



October at LVPEI

Nature's fury in the form of a super cyclone that lashed Visakhapatnam city tested our resilience, and our team came out with flying colours. Our campus in this coastal city had its share of damage. Fortunately, all members of our team and their families were safe. What happened subsequently was a manifestation of our value of "TOGETHERNESS". Everyone, irrespective of their rank, rolled up their sleeves, carried out most of the minor repairs and cleaning up and put the campus back in service in 24 hours. The enormous outpouring of concern and generosity from the entire network made it possible to help offset the personal difficulties some of our group had. My thanks to everyone, who, in the face of significant difficulty, kept our value of "PATIENT FIRST" intact by working tirelessly and to all those who came forward to help those who had suffered some personal losses. As I write this, the campus is back on its feet and bustling with activity.

October 17 is our FOUNDATION DAY and we celebrated it across the network. Lieutenant Commander Abhilash Tomy, the keynote speaker, recounted his awe-inspiring story of a solo, unassisted, non-stop, circumnavigation under sail in 151 days. He had the entire audience spellbound as he took us on the voyage around the world. This was the day in the year 1986 that we broke ground for establishing our Hyderabad campus on the land so generously donated by Mr. L V Prasad and embarked on this great journey called "L V Prasad Eye Institute"; and what an incredible journey it has been. Our team of over 1500 and multitude of friends from all over the world supported us in so many diverse ways to make this happen. To all of them we are indebted. But what is most satisfying is the privilege of touching millions of lives directly and many more indirectly around the world.

A large contingent of our faculty attended the annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and presented their work. Some have moderated and chaired sessions, others participated in several discussions and several of them received honours from the Academy. Recognition also came to several others from the Asia-Pacific regional and National societies. Javed Ali was elected to the Executive Board of the Asia-Pacific Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery; Subhadra Jalali was a "Distinguished Lecturer" at Boston Children's Hospital, an affiliate of Harvard; and T P Das was elected as a fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences. I congratulate all the various recipients for their recognition.

This was also the month that all of us in the eye care world celebrated "World Sight Day", dedicating ourselves to the cause of eliminating avoidable blindness by the year 2020. The global campaign, in which our Institute has played a pivotal role since its inception, has made significant progress since its launch in 1999. A lot has been achieved and a lot more needs to be done as we move ahead in achieving our goal. The Institute organised several activities across the network to celebrate this day.



It is always heartwarming to hear of the progress made by clients of our Rehabilitation Centre in successfully securing a job and getting into promising careers. During this month we rejoiced over the recruitment of three of them into the officer cadre of one of the biggest banks of India. All of them received training in our assistive software computer laboratory followed by special training to prepare them for the interview process. Congratulations to the three individuals and the members of our team who helped in this process.

Our secondary eye care centres in rural areas offer high quality comprehensive eye care to the underserved populations to people in all economic groups in those areas. It was a shot in the arm for our community eye health group, when a former Health Minister of the state, with plenty of choices available to him, chose to get cataract surgery done at Paloncha, one of our secondary centres. This reinforces our belief that quality attracts affluent persons to choose these rural centres for their care, leading to cross subsidization and financial sustainability. This experience also validates our approach to rural eye care - High quality, comprehensive care to everyone employing an eye care team approach.

-Gullapalli N. Rao