

# 3<sup>rd</sup> ODISHA EYE CONCLAVE 2022



RID 3262

22nd Oct 2022 at Hotel Swosti Premium, Bhubaneswar





Jennifer Jones  
RI President

Rotary



IMAGINE  
ROTARY

RY: 2022-23

# ODISHA EYE CONCLAVE 2022

Rotary International District - 3262



Pravudutta Subudhi  
District Governor







# SIGHT MATTERS



In 2019, Rotary International organized and hosted the first annual Odisha Eye Care Conclave at the Hotel Padmaja Convention Center in Bhubaneswar. This conclave served to unite the Rotarians of Rotary International District 3262 behind a common goal: making quality, affordable eye care available to all in Odisha.

On February 21st, 2021, DGE Saumya Ranjan Mishra served as host of the 2nd annual Odisha Eye Conclave. This district-wide event featured more than 180 delegates from institutions across the state, along with speakers and experts from around the world. This year, we continued the event by welcoming delegates and Rotarians to our 3rd annual Odisha Eye Health Conclave hosted by Rotary International District 3262. This third conclave focused on addressing the tremendous impact that eye care can have for school children, workers, and drivers in Odisha.

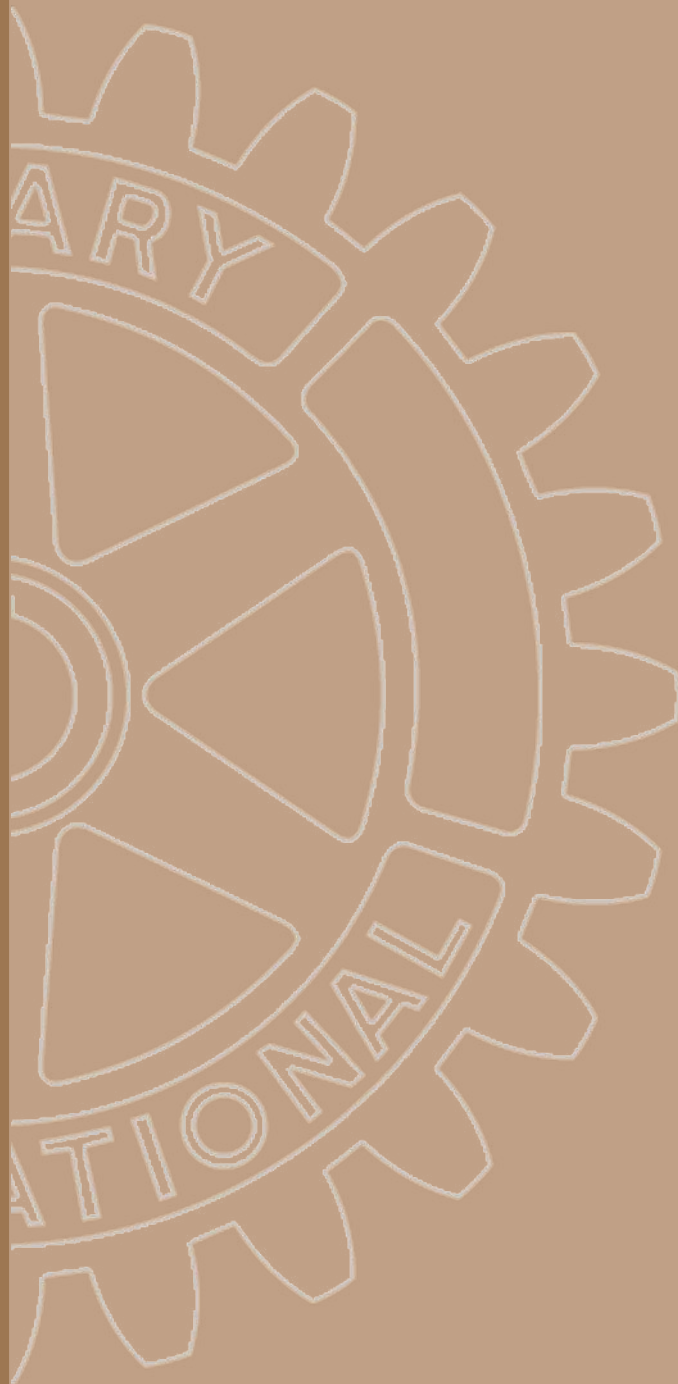
Besides, there's exciting news, we have partnered with Vision 2020-Right to Sight India and Sightsavers to create the Odisha Eye Health Network. This network will expand eye services to every corner of the state. With our organizations unified towards this common mission, we are closing in on our dream of an Odisha with good vision for all.

**PP Sarangadhar Samal**  
CHAIRMAN, DISTRICT EYE CONCLAVE COMMITTEE &  
FOUNDER KALINGA EYE HOSPITAL, DHENKANAL  
[www.kalingaeyehospital.org](http://www.kalingaeyehospital.org)



I am truly humbled and grateful for the incredible support and enthusiasm which made this event a great success. I am thankful to all of my Rotarians who have worked tirelessly to put together this event, from the planning and organisation to the execution of the activities. I am also very grateful to all of the participants who have come along and made this such a memorable event. Your support, enthusiasm and commitment to the cause have been invaluable and have made this a truly remarkable event. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication, without which this event would not have been possible.

**PP Rtn Sushant Mohanty**  
CHAIRMAN DISTRICT MISSION CATARACT SURGERY COMMITTEE &  
PAST PRESIDENT JPM ROTARY EYE HOSPITAL, CUTTACK



## INTRODUCTION

On October 22nd, 2022, Rotary International District 3262 hosted the 3rd annual Odisha Eye Conclave. The Conclave was hosted at Hotel Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar and was attended by over 300 leaders, medical professionals, respected government officials, Rotarians, and students from across the state. All attendees demonstrated their passion for eye health and the shared goal of providing high quality, affordable eye care to all. The event featured a host of insightful speakers, engaging panel discussions, recognitions for outstanding contributors to eye care provision efforts, and a presentation of future goals and visions. The session was bookended by a catered networking opportunity with eyeglass providers in the state.





It is our pleasure to share this material on the Odisha Eye Health Conclave 2022. The Conclave is a platform developed to share knowledge and build an inclusive eye care system in Odisha, with the goal of improving eye health in the state. By developing practical, replicable practices this Conclave empowered us to move forward with our goals and overcome challenges faced along the way.

The Conclave was a powerful exchange of ideas and experience. Through discussion and debate, we have created a road map to reach our shared aim. Now, we must strive together to fulfill our vision: giving a better life to those with reduced vision and eliminating preventable blindness!

## Pre inaugural session

The event started with the pre-inaugural session. In this session, representatives and Rotarians from Bhubaneswar Eye Hospital, Cuttack Eye Hospital, Balasore Eye Hospital, and Kalinga Eye Hospital shared their progress and experiences in providing quality, affordable eye care to their communities. The session was moderated by Rtn. Dr. Smita Sinha and PP Bijay Kumar Pati. The moderators reminded the audience that eye care is a field over one thousand years old, but that in the modern world public health is no longer just the responsibility of doctors. Rather, modern public health relies on the involvement of the general population.

Rtn. Matruduttta Das from RC Balasore stated that the Balasore

Eye Hospital is happy to provide resources, human capital, and any help they can to eye camps. PP Ajay Kumar Pattanaik from RC Bhubaneswar Royal shared updates on the operations of the Bhubaneswar Eye Hospital and their recent focus on diabetic retinopathy. Rtn. Bijoy Dasmohapatra from RC Cuttack celebrated the fact that Cuttack Eye Hospital serves hundreds of patients daily and provides hundreds of surgeries every month. Lastly, Sunil Kumar Mishra presented the origins and history of Kalinga Eye Hospital. He described the compassionate and personalized care provided to patients, and the innovative ways the hospital has provided this care – such as conducting school eye tests since 2004.









## Inaugural session





# Inaugural session

The inaugural session began with PP Sarangadhar Samal presenting flower bouquets to all dignitaries and guests of honor. These dignitaries and guests then performed a ceremonial lamp lighting, symbolizing eradication of darkness. PP Sushanta Mohanty and PP Sarangadhar Samal then presented opening remarks, a history of Rotary's involvement in eye care, and a history of eye care in Odisha. They celebrated the progress that has been made, but stressed how poor vision among Odisha's laborers, workers, and drivers continues to cause car accidents, present an

occupational hazard, and decrease overall quality of life and livelihood. They also emphasized the importance of school eye health programs. They noted that many students struggle to read the blackboard, a problem eliminated with the prescription of eyeglasses. With eyeglasses, their performance in school increases dramatically, they have better educational outcomes, and they are able to achieve their full potential. This helps our students to achieve their dreams and our state to become more prosperous.





The session continued with an impactful keynote address from the respected Dr. Asim Sil, CMO and VMA at Netra Nirimaya Niketan in West Bengal. He explained that, while we cannot make a country completely free from cataracts, we *can* work to prevent cataract-related blindness. Cataract-related blindness occurs in populations that are unable to undergo cataract surgery, often due to their distance from surgery centers or financial constraints. Thus, he emphasized the importance of the 'last mile' concept. To ensure that we are treating the individuals who most need cataract surgery, we have to make an effort to eliminate barriers that prevent those most in need from accessing the healthcare system.





Mr. Debidutta Biswal, IFS, PCCF and HoFF, reiterated that the true challenge is the 'last mile'. He explained how this gap in care can be overcome through collaboration with organizations such as the forest department and the Rotarians. These organizations can help to reach the interior-most regions that even government programs and initiatives cannot. He presented the work of the forest department in forming thousands of Vana Samrakshan Samiti committees. These committees venture into the interior of the forest to raise eye health awareness and increase access to healthcare.

The inaugural session was concluded by DG Pravudutta Subudhi, who was presiding over the meeting. In his address he thanked everyone for their attendance and congratulated the hospitals in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Balasore, and Jajpur, as well as Kalinga Eye Hospital, for doing over 100,000 eye surgeries, providing ten lakh eye care visits, and hosting over ten thousand eye camps. He re-emphasized the conclave's objective of raising awareness among Rotarians and addressing how to make regular eye care, or at least eye camps, available for all.



The event then moved into the first panel discussion, moderated by PP ( Dr ) Ashok Panda, senior journalist. Members of the panel included Shri Sovan Krushna Sahu (IRS), Director, Textiles and Special Secretary Industries, Govt. of Odisha, Shri Hemanta Panda (Director), Watershed and Soil Conservation, Shri Tapan Kumar Satpathy

(OAS), Addl, Secretary, Department of Skill Development and Technical Education, and Shri Aswini Kumar Mishra (IAS), Chairman, Higher Secondary Council and Addl. Secretary, Mass Education, who all expressed their support for the conclave and ongoing eye health campaigns.





Next up was Jennifer Staple-Clark, the Founder and CEO of Unite for Sight, an NGO from the USA. She shared her overwhelmingly positive experience working with Kalinga Eye Hospital for over 17 years, and how impactful the partnership has been. This address was given over video.



After that, Shri Kuldeep Singh, the Seva Foundation Representative for India, shared the initiatives taken by his foundation to reduce avoidable blindness in India. He also discussed the steps taken towards developing greater institutional capacity to deliver quality ophthalmic services. He shared how improving the skill of staff and introducing fixed community eye centers have been very effective in achieving these goals. This address was also given over video.







The program then proceeded into an awards session moderated by PP Santanu Ku. Mishra. Dr. Asim Sil presented awards to PP Ashok Ku. Tripathy, IAS (R) for his visionary program Mission Netrotsav, which was launched in Dhenkanal district in 2009-2010. Similarly, PP Vinod Kumar, IFS ® was awarded for his unique work in community eye care throughout Odisha, where he has made eye care services accessible to people residing inside the forest and sanctuary areas. Lastly an award was presented to Rtn. Niranjan Sahoo, IAS, for bringing the stakeholders of Khordha district together onto one platform, Eye Care For All. Finally, PDG Dr. Saumya Ranjan Mishra praised Shri Tripathy, Shri Vinod Kumar and Shri Sahoo for their contributions to eye care campaign efforts in the state as EYE HEALTH HEROs of Odisha.





# future ready



Optometry & Vision Technician students from Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) and Gandhi Vocational Training Centre have also participated in the conclave.



From top left: PP Anil Kumar Samal, IAS, PDG, Sibabrata Dash, IAS(R), Shri Sivaprasad Behera, Programme Lead, Sightsavers, Odisha, Dr. Santosh Kumar Mahapatra, CMO, JPM Rotary Eye Hospital, Cuttack, Dr. Kapil Bhatia, Medical Director, Kalinga Eye Hospital, Dhenkanal



The next event was a technical session where eye care leaders from across the district shared their thoughts and perspectives. Sivaprasad Behera, the Sightsavers state program lead, explained the importance of ensuring that all people have access to proactive, preventative, curative, and rehabilitative health services of high quality. He also emphasized the importance of ensuring that people do not suffer financial hardship in paying for these services. He explained that eye health is not only a humanitarian issue, but also an economic one.

He presented many reasons why patients may not seek eye care: social beliefs (such as the belief that girls should not wear eyeglasses), fear of surgical complications, distance to surgery centers, cost of surgery, lack of awareness, and reliance on traditional healers. To address these barriers, he emphasized the need to collaborate with community stakeholders. He also presented provider-side barriers including manpower, materials, management, motivation, and money.



## District - 3262



Rtn. Sanjeet Kumar  
Co-Chairman, Eye Conclave 2022

2022



Rotary  
RY: 2022-23  
IMAGINE  
ROTARY

ODISHA EYE  
CONCLAVE 2022  
Rotary International District



Dr. Asim Sil, CMO of VMA at Netra Nirmaya Niketan in West Bengal, presented on integrating eye care with other services. He spoke about some common eye pathologies: near-vision defects, cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, refractive error, presbyopia, etc. He also advocated for the use of progressive multifocal lenses. While these lenses require well-trained technicians to implant, they are more technologically advanced and offer unique benefits. He suggested reaching certain target populations (tailors, weavers, and artisans) in an organized way and working to bring down the cost of these lenses. In treating cataracts, he emphasized the need for networking with appropriate social groups to reach underserved populations and those who have been blinded by cataracts (For example, Kalinga Eye Hospital's work with forest groups). He also shared an interesting case study of a diabetic retinopathy education campaign that was organized for the rickshaw pullers who transport their patients.





Dr. Kapil Bhatia, Medical Director of Kalinga Eye Hospital in Dhenkanal, presented on inequalities in health care and how we should address them. He advocated for universal health coverage and providing equitable, affordable, accountable, and appropriate access to health services regardless of social status, income, or gender. To address disparities, we must understand some key facts: socioeconomic status can be a barrier to care, location can make it difficult to access care (due to distance or road conditions), ophthalmic resources tend to be concentrated in urban centers, and that females bear a disproportionate burden of health inequality. Dr. Bhatia emphasized the need for a strategy redesign at all levels: a focus on people-centered rather than disease-centered approaches, integrating eye care into health systems, increasing ophthalmic resources, and utilizing new technologies. In short, he states that we must first make inequity our central concern, and *then* shape our policies around this issue.



This was followed by an engaging address from Shri Arun Bothra, (IPS), Transport Commissioner -cum-Chairman, STA, who shared his efforts on reducing road fatalities. He cited that approximately a quarter of drivers have problems with their eyesight, and even higher rates are seen among drivers of heavy vehicles. Despite the extreme danger to themselves and others, few of these drivers wear eyeglasses. There are a number of contributing reasons to the lack of glasses in this population: a lack

of access to vision testing, financial hardship, lack of education on the issue, and fear of unemployment if their poor vision is revealed. Shri Arun Bothra thus emphasized the importance of the community working to test drivers' eyes and empowering them to wear eyeglasses. He also briefly presented on his work with Promise Bank. This group does background checks on charitable organizations and then connects interested donors with vetted causes.















**DG Pravudutta  
Subudhi**



**PP Sarangadhar Samal**



**PP. Rtn. Sushanta  
Mohanty**



**Dr. Asim Sil, CMO,  
VMANN**



**Shri Arun Bothra, IPS**



**Shri Debidutta Biswal,  
(IFS),**



**PP. Rtn. Suvendu  
Parida**



**PP Dr. Ashok Panda**



**Shri Aswini Kumar  
Mishra, IAS**



**Shri Sovan Krushna  
Sahu, IRS**



**Shri Tapan Kumar  
Satpathy, OAS**



**Shri Hemanta Panda**



**Rtn. Dr. Bidhu Bhusan  
Samanta**



**Jayashree Mohanty  
DGE (2023-24)**



**PP Jagabandhu Sahoo**





**PP Ashok Ku. Tripathy,  
IAS (R)**



**PP Vinod Kumar, IFS  
(R)**



**Rtn. Niranjana Sahoo,  
IAS(R)**



**PP Dr. Kajal Rakshit**



**Dr. Kapil A Bhatia  
Kalinga Eye Hospital**



**PDG Sibabrata Dash,  
IAS(R)**



**PP Anil Kumar Samal,  
IAS**



**Shri Sivaprasad  
Behera**



**Dr. Santosh Kumar  
Mahapatra, CMO**



**PP Ajay Pattnaik**



**Yagyansis Mohapatra  
DGN (2024-25)**



**PDG Ajay Agrawal**



**Rtn. Sanjeet K Jena**



**PP Achyutananda  
Routray**



**Sunil Kumar Mishra**

**SI #   Contributors of Odisha Eye Conclave**

1. Rtn. (Dr) Smita Sinha, Ph.D
2. Rtn. (Dr) Bidhu Bhusan Samanta, Ph.D
3. Rtn. (Dr) Braja Kishor Mishra
4. Rtn. T. P Mohanty
5. Rtn. Manoj Tripathy
6. Rtn. (Dr) Kajol Rakhit
7. Rtn. Bijoy Patra
8. PDG Ajaya Agarwal
9. Rtn. Rabi Narayan Sahoo
10. Rtn. Sushant Mohanty
11. Rtn. (Dr) Sarangadhar Samal, Ph.D
12. DGN Yagyansis Mohapatra
13. Rtn. Achutananda Routray
14. Rtn. Sanjit Kumar Jena
15. Rtn. Suvendu Parida
16. Rotary Balasore Welfare Trust
17. JPM Rotary Eye Hospital, Cuttack
18. Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Heritage
19. Rotary Royal Eye Hospital

Sponsor



Designed by  
Sunil Kumar Mishra, Dhenkanal.