



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024-2025





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# Message from the CEO

**Ms. Lakshmi Shinde**

2025 marked a year of significant progress and consolidation for optometry in India. The profession continued its transition towards stronger regulation, expanded education, and impactful service delivery. OCI played a central role in advancing professional standards, expanding access to comprehensive eye care, strengthening leadership capacity, and deepening engagement with members and partners. Together, these efforts reaffirm OCI's commitment to building a resilient, inclusive, and future-ready optometry profession.

## 2025 at a glance

### EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING



- 82 OCI-accredited programmes
- 6,650+ optometrists reached
- Webinars, hybrid & in-person learning
- Strong focus on hands-on workshops

### REGULATION & PROFESSIONAL GROWTH



- NCAHP implementation initiated
- 5-year optometry curriculum from 2026
- Professional regulations anticipated

### SERVICE DELIVERY



- 'Vision for a Cause' project completed
- Focus on comprehensive eye exams
- Spectacle compliance assessment
- Care extended to geriatrics & weavers
- 'Unsung Heroes' serving remote areas

### LEADERSHIP, OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT



- SPARK Women Leadership Programme - 2nd edition
- Monthly IEC materials for public awareness
- Website revamped for better user experience
- Lifetime membership model adopted
- Avg. 30 new members per month
- Strong national & international partnerships



# About OCI

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## OUR IDENTITY:

The Optometry Confederation of India (OCI), founded in September 2012, is a national professional body established to advance the optometry profession in India. Formerly known as the Optometry Council of India, it was created through the collaborative vision of the Indian Optometry Federation (IOF) and the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO).

## OUR OBJECTIVES: COMPETENCY, CAPABILITY, AND CARE

Guided by our foundational principles, OCI exists to ensure competence, uphold the highest professional standards and regulate the quality of optometric education and practice. Our work is fundamentally dedicated to safeguarding public interest, fostering professional excellence, and expanding access to quality eye and vision care across the nation.

## OUR CORE FUNCTIONS:

- **Advocacy & Representation:** We advocate for the formal recognition and integration of optometrists within India's mainstream healthcare system, representing the profession's interests at national and international forums.
- **Standard-Setting:** We establish and promote ethical guidelines, clinical best-practice standards, and robust educational benchmarks for optometry programs.
- **Professional Registry:** We maintain a national register of qualified professionals to ensure accountability and legitimize practice, protecting the public.
- **Continuing Education:** We promote lifelong learning by facilitating workshops, training programs and specialized courses to keep practitioners at the forefront of eye care.
- **Ethical Service:** We frame community service as a core professional value, creating structured volunteer and project-based opportunities for optometrists to contribute their skills meaningfully to society.

# Meet the OCI Board of Directors and OCI Team



## OCI Board of Directors



Mr. R S Berwal



Ms. Elizabeth Kurian



Dr. GVS Murthy



Mr. Harjeet Singh



Mr. Jayanta Bhattacharjee



Dr. Prema Chande



Mr. Sougata Chatterjee



Dr. Vivek Mendonsa



Mr. Ramachandra V Shet

## OCI Team



Ms. Lakshmi Shinde



Ms. Paula Mukherjee



Ms. Harshada Kale



Ms. Ramya Y



Ms. Bhavya M



Ms. Sakina Mussaji



Ms. Swetha S

# An Overview of 2025



2025 was a landmark year for OCI, marked by significant strides in national policy, expansive educational outreach and deep community impact. We strengthened our position as the unified voice of optometry in India while directly enhancing the skills of professionals and the eye health of underserved populations.

## Key Achievements

- **Policy Win:** Successfully advocated for and witnessed the launch of the National Standardized Curriculum for Optometry under NCAHP.
- **Professional Development:** Trained over 1,500+ eye care professionals through workshops, webinars, and accredited courses.
- **Community Reach:** Screened 12,000+ beneficiaries across diverse communities, from school children to occupational groups.
- **Digital Growth:** Expanded our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to over 4,000+ members, fostering peer-to-peer learning.

## New Initiatives

- Launch of the OCI-OOLS Journal Club to promote research literacy.
- Introduction of thematic educational series (Low Vision, Binocular Vision).

# Membership

## 7400+ Members

Life Membership @ 5000/-

OCI is a national professional body registered under section 8 of the Companies Act (not for profit). This organization was formed with the help of the Indian Optometry Federation (IOF) and the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO).



SCAN HERE

### Membership Benefits at a Glance

	Student	Practitioner
Be part of a community of 7000+ optometrists	✓	✓
Registration on Optometrist Locator		✓
Special discounts and offers for industry products through optometrist locator		✓
Access to educational series	✓	✓
Help in Research work- sending surveys etc. to all OCI members	✓	
Scholarships, Travel Grants for conferences.	✓	
Regular updates regarding profession	✓	✓
Regular updates on upcoming conferences, CME, workshops	✓	✓
Network with professionals/academicians	✓	✓
Opportunity to present the research work/Cases in OCI-SIG	✓	✓
Opportunity to participate in the community services	✓	✓
Opportunity to get recognized for your work through OCI Awards (Separate categories for students and practitioners)	✓	✓
Participation in WOD, WSD Activities (Separate activities for Students and Practitioners)	✓	✓
Good Standing Certificates	✓	✓



# Public Policy & Stakeholder Engagement

## NATIONAL OPTOMETRY CURRICULUM LAUNCH:

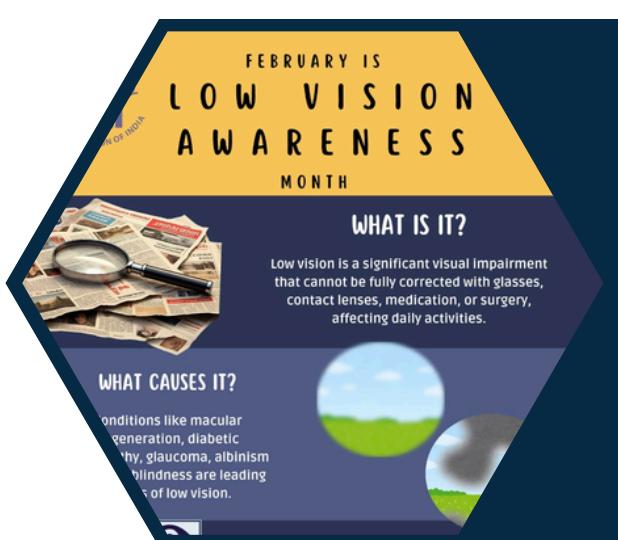
The standardized national curriculum for Optometry was officially launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare under the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) Act. This marks a transformative step towards quality and consistency in optometric education across India, with implementation slated for 2026.

## STATE-LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION

Ms. Lakshmi Shinde, CEO of OCI, along with Prof. Aditya Goyal, represented optometry at a Karnataka State Allied & Healthcare Council event, with Dr. Yagna Shukla of NCAHP joining virtually. The state council met with all stakeholders whose curricula had been ratified by the NCAHP, including optometry. During deliberations, optometry colleges unanimously submitted corrections and suggestions for the newly ratified curriculum to the state council, which forwarded them to the central authority. These proposed corrections were implemented, resulting in the release of an updated 5-year curriculum. This successful collaboration highlights a strong partnership between government bodies and optometry representatives in state-level councils.

## PUBLIC AWARENESS & OUTREACH

- Executed targeted social media campaigns on key eye health days.
- Garnered significant media coverage, amplifying the message of preventive eye care.
- Digital outreach reached **2.52 lakhs** of impressions, engaging the public on critical topics like myopia, glaucoma, and digital eye strain.





## Key Research & Policy Contributions



**Public Health & Occupational Safety Leadership:** Produced landmark studies on agricultural eye safety, including a 2024 study quantifying ocular injuries among farmers and a 2025 qualitative analysis identifying barriers to protective eyewear use, providing evidence for targeted interventions.



**Strategic Global & National Policy Engagement:** Actively contributed to shaping the future of eye care by participating in the WHO SEARO meeting and proposing a practical integration model for how optometrists in private practice can be incorporated into the SPECS 2030 initiative.



**Specialty Practice Advancement:** Conducted strategic analyses to advance specialized care, such as a SWOT analysis of Ortho-K practice in India.



**Strategic Policy Direction:** Authored authoritative guidance documents, including a Myopia White Paper from its dedicated task force, to inform national prevention and management strategies.



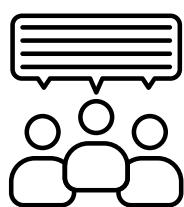
**Educational & Future Focus:** Described how recent changes in optometry regulation in India mark a new beginning for eye care (2024).

# Continuing Education



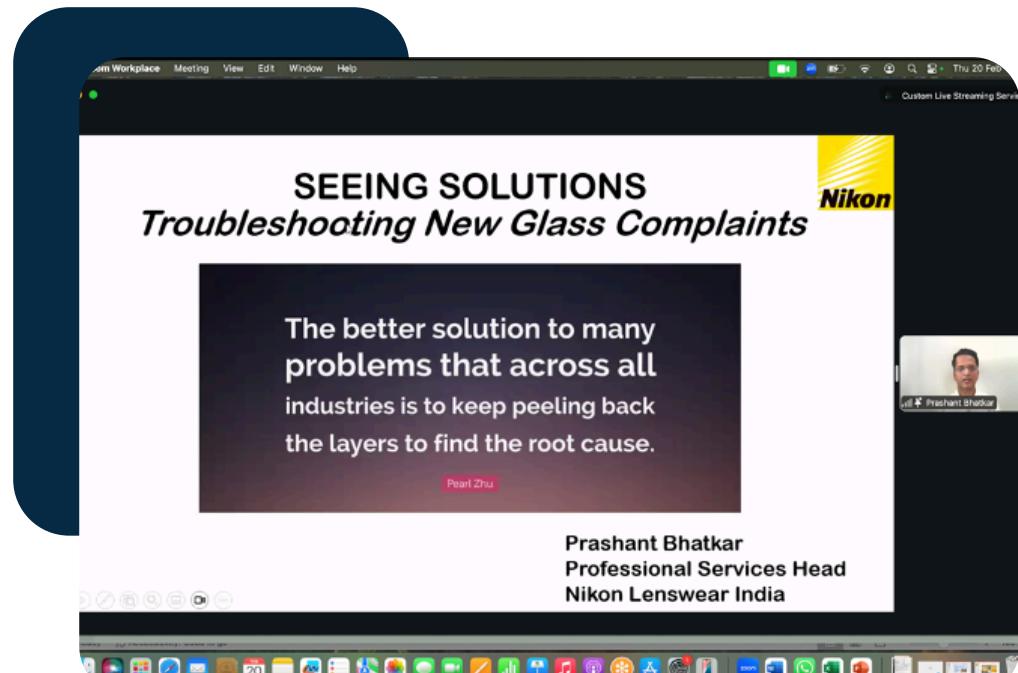
**82**

Total accredited  
programs 2025



**6500+**

Total No. of Beneficiaries



## Special Interest Groups (SIGs):

Held 4 specialized webinars on dispensing optics, binocular vision, clinical optometry and public health attracting 300+ live participants and thousands of views online. Five active SIGs facilitated continuous learning and discussion:

- Clinical Optometry (1,275 members)
- Binocular Vision (1,145 members)
- Dispensing Optics (856 members)
- Low Vision Care (680 members)
- Public Health (46 members)

## Hands-On Workshops

- **Good-lite pediatric workshop** was held at Dr. D. Y. Patil university, Pune and IIVM College of Optometry, Coimbatore. About 60 participants attended the workshop which included Ophthalmologists, educators, post-graduate students and practitioners.

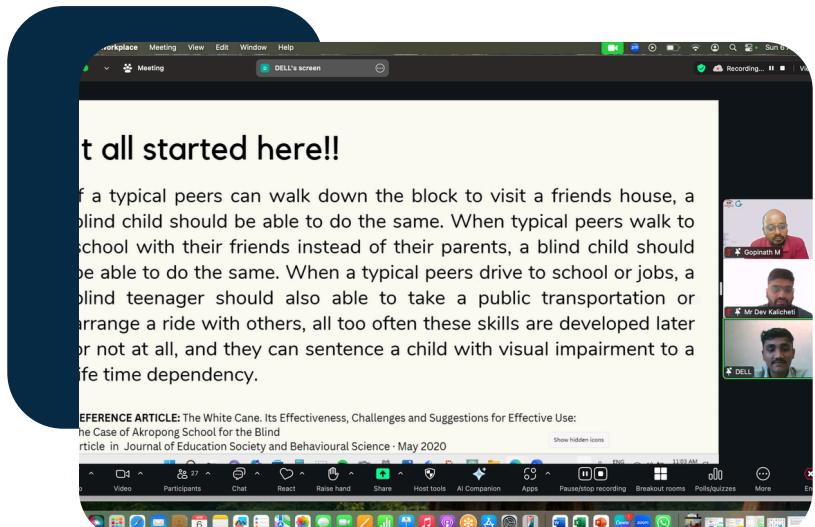


- **Evidence to Action Myopia Management Hands-on Workshop** was conducted at Sankara eye Hospital, Bengaluru. Dr. Kate Gifford and Dr. Paul Gifford along with Myopia Task force members conducted the workshop. The workshop received more than 80 registrations which included Ophthalmologists, optometrists, educators and students.

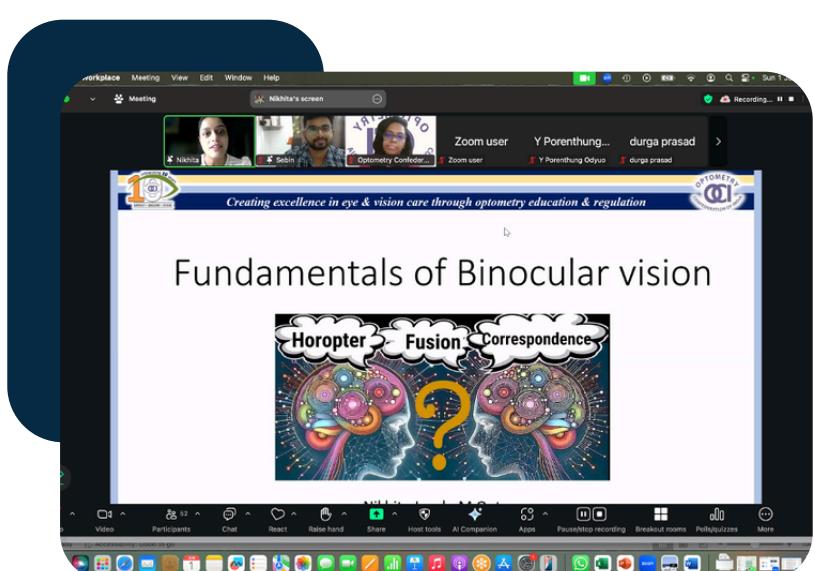


# Continuing Education

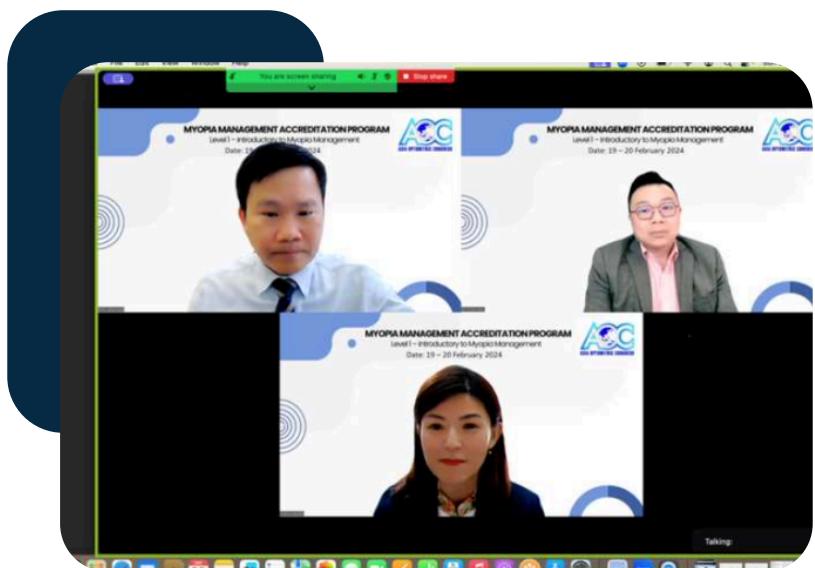
## Educational Series & Webinars:



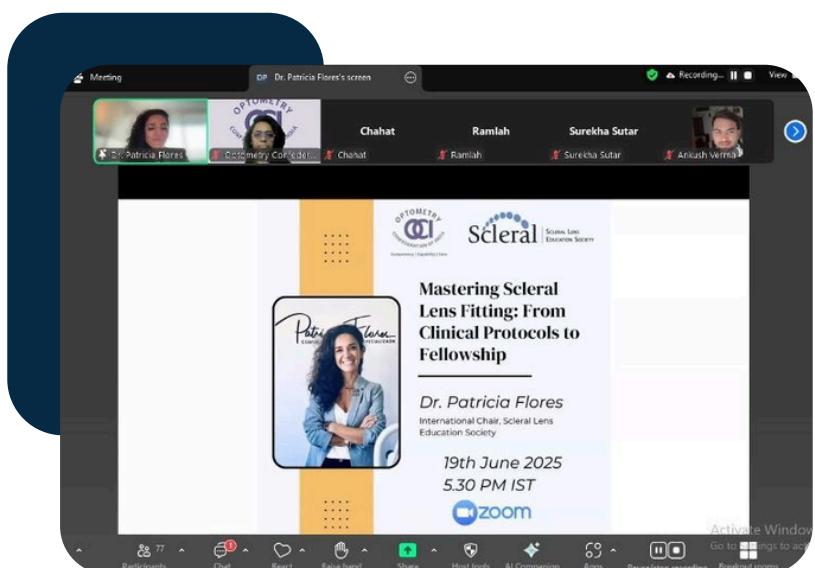
- **Low Vision Assessment and Rehabilitation educational Series:** OCI Collaborated with Om Tao Scientific Apparatus for Low vision Start up kits on subsidized rates for the series applicants. 57 participants attended the session, among whom 17 purchased the kits.



- **Binocular Vision Educational Series:** This was a 7-session series with Educator and Private Practitioner in the panel. It covered topics right from Fundamentals of Binocular vision till Vision therapy. About 86 participants attended the series, where 26 kits were purchased.

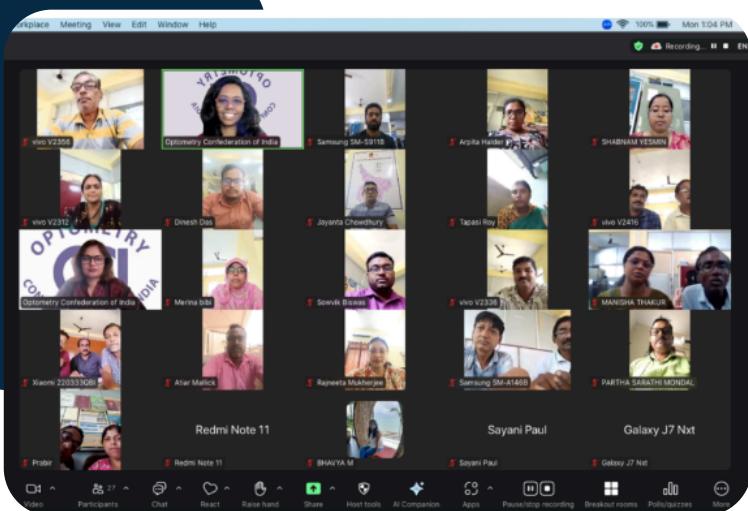


- **OCI-ASCO-AOC Myopia Management Course:** The Asia Optometric Congress's Academy of Orthokeratology and Myopia Control (AOC-AOMC) launched the Myopia Management Accreditation Program to accredit practitioners who meet the minimum practical qualification standards. OCI got 27 registrations from India for this workshop.



- **OCI SLS webinar:** OCI in collaboration with Scleral Lens Education Society conducted a special webinar with Dr. Patricia Flores (International Chair, SLS) on "Mastering scleral lens fitting: From Clinical Protocols to fellowship". Over 120 participants attended the session.

# Continuing Education



- **Enhancing Child Eye Health: Practical Training for CINI Field Staff and Community Workers:** OCI conducted an exclusive webinar for Child In Need Institute (CINI) field staff, community health workers, educators, and mothers' groups, focusing on early identification of childhood vision issues, referral pathways, and simple community-level vision health tools. Over 30 participants attended.



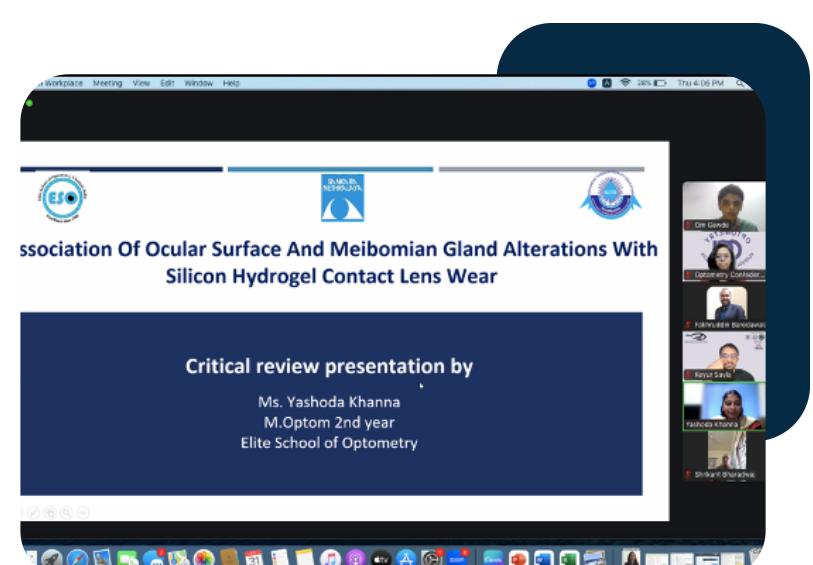
- **Corporate Wellness Talks:** A talk with TCS and Stellantis employees was initiated by OCI on the topic "Improving visual health in the digital age" with over 670 participants attending the session.



- **Driving Awareness Through Education:** OCI hosted 7 specialized webinars for professionals, timed to coincide with their respective awareness months. From Glaucoma to Diabetic Eye Disease, this series reached over 500 participants, directly supporting broader public awareness campaigns with expert-led content.

## OCI-OOLS Journal Club:

OCI, in collaboration with OOLS, launched a Journal Club on World Optometry Day to strengthen research skills, critical thinking, and communication among optometry professionals and students. Around 100 participants actively engaged through discussions and insightful questions. The interactive session promoted knowledge sharing and supported OCI's commitment to continuous professional development.



# Case studies of improved eye care practices

*Before attending the Low Vision Educational Series, I had a basic understanding of low vision care, but I didn't feel confident offering specialized services. The course completely transformed how I approach patients with complex visual needs."*

*"The sessions were practical, evidence-based, and directly applicable to everyday clinical practice. The speakers walked us through everything from functional vision assessment to the selection and fitting of low vision aids. The case discussions were particularly valuable – they helped refine my clinical reasoning and problem-solving skills."*

*"After completing the series, I felt equipped to establish a dedicated low vision clinic within our practice in Dubai. I now see patients referred from optometry, ophthalmology, pediatric, and rehabilitation departments who weren't receiving adequate functional support before.*

**Mr. Shishir  
Priyadarshi,**

Clinical Optometrist, Dubai  
Hospital, UAE



# Case studies of improved eye care practices

Seven Weeks of Clarity, One Vision of Confidence – My Journey with the OCI BV Series! From curiosity to confidence—this BV series has been a truly enriching and transformative journey. Across 7 weeks, it flowed seamlessly from fundamentals to clinical evaluation, therapy, pediatrics, and even sports vision—crafted to engage both beginners and experienced practitioners alike. With carefully chosen scholars, real-time demos, case histories, video clips, and interactive Q&As, each session turned into a practical, memorable learning experience. Every week brought powerful take-home messages that I can now confidently apply in practice. A huge thanks to OCI for curating such a power-packed series and for creating opportunities to connect with some of the finest minds in optometry. Looking forward to many more such inspiring initiatives!

**KRITHIKA  
NAGARAJAN**

B.OPTOM Intern  
Regional Institute of Ophthalmology  
& Government Ophthalmic Hospital,  
Chennai



# Community Eye Health Initiatives

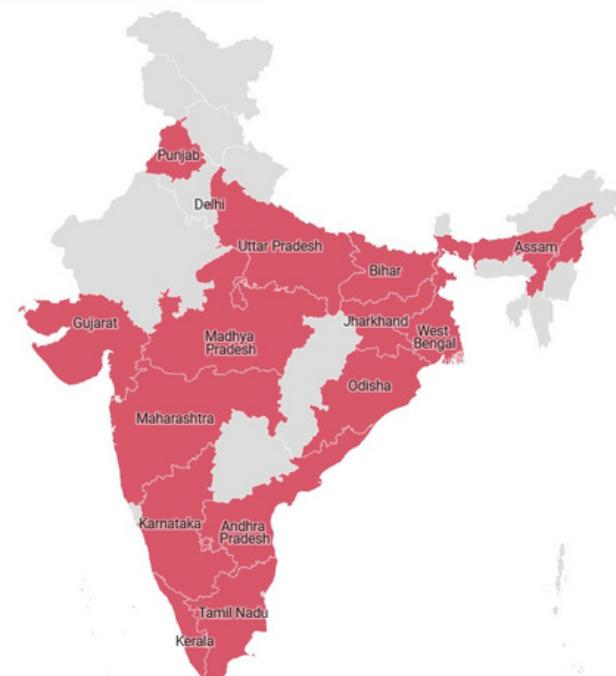
OCI continued its mission to deliver accessible and quality eye care to underserved communities through school screenings, geriatric outreach, workplace wellness programs and region-specific interventions. These initiatives were implemented in collaboration with optometry schools, partner hospitals, private practitioners, community groups and corporate supporters.

## Impact & Outcomes

### Geographical Reach

OCI Project Reach Across 16 States in India: Andhra Pradesh, Gujrat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Bihar, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Nagaland

OCI's Reach across India



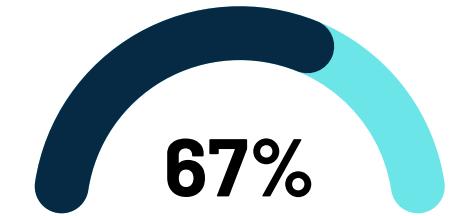
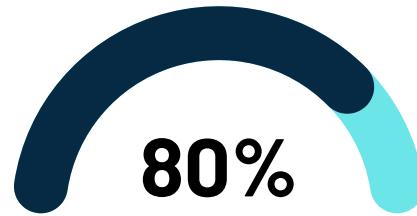
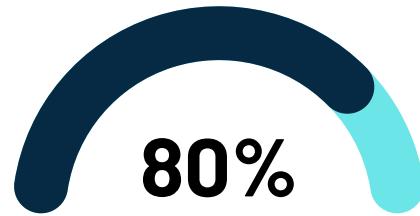
	SCREENED	DISPENSED	REFERRED
IRCON	227	87	6
Weavers	447	264	42
Truckers	178	132	22
Golf Caddies	172	98	26
School Eye Health	8739	407	546
Geriatric Eye Care	807	599	235
North East Camps	524	409	51

### Outcomes

Through our year-round outreach initiatives, we continue to strengthen access to comprehensive eye care across diverse populations and geographies.

- **School eye health programs** combined early vision screening with structured myopia awareness education, reinforcing prevention alongside care.
- **Geriatric eye care** initiatives addressed age-related visual needs, supporting independence and quality of life among older adults.
- Special focus was given to reaching underserved communities in the **North-East**, where targeted outreach bridged critical gaps in access to eye care services.
- In parallel, **workplace wellness eye-screening programs** delivered timely eye care to occupational groups with high visual demands, promoting safety, productivity, and long-term ocular health.
- Together, these initiatives reflect OCI's sustained commitment to inclusive, preventive, and community-centered eye care delivery.

# Testimonials from Beneficiaries -



**Satisfied with Staff Politeness and support**    **Received free spectacles**    **Smooth referral process**

Working with the OCI and Aloka Vision Foundation since 2018 has been a truly meaningful journey. Through the Vision for Cause project, we've reached children and families in rural and semi-urban Erode who otherwise couldn't access basic eye care. Seeing students regain their confidence and perform better after receiving a simple pair of glasses has been deeply fulfilling. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be part of such life-changing work



**Mr Saravanan**

Optometrist, Accutha Eye Care & Institute of Optometry, Erode

I sincerely thank OCI and Aloka Vision Foundation for introducing us to the REACH protocol at Hariyot College of Optometry. Implementing it has now become second nature for us. Every time we plan a school screening, the protocol and kit guide our work seamlessly. We've learned the importance of compliance checks, refraction, and binocular vision assessments – improving accuracy and confidence in our services. I'm truly grateful to the entire team for their constant support and guidance.-



**Dr Nirav Mehta**

Principal, Hariyot College of Optometry, Navsari.

# Professional Development



## OCI SPARK WLP

OCI SPARK WLP Batch 2.0 graduation ceremony was conducted on 14th August at Lemon Tree Banquet Hall. 20 participants were present for the ceremony. Dr. Liliana from GLOW, Dr. Anitha Arvind, Ms. Saranya S B, Ms. Isha Dave and Dr. Prema Chande graced the occasion with their presence.

## OCI UNSUNG HEROES

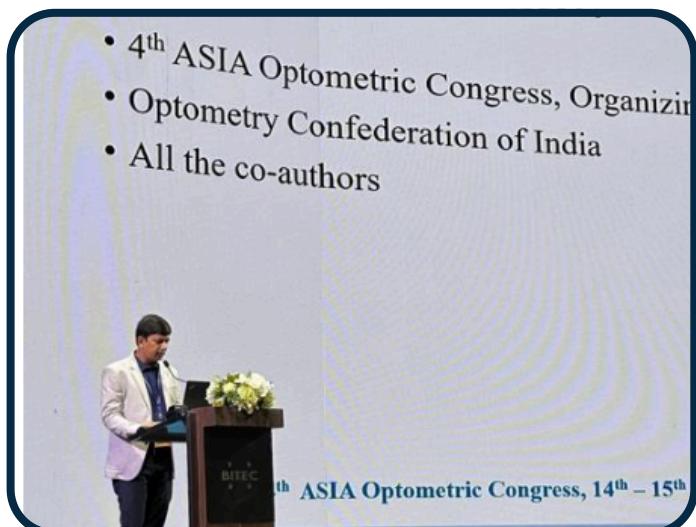
OCI initiated the “Unsung Heroes” series to spotlight optometrists working in remote and underserved parts of India, often without recognition, yet with unwavering dedication to their communities. The initiative began in 2021, inviting three optometrists each month to share their journeys, challenges, and innovative solutions. These sessions became spaces of learning, reflection and solidarity. As of Nov 2025, 31 episodes have been conducted and over 90 unsung heroes from the northeastern hills to the southern coastal towns have been identified and featured.

## OCI AWARDS



- Jaggi Best Optometry Contribution Award: Ms. Saranya S B
- Essilor Public Health Contribution Award: Ms. Prema Nagammal
- Rajeswari Mahadevan Best Case Report Award: Mr. Rohan Kolte
- Bausch + Lomb Educator of the Year Award: Ms. Preetha Ramprasad
- OCI Lifetime Achievement Award: Mr. Hemant Ratnaparkhi

# Professional Development



## TRAVEL GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

OCI is committed to advancing the optometry profession through education, collaboration, and global exposure. OCI Supported optometrists and students to present research and attend national/international conferences, strengthening India's global representation.



## OCI REPRESENTATIONS

**Student & Institutional Outreach:** Conducted talks at over 8 optometry colleges, engaging 200+ students on career pathways and OCI benefits.

### National & International Platforms

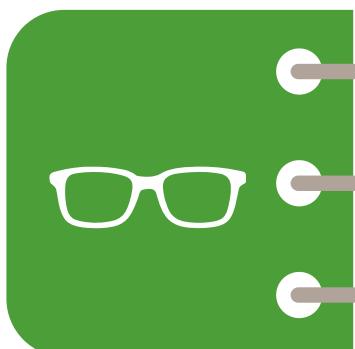
- Participation in EIVOC 2025 (Oral & Poster presentations).
- Representation at IAPB 2030 InSight, National ROP Consultation, MFV 25th Anniversary, WHO SEARO Meeting.
- OCI-OI Edu-Fair at International Optic Fair, Delhi.
- Participation in Optoflix 3.0 and ISVTEC 2025.



## THEMATIC CAMPAIGNS

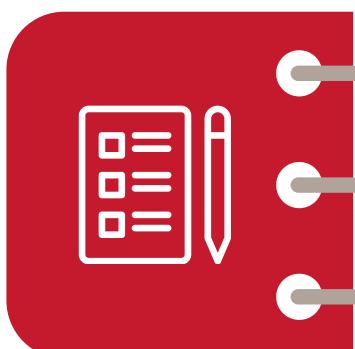
- **Preventable Blindness Week:** Awareness video series.
- **Myopia Awareness Week:** Digital poster competition & Grand Quiz (211 participants).
- **World Sight Day:** Walkathon with Lions International (1,500+ participants).
- **IEC Campaigns:** Developed and disseminated educational content for UV Safety, CVI, and Eye Injury Prevention months.
- **Spectacle Stigma IEC Competition & Instagram Quizzes.**

# Strategic Pillars for 2026 & Beyond



## Projects

Scale pan-India community projects with robust monitoring & evaluation.



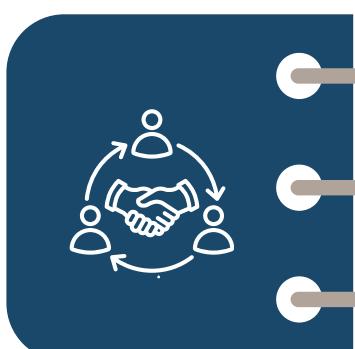
## Education

Expand accredited upskilling pathways and digital learning.



## Policy Engagement

Deepen engagement with NCAHP, state councils and global bodies (WHO, IAPB).



## Collaboration

Forge partnerships to support best practice standards in the region.



## Awareness

Lead nation-wide digital campaigns on priority eye health issues.

# Acknowledgements

We extend our deepest gratitude to:

- Every OCI member for your trust and active participation.
- Our donors and corporate sponsors for their generous support.
- Our incredible volunteers and Unsung Heroes whose dedication fuels our field work.
- Partner institutions, colleges, and hospitals for their collaboration.

## Contact Us



Vasu Complex, 5 & 6, New BEL Rd, R.M.V. 2nd Stage, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560054



[www.ocindia.org](http://www.ocindia.org)  
@optometryconfederationofindia

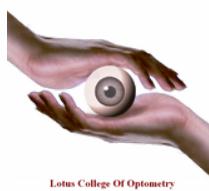
# OCI Supporters



ONE SIGHT  
EssilorLuxottica Foundation



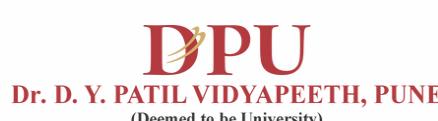
# OCI Collaborators



KUHS Recognized Research Centre. Affiliated to Kerala University of Health Sciences



(Category - I Deemed to be University) Porur, Chennai



Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital  
Caring for the community since 1922...



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Optometry Confederation of India



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Optometry Confederation



Optometry Confederation Of India



Telegram



[OCI WhatsApp Channel](#)

## Facebook Special Interest Groups:

- Clinical Optometry: <https://bit.ly/3uUtGnp>
- Binocular Vision: <https://bit.ly/3zc5Lm5>
- Low Vision Care: <https://bit.ly/3cj3MDs>
- Dispensing Optics: <https://bit.ly/3O7KiPz>