2.5 Million Drivers Screened by Vision & Road Safety Coalition till Feb 2026

At the 6th annual VARS Conference, leaders in eye health, road safety, public policy, and development came together to mark this commitment.

Mumbai, India, 24 March 2026: The India Vision Institute, Mission for Vision, Sightsavers India, and the VisionSpring Foundation made the commitment at the 6th Annual Vision and Road Safety (VARS) Conference as part of an effort to improve road safety in the country.

Hosted at the Yashwantrao Chavan Centre in Mumbai, VARS convened experts and stakeholders from the transport, health, research, and development sectors to strengthen the integration of eye health into road safety planning and policy.

To date, the four organisations have screened about **2.5 Million** drivers for vision impairments and dispensed more than **1.17 Million** pairs of eyeglasses.

Through additional screenings for 3,00,000 drivers across India, the coalition will provide drivers with the eye care that they urgently need to see clearly and drive safely.

Research shows that drivers with vision impairments are 2.5 times more likely to be involved in fatal road accidents, which claim approximately 1.19 million lives each year globally.

Despite having only about 1% of the world's motor vehicles, India accounts for nearly 11% of road traffic deaths globally. Eyeglasses are a simple and cost-effective solution to minimise the harmful consequences on both drivers and pedestrians.

A central focus of the conference was advocating for the recognition of eye health and clear vision as the fifth "E" of Road Safety, alongside the widely recognised pillars of Engineering, Enforcement, Education, and Emergency Medical Services. Experts highlighted that addressing vision gaps through screening, corrective eyewear, and policy integration could play a crucial role in reducing preventable road crashes.

The initiative supports Pillar 3 of the UN Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety by promoting safer road users, and aligns with the SPECS 2030 framework's goal of expanding affordable access to eye care.

In addition to the vision screening commitment, the officials attending VARS agreed on the following to improve road safety standards:

- **Recognising eye health:** Eye health and clear vision should be widely recognised as a critical pillar of road safety, alongside Engineering, Enforcement, Education, and Emergency Medical Services.
- **Setting national standards:** Vision screenings and eyeglasses should be incorporated into national, state, and district road safety action plans to reduce preventable road crashes.
- **A collective effort:** Stronger collaboration is required between transport authorities, health systems, employers, and civil society organisations to improve road safety outcomes.

In a joint statement, representatives of the VARS Alliance said: "Safe driving depends on clear vision, yet eye health continues to be overlooked in road safety. Through this commitment to screen an additional 3,00,000 drivers by 2027, we aim to reduce preventable accidents and save lives. Achieving this will require stronger collaboration with government, transport authorities, health organisations, and employers to drive meaningful change"

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

[Name], [Organisation], [Contact Details]

About India Vision Institute

[Add boilerplate]

About Mission for Vision

Mission for Vision (MFV) is a not-for-profit organisation established in the year 2000 to eradicate avoidable blindness through the enablement of high-quality, comprehensive and equitable eye care. It was founded on the basis that poverty is a cause and effect of visual and other disabilities that in turn increase the social divide. Eradicating avoidable blindness will enhance productivity, significantly impact GDP and promote social and economic equity among nations. Today, MFV works in 24 Indian states and union territories with leading eye health partners. MFV and its partners have enabled interventions to 23.3+ million people and 3.65+ million eye surgeries, at no cost to the patient. MFV has also contributed towards the establishment of 24 leading charitable eye centres in India. MFV has also enabled the establishment of 163 Vision Centres (VCs).

Mission for Vision's work is intended to assist and complement the Government of India's efforts for the reduction of blindness towards Universal Health Coverage. It also aligns with similar global agendas, set by the World Health Organisation and other bodies and directly impacts 8 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Vision: To restore the gift of vision to every visually impaired human being, irrespective of nationality, religion or socio-economic status.

http://www.missionforvision.org.in/

About Sightsavers India

[Add boilerplate]

About Visionspring Foundation

VisionSpring is a pioneering social mission creating access to eyeglasses for low-income adults and children. Annually in India, VisionSpring reaches more than 27 lakh (2.7 million) people with eye-screenings and corrects the vision of more than 12 lakh (1.2 million) people with eyeglasses. On

average, 73% of VisionSpring's participants acquire their first-ever pair of eyeglasses through the See to Earn, See to Learn, and See to be Safe programs. To date, VisionSpring has distributed approx. 9.5 million (95 lakh) pairs of corrective eyeglasses in India, creating more than $3 billion (approx. Rs. 27,000 crore) in economic impact for low-income households.

The organization delivers on its eye health mission across 28 states, working with more than 1,000 hospitals/healthcare facilities and NGOs, 15 state governments and agencies, and 65 corporates/CSRs.

VisionSpring's work has been covered in The New York Times | The Economist | Forbes | The Lancet | The Economic Times.