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## **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

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EIZOC ( YEAR 2010-2011 )

Chief Guest Hon. Chief Minister , Govt, of Orrisa, Guest of honour, other dignitaries on the Dias off the Dias, Fellow delegates, spouches including my wife Prof Dr. Priti Bala Sahay , Invited Guests. Local organising committee members and members of Orrisa Ophthalmological Society .Door Darsan people, media people and friends.

First of all I am thankful to all the members of EIZOC for showing faith on me by electing me President of Eastern India Zonal Ophthalmological Congress. It is my proud previlage to become President in the Silver Jublce year of EIZOC.

This year the theme of EIZOC is "SAVING - SIGHT". Dear collegues if I start saying that there are about 30 to 40 millions cataract patients in our country - the backlog is still not being cleared and still cataract remains No. I cause of Blindness - there is no use. The question is how we can help in reducing the Cataract Blindness. I have few suggestions -

(1)Let us spare some time for this noble cause.

(2)The Government is itself keen for cataract operation - it is our duly to fully cooperate these Government sponsored cataract screening camp and operations. The Civil Surgeon cum CMO's may be requested to depute ophthalmic assistants along with Paramedical staff from September to March for screening & selecting the cataract cases and bringing them to hospitals for operation and of course the Govt, will provide vehicle to the team for screening and bringing cataract cases for operation. We shall also request to the Govt, of EIZOC states for the same from EIZOC platform.

This has happened in the EIZOC state of Jharkhand & the result is that the state has surpassed the target fixed by the Govt.

(3)To encourage the NGO's to organize such type of cataract screening cpmps in different remote places & for bringing them to hospital for operation.

Fortunately the EIZOC states like Assam . Bihar. Jharkhand. Orrisa . West Bengal & other North Eastern States have nearly achieved the target of cataract operation this year. But to reduce the backlogs more cataract operations should be done. Thus we can help our society, our state & our country. After all even<sup>1</sup> body has got " RIGHT TO SEE". - This was launched in our country at Goa in October 2001. on W.H.O. recommendation.

Next emerging cause of Blindness is DIABETIC-RETINO-PATHY. Will you believe that as per recent survey 50 millions (approx) patients are Diabetic in our country, which is going to 60 millions in next 10 years ? Imagine ? According to National Institute of Health 30% to 40% of Diabetic patients may develop - "Diabetic Retinopathy" at some stages. So again it becomes our moral responsibility to do something for our society. We can not reduce Diabetes cases. But certainly we can screen out Diabetic Retinopathy cases and give them proper counselling. Kindly arrange Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Camp in your areas minimum at 3 months interval with the help of NGO's. Physicians and Pathologists & give them proper counselling.

3<sup>rd</sup> important part is school screening of small children for Vitamin A deficiency and giving them Vitamin A with the help of local medical officers, which is regularly done. But Visual Acuity Test and Colour vision detection for senior class school students is also very important which should be done by our members. Refractive error can be corrected but for students with high refractive error & for colour blind students proper counselling is essential. This will help in choosing their carrier where high refractive error & Colour Blind is NO BAR. Recently I was member of a medical board in which one person had competed & selected for DSP but on medical fitness exam he was found to be Colour Blind and he was DENIED that post of DSP - imagine what a frustration ?

4<sup>th</sup> is "EYE DONATION" - To encourage "EYE DONATION" please write the benefits of Eye Donation on Banners and put it in Eye OPD's & in private eye clinics. The general people are still not aware of it. 1 from the platform of EIZOC will request the Government of all the EIZOC states to open full fledged Eye Banks in all Medical College Hospitals and in each Districts Hospitals with all amenities for proper storage of Enucleated eye's and posting of minimum two Medical Officers in the Eye Bank who will look after the functioning of Eye Banks and will do enucleation after death on information.

5<sup>th</sup> is about CME - Please hold one day seminar or workshop along with panel discussion in your region on any current topics. The interaction and exchange of thoughts will update the knowledge. A part from this we will get a chance to meet each other closely & we also get a chance to visit and see important things of that area. It is not difficult. Only your "DESIRE" is required. I know all of you are capable for arranging seminar and workshops in your region under CME programme.

Kindly arrange it and give prior information about seminar or workshop well in advance to us. We shall circulate it amongst our members and personally we will try to join you.

Dear friends please do not think I am over loading you all with these on going programme of EIZOC. But I am requesting you with folded hands -

*KI APP APNI IKCHA SHAKTI JAGAI - YAH SAB KUCH HO JAYEGA, SAMAJ NE HAME BAHUT KUCH DIYA HAI, HAMARA BHI KARTA VYA BANTA HA/ KI SAMAJ KE LI YE KUCH KARE*

EIZOC started Mid Term Conference. The 1<sup>st</sup> one day conference was held at Patna with the initiation of Dr.V.N.Prasad . Past President EIZOC. The 2<sup>nd</sup> two days conference and workshop was held at "DISHA Eye Hospital" Barrakpore-Kolkata under the able guidance of Dr. Debashis Bhattacharya. Both the Conferences were very successful with good scientific feast and personal touch. The 3<sup>rd</sup> is going to be at Dhanhad. Dr. B.N.Gupta, Chairman, Scientific Committee EIZOC will pilot it. Please attend in large number.

EIZOC annual journal " The Eastern Eye" has come up Dr. Partho Biswas of B.B. Foundation, kolkata, is the editor, kindly send your articles or interesting case reports with your experience to him for publication. The details you can ask from the Editor. EASTREN EYE Journal.

Lastly I request you to be UNITED. Think that we all are members of ONE family EIZOC. and then only we will have our say in All India Ophthalmological Society and everywhere. If any of our members stands for any post in AIOS then it becomes our moral responsibility to see that our member is elected. We have about 570 strong hands. If by chance 50 of our members are not able to cast their votes even then the data of 520 is enough to win the election. But please inform all the members and the Head quarter about your filing the nomination.

If any of our members faces some major problems or is in crises then please inform the H.Q. We shall extend all help to the needy member. You all know that your society is not very rich. But at the same time not very poor also. Most of our members are financially very rich and so naturally our family EIZOC is also rich. In case of emergency we ask for some monetary help from our rich members I am sure they will donate to our society, dear Colleagues. My aim is to bring all of you under one EIZOC family.

I am personally handing over Rs. 10,000.00 to our society. I request the Secretary to please accept it. Dr. S.C.Das please.

Now I have taken much of your time. Before ending my speech I thank the chief guest Hon. Chief Minister. Government of Orissa. the guest of honour for sparing their valuable time for us. To respected Delegates - who are the backbones of a conference. To the charming spouses for making the conference colourful, To all invited Guests for coming here in the Inaugural function. To the organizing committee members & members of Orissa State Ophthalmological Society for holding such a nice conference "FUSION" with scientifically rich sessions in the beautiful and temple city of Bhubaneswar- Orissa. To all media people with the hope that they will give a good coverage of this Conference. To all Pharmaceutical & Instrument companies for taking part in the trade exhibition during the Conference and To all those who directly or indirectly helped for making this Conference successful.

Thank you very much for lending your ears for such a long time.

**LONG LIVE EIZOC JAI-HIND**