systems, and ensuring financial sustainability to strengthen overall impact.

Programme Outreach & Resource Mobilisation

We are grateful for the continued support and new alliances formed during the financial year 2024-25. Our corporate partners play a vital role in empowering our programmes and initiatives across India. Here, we celebrate both our long-standing partners and the new ones who have joined us on this journey towards a more inclusive and healthier society.

Our partners have been steadfast in their commitment, helping us scale new heights and impact more lives:





Brand & Communications



Creative Expressions on World Sight Day



Madhya Pradesh

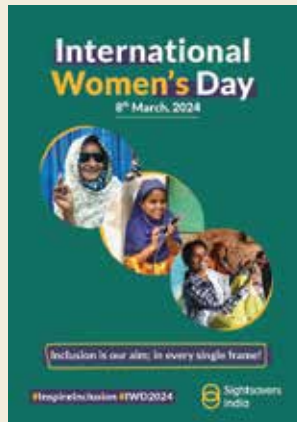
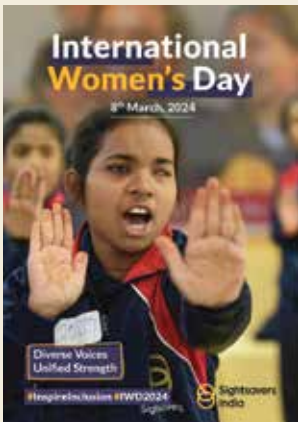


Odisha



West Bengal

Our **Mascot Kaki**



Freedom Campaign



International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Man with a vision

Kabir Bedi has extended support to Sightsavers, which works to combat avoidable blindness. "One of the greatest gifts that you can give anybody is the gift of sight. Sightsavers is doing a commendable job. It's not just about correcting vision, it's also about teaching children how to [blend] into the regular school system so that they don't have to go to [special] schools. [They are] teaching blind girls the art of self-defence, and are checking truckers for their vision. As many as 42 per cent of the drivers we tested had vision problems. Their livelihoods are at stake. I urge people to support this organisation."



The City Standard

One mn truckers screened; Milestone for vision and safety in India's transport sector

... vision and safety in India's transport sector ...

दैनिक भास्कर

आंखों की देखभाल के लिए जीवन ज्योति परियोजना

जयपुर | अलवर जिले में लोगों को अंधेपन की समस्या से निजात के लिए जिला चिकित्सा विभाग ने मेट्रो आउटोटेक इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड और साइटसेवर्स इंडिया के साथ मिलकर 'जीवन ज्योति परियोजना' लॉन्च की है। साइटसेवर्स इंडिया के ग्रामीण नेत्र स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम के तहत लोगों के स्वास्थ्य के लिए एक अनुबंध किया गया है। मेट्रो आउटोटेक के एमडी सुनील माहेश्वरी ने कहा कि हमारा लक्ष्य लोगों के जीवन को बेहतर बनाना है।

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Eyes OK Please: Bridging vision gap among truckers

... vision gap among truckers ...

CSR Mandate

Enabling Sustainability

Sightsavers India: Breaking Barriers – India's First Woman Truck Driver Empowered Through Vision Care

By Atula Inchen - March 11, 2025



INDIA TODAY

What strategies do women in leadership use to avoid burnout?

Women leaders share their strategies for balancing careers, personal life, and well-being. Here are 10 strategies for prioritizing self-care. They reveal what truly works.

India	Dubai	New York	Mumbai	London	Delhi	Paris
India	Dubai	New York	Mumbai	London	Delhi	Paris



ತಜ್ಞಾ ವಾಣಿ

ಕಣ್ಣಿನ ಆರೈಕೆಗೆ ಸಂಚಾರಿ ವಾಹನ ದೇಣಿಗೆ

... ಕಣ್ಣಿನ ಆರೈಕೆಗೆ ಸಂಚಾರಿ ವಾಹನ ದೇಣಿಗೆ ...

Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind
Balance Sheet (Schedule VIII (Vide Rule 17 (I))) As at March 31, 2025
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	Note No.	As at March 31, 2025	As at March 31, 2024	PROPERTY AND ASSETS	Note No.	As at March 31, 2025	As at March 31, 2024
FUNDS				PROPERTY			
Trust Funds	3	4,45,05,288	5,47,94,289	Immovable properties	5		
Retained Fund	4	2,00,00,000	2,00,00,000	Gross block		37,85,188	37,85,188
Earmarked Fund				Less : Accumulated depreciation		(30,85,010)	(30,48,158)
Deferred Income	6	81,54,583	2,90,93,175			<u>7,00,178</u>	<u>7,37,030</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>7,26,59,871</u>	<u>10,38,87,464</u>	Other Property, Plant & Equipment	5		
LIABILITIES				Gross block		3,54,93,956	3,98,27,665
Current Liabilities				Less : Accumulated depreciation		(2,91,83,796)	(3,21,85,684)
- For expenses	7	82,90,659	56,34,104			<u>63,10,160</u>	<u>76,41,981</u>
- For statutory dues		32,58,951	48,04,449	Other Project Property, Plant & Equipment	5		
- For grants		72,30,250	1,03,27,732	Gross block		1,46,20,322	1,10,89,446
- For payable to employees		86,151	1,24,655	Less : Accumulated depreciation		(71,76,379)	(64,67,814)
		<u>1,88,66,011</u>	<u>2,08,90,940</u>			<u>74,43,943</u>	<u>46,21,632</u>
For employee benefits				Less : Project Assets Reserve		(74,43,943)	(46,21,632)
- Provision for gratuity		63,44,215	79,49,826			-	-
- Provision for Compensated absences		12,18,319	11,79,290	Current assets			
		<u>75,62,534</u>	<u>91,29,116</u>	Grant receivable		84,05,354	45,71,477
				Prepaid expenses		41,26,355	34,94,510
				Deposits and advances	8	85,57,541	1,13,28,446
				Other assets	9	21,94,639	1,27,63,139
				Cash and bank balances	10	6,87,94,189	9,33,70,937
						<u>9,20,78,078</u>	<u>12,55,28,509</u>
TOTAL		<u>9,90,88,416</u>	<u>13,39,07,520</u>	TOTAL		<u>9,90,88,416</u>	<u>13,39,07,520</u>

Summary of significant accounting policies 2

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Financial Statements

As per our report of even date attached

For M S K C & Associates LLP
(Formerly known as M S K C & Associates)
Chartered Accountants
ICAI Firm Registration Number: 0015955/S000168


Sachin Gupta
Partner
Membership No: 516594



Place : New Delhi
Date: September 26, 2025

For & on behalf of Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind
Registration No. E 4330 Mumbai


Rati Farhad Forbes
Chairperson

Place : New Delhi
Date: September 26, 2025


R N Mohanty
Chief Executive Officer



Place : New Delhi
Date: September 26, 2025

Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind
Income and Expenditure Account - (Schedule - IX (Vide Rule 17(1))) for the year ended March 31, 2025
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

EXPENDITURE	Note No.	For the year ended March 31, 2025	For the year ended March 31, 2024	INCOME	Note No.	For the year ended March 31, 2025	For the year ended March 31, 2024
To Expenses in respect of immovable properties:				By Grants	11	50,63,98,114	53,38,21,010
- Rates, taxes and cesses		-	-	By Donation from Individuals		16,28,88,896	16,21,53,905
- Repairs and maintenance		-	1,11,462	By Interest	12	39,57,954	39,75,867
- Depreciation	5	36,852	38,791	By Miscellaneous income	13	1,26,000	627
				By Excesss of Expenditure over Income transfer to Surplus Fund		1,02,89,001	-
To Establishment expenses	14	6,15,86,131	5,56,42,046				
To Legal expenses		4,76,120	5,54,000				
To Audit fees (including GST) (Refer Note 18)		11,12,150	11,16,020				
To Other expenses	15	3,86,34,750	3,62,13,819				
To Depreciation	5	27,95,737	28,59,160				
To Expenditure on objects of the Society:	16						
i) Educational		5,09,68,193	5,99,49,501				
ii) Medical and poverty relief		52,80,50,032	51,81,90,753				
To Surplus transferred to Surplus Funds		-	2,52,75,857				
		68,36,59,965	69,99,51,409			68,36,59,965	69,99,51,409

Summary of significant accounting policies 2

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Financial Statements

As per our report of even date attached

For M S K C & Associates LLP
(Formerly known as M S K C & Associates)
Chartered Accountants
ICAI Firm Registration Number: 0015955/S000168

Sachin Gupta

Sachin Gupta
Partner
Membership No: 516594



Place: New Delhi
Date: September 26, 2025

For & on behalf of Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind
Registration No. E 4330 Mumbai

Ratli Farhad Forbes

Ratli Farhad Forbes
Chairperson

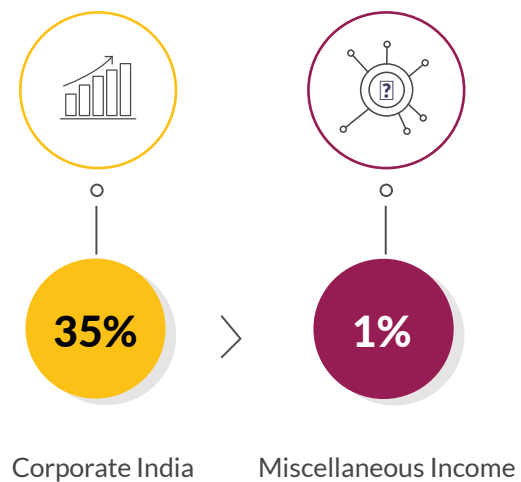
Place: New Delhi
Date: September 26, 2025

R N Mohanty
R N Mohanty
Chief Executive Officer

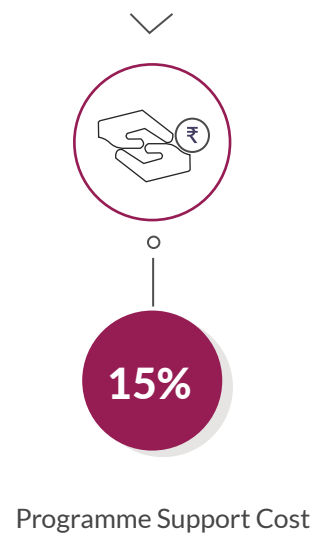
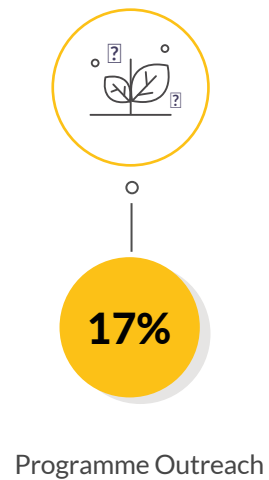
Place: New Delhi
Date: September 26, 2025



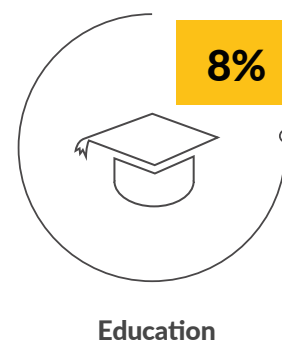
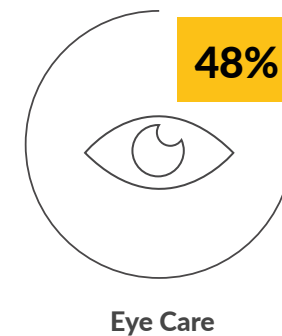
Income FY 24-25



Total Expenditure FY 24-25



Thematic Utilisation



List of Abbreviations

- ASHA: Accredited Social Health Worker
- BRC: Block Resource Centre
- CHO: Community Health Officers
- CRC: Cluster Resource Centre
- CVI: Children with Visual Impairment
- CWD: Children with Disabilities
- CwSN: Children with Special Needs
- DDRC: District Disability Rehabilitation Centres
- DPC: District Project Coordinator
- DPG: Disabled People Group
- DR: Diabetic Retinopathy
- IBSA: The International Blind Sports Federation
- ICT: Information and Communications Technology
- JEPC: Jharkhand Education Project Council
- PDR: proliferative diabetic retinopathy
- LVPEI: LV Prasad Eye Institute
- LV: Low Vision
- MSME: Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
- MT: Master Trainers
- NHM: National Health Mission
- NUHM: National Urban Health Mission
- OPDs: Organisations of Persons with Disabilities
- PwD: Persons with Disabilities
- RAAB: Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness
- RSETI: Rural Self Employment Training Institutes
- R2C: Ready to Clip
- SDG: Sustainable Development Goals
- SHG: Self-Help Group
- SmSA: Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan
- UDID: Unique Disability ID
- UEHP: Urban Eye Health Programme
- UPHC: Urban Primary Health Centre
- VARS: Vision & Road Safety Alliance
- VC: Vision Centre

With the support of government bodies, corporate allies, and community partners, we've changed lives - one step, one skill, one smile at a time. **Thank you for being an integral part of our mission.**





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Registered office

A-3, Shivdham, New Link Road,
Kanchpada, Malad (west)
Mumbai – 400 064
Phone: +91 22 28820808/ 1919

Head office

45, Second Floor,
Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase III
New Delhi – 110 020
Phone: +91 11 42267202 / +91 11 42384572
Email: indiaweb@sightsaversindia.org

Other offices

No. 86, II Floor, Platinum Project
Coles Road, Frazer Town,
Bangalore – 560005

GC 104, Sector III, Salt Lake
Kolkata – 700 106
Phone: +91 33 40086225

E -1/136, Arera Colony
Bhopal – 462016
Phone: +91 755 4292807

www.sightsaversindia.org

Sightsavers India is registered as “Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind”
under Bombay Public Trust Act 1950 vide registration number E4330.

