EK KADAM AUR'S FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF VISUAL CHALLENGES, AND EDUCATING CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH BLINDNESS

SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL, AND SOCIAL FRONTIERS





October 30-31, 2023, Shangri-La Hotel, 19 Ashoka Rd, Connaught Place, New Delhi

FEATURED SPEAKERS:



Dr. Yogendra Narain, IAS, Chancellor, HN Bahuguna Garhwal University; Formerly, Secretary of Defense, Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, and Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, Government of India



Luis Gallegos, JD,
Director, Board of
Advisors, Ek Kadam
Aur and Global Expert
on Human Rights,
Disability Rights, and
Ageing



Dr. Rohit Saxena, MD, PhD Professor of Ophthalmology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi



Dr Praveen Vashist, MD,
MSc Professor and Incharge, Community
Ophthalmology,
All India Institute of
Medical Sciences, New



Dr. Paul Harpur, PhD, Associate Professor, The University of Queensland, Australia



Ms. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw Executive Chairperson, Biocon Limited, Bengaluru



Dr. Mehul Mehta, PhD, US Food and Drug Administration



Dr. Vibhakar Shah, PhD, US Food and Drug Administration



Taha Haaziq, IAS, Secretary, Commission for the Persons with Disability, Goa, India



Armoogum Parsuramen, Formerly, Education Minister of Mauritius and Director, UNESCO



Rosenthal, PhD, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA



Ajit Kumar Yadav, IAS, Secretary, Department of Persons with Disability, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh State, India



Pranav Lal, Ernst & Young, Gurugram, India



Professor Pawan Sinha, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA



Ms. Caroline Casey, President, International Agency for Prevention of Blindness, London, UK



Dr. Himanshu Das, Former Director, National Institute for the Empowerment of the Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan), Dehradun



Dr. Mahantesh Kivadasannavar, CEO, Samarthanam, Bengaluru



Dr. Mallika Banerjee Nadda, Chairperson, Special Olympics, Bharat, New Delhi



Shrikanth Bolla, CEO, Bollant Industries, Hyderabad



Rahul Gupta, Research Associate, Harvard University; CEO, J.C. Flowers Asset Reconstruction



About the Conference:

Ek Kadam Aur Global Conference is an international event dedicated to the prevention and treatment of visual challenges, as well as the education of blind children and adults. The conference brings together experts and professionals from various fields related to visual impairment, including ophthalmology, optometry, education, technology, and rehabilitation. The conference aims to share the latest research, best practices, and innovations in the field, and to foster collaboration among participants to enhance the quality of life of people with visual challenges. Through this event, the organizers hope to promote greater awareness, understanding, and support for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, and to empower them to lead fulfilling and productive lives.

About Ek Kadam Aur Foundation:

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation represents Dr. Satish Tripathi's vision for a world in which every child is nurtured to become a leader and no child, due to physical and financial reasons, is deprived of this opportunity. It's a vision of a world where every child enjoys complete, uninterrupted rights and opportunities with free access to quality education, skill training, and healthcare. Ek Kadam Aur Foundation envisions a world where every child is a potential leader and lives in dignity. Ek Kadam Aur (One Step Forward) Foundation works at the intersection of blindness, poverty, and inaccessibility to provide quality education to the children of underserved communities in India and Nepal. Ek Kadam Aur is a non-profit charitable organization registered in the US in 2015 under 501c3 and in India since 2017 under 80g.

Conference Highlights:

PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO MINIMIZE BLINDNESS

- Eye checkups to detect refractive error, malnutrition & childhood Glaucoma.
- Role of healthy diet to avoid malnutrition.
 Contribution of Vitamin supplements.
- Protection from physical injuries and need for medical care post injury.
- Issues with long screen times. Impact of insufficient Sleep.
- Physical wellbeing. Importance of Rehabilitation.

MEDICAL TREATMENT OF VISUAL CHALLENGE

- Discovery of drug and biologic therapies.
- Development of new medicines :
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Biotechnology products
 - Gene Therapy
- Global Registration of Therapies:
 - Chemistry, Manufacturing, Controls
 - Nonclinical Pharmacology/Toxicology
 - Clinical Pharmacokinetics
 - Clinical Trials
 - Regulatory Approaches to speedy approvals
 - Worldwide Registration of Medical Devices
 - Access to medical (assistive) devices

EDUCATING CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH BLINDNESS

- Teaching World's 1.4 Million Children with Blindness in 190 Countries:
 - Inclusive Education: Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's model
 - Developing Infrastructure for Special Educators
 - Creating a welcoming environment in a classroom of sighted children
 - Role of Parents, Educators, and Advocates
 - Community Support for Families of Children with blindness Address
- · Economic Implications of Blindness:
 - Opportunities and Challenges in the 21st Century
 - Creating New Employers through Entrepreneurship
 - EdTech Opportunities to Enhance Competitiveness
 - Vocational Training and Job Placements



Who Should Attend?

- Ophthalmologists in academia and clinical practice
- Students (MBBS, MD, DM, PhD) and Interns/Residents and Fellows
- · Teachers in Schools for the Blind
- RCI Certified and seekers of certification
- Clinical and Rehabilitation Psychologists
- Physical Therapists
- · Social workers
- Principals, management, and teachers in primary (elementary) schools
- · Clinical research and development
- Students and Graduates of diploma bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree holders with specialization in Visual Impairment
- · Clinical safety and pharmacovigilance
- Clinical supply operations
- Clinical trial and project management
- · Data management
- Drug development and discovery

- Investigator site management medical and scientific affairs
- Outsourcing management/contract research organizations (CROs)
- Pre-clinical development
- Post-graduate students entering pharmaceutical industry
- R&D professionals in medical device industry
- Assistive technology experts
- Procurement and purchasing
- · Quality assurance
- Research and development professionals
- Research and development funding organization
- Strategic sourcing/planning
- Global Regulatory Affairs
- Government and public policy; lawmakers
- NGO Representatives
- Senior- and executive-level decision-makers for clinical trials

Register Now!

Become our conference partner and showcase your impact on a global platform!

Know More!



Agenda | Day 1| October 30, 2023

rigoriaa Day i	October 30, 2023
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Conference Registration
7:30 AW - 8:30 AW	Conference Registration
	Shangri-La Hotel, 19 Ashoka Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi, 110001, India
8:30 AM - 8:50 AM	Vandana of Maa Saraswati and Inauguration
	Students, Parents, Teachers - Arunodaya Program
8:50 AM - 8:55 AM	National Anthem
8:55 AM - 9:15 AM	Ek Kadam Aur Founder's Opening Remarks and Welcome
	Satish C. Tripathi, PhD, MPH, Founder/President, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation for Education and Health
9:15 AM - 9:20 AM	Ek Kadam Aur's Global Programs in India, Nepal, and USA
	Bianca Ghose, Chief Storyteller, Wipro; Director, Ek Kadam Aur Board of Advisors
9:20 AM - 9:30 AM	Salome John's (Ek Kadam Aur Foundation) Conversation with the President of International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)
	Caroline Casey, MA, Founder, The Valuable 500, Ireland
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Plenary Keynote Session 1
	Title: Seeing with Sound, My Continuing Trust with Sight
	Speaker: Pranav Lal, Ernst & Young, Gurugram, India
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Refreshment Break
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Plenary Keynote Session 2
	Title: Blindness: Indian Perspective of Vasudheva Kutumbakam: How can India Provide Enhanced Leadership Opportunities for Children and Adults with Blindness Worldwide?
	Speaker: Dr. Yogendra Narain, IAS, Chancellor H. N. Bahuguna Garhwal University; Formerly, Secretary of Defense, Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, and Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, Government of India



Agenda | Day 1| October 30, 2023

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM Plenary Keynote Session 3

Title: Education of Visually Challenged: A Global Perspective

Speaker: Armoogum Parsuramen, Former Education Minister of

Mauritius, and Director, UNESCO

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Panel Session 4

Title: Preventive Measures to Eliminate Blindness

Co-Chairs: Prof. Radhika Tandon, and Dr. Praveen Vashist, MD, MSc, Professor and In-charge, Community Ophthalmology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

Moderator: Prof. Rohit Saxena, MD, PhD, Professor of Ophthalmology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

Topics:

- Prevention Strategies to Combat Corneal Blindness: Prof. Radhika Tandon
- Myopia Management Prevention, Treatment, and Newer Modalities: Dr. Rohit Saxena, MD, PhD
- Cataract Blindness Backlog Elimination Initiatives: Dr. Praveen Vashist, MD, MSc
- Initiatives for Blindness Prevention by IAPB: Dr. Rohit Khanna,
 MD, Network Director, L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad
- Use of Assistive Technology in Tertiary Level Prevention of Low Vision and Blindness: Prof. Suraj Singh Senjam, MD

12:30 PM - 1:15 PM	Luncheon and Networking Opportunity
--------------------	-------------------------------------

1:15 PM - 1:45 PM Plenary Keynote Session 5

Speaker: Ambassador Luis Gallegos, JD, Director, Board of Advisors, Ek Kadam Aur and Global Expert on Human Rights, Disability Rights, and Ageing

1:45 PM - 2:15 PM Assistive Devices Session 6

Vision Buddy: Janakiraman SHG Technologies: Gopi Krishna



Agenda | Day 1| October 30, 2023

Agenda Day 1 Oc	
2:15 PM - 3:00 PM	 Panel Session 7 Title: Arunodaya (Sunrise): Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's Model for Teaching Children with Blindness Topics: Teaching World's 1.4 Million Children with Blindness in 190 Countries: R.K. Mohan Rao, M.A., Ek Kadam Aur Foundation and Ramakrishna Mission High School, Sitanagaram, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh Inclusive Education: Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's Arunodaya (Sunrise) Model: Satish Tripathi, PhD, MPH, Founder/President, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation for Education and Health
3:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Book Release (Pustak Vimochan) Book Title: Arunodaya: Dawn of Enlightenment and Emancipation Introduction by: Pallavi Kaushik, M.A., Global Project Manager, Ek Kadam Aur Guest: Invited
3:15 PM - 3:30 PM	Refreshment Break
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Special Keynote Session 8 Title: Opportunities to Enhance Competitiveness of Visually Challenged Interviewees Speaker: Professor Pradeep Kumar Joshi, PhD, Former Chairman, Union Public Service Commisiion (UPSC), New Delhi
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Special Performance: Dhrupad Concert Performing Artists: Shilpa Shanker Narain, Manila, Philippines, and New Delhi, India. Accompanied by Roman Das on Pakhawaj, and Tanpura players



About The Artist



Shilpa Shanker Narain

Surrounded by classical music from a young age and with early exposure to Khayal, Shilpa's journey led her to a profound connection with Dhrupad. Since 2010, she has devoted herself to rigorous training in Dhrupad under the guidance of renowned maestros Padmashri Gundecha Brothers and Shri Sanjeev Jha. Shilpa actively engages in performing, teaching, and exploring the rich history and intricacies of Dhrupad. Shilpa aims to revitalize the ancient Dhrupad art, shifting it from a rigid, textbook-bound form to one that resonates with today's musical landscape — a dynamic, living tradition that evolves in response to the contemporary world.

Shilpa holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Philosophy from Delhi University, Faculty of Arts & Indraprastha College, and more than a decade of experience as a visual artist all of which come together in her understanding and approach to Dhrupad.

Dhrupad: A Classical Music Genre

Dhrupad is considered one of the oldest surviving forms of classical music in India. It is said to have originated from the Sāmagāna recitation of the Sāmveda. Dhrupad was always known as a meditative and introspective musical format rather than music for entertainment. The foundational concept of Dhrupad is Naad-yoga looking at sound as the ultimate truth of the universe. A Dhrupad artist uses rāga and swara to transcend singularity of individual and move towards the universality of Nāda. Traditionally Dhrupad was sung in the sanctum sanctorium of temples, facing the deity, as an offering to the divine



Shilpa Shanker Narain with fellow Pakhawaj player Roman Das



Agenda | Day 2| October 31, 2023

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM Conference Registration

Shangri-La Hotel, 19 Ashoka Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi, 110001, India

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Panel Session 9

Title: Medical Treatment of Visual Challenge: Research & Development

Topics:

a) There's More to Vision than Meets the Eye: Neural Basis of Visual Perception: Professor S.P. Arun, PhD, Center for Neuroscience, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, India

b) Development of New Medicines (Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology, and Gene Therapy): Shama Kajiji, PhD, Chief Executive Officer at Emergent Sysytem Analytics, LLC, Clinton, CT

- c) Global Registration of Therapies:
 - Role of Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls in Developing Medicines: Dr. Vibhakar Shah, PhD, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, US Food and Drug Administration
 - Clinical Pharmacology in Drug Development: Dr. Mehul Mehta, PhD, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, US Food and Drug Administration
 - Developing Medical Products for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Eye Diseases: Dr. Mathew Thomas, MD, Senior Regulatory and Clinical Advisor, Healthcare Innovation Catalysts, Rockville, Maryland; Formerly, US Food and Drug Administration

9:30 AM - 9:45 AM Plenary Keynote Session 10

Title: Bringing Medicines to Market for India and the World

Speaker: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, CEO, Biocon, Bengaluru



Agenda | Day 2| October 31, 2023

9:45 AM - 10:00 AM

Plenary Keynote Session 11

Title: Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program: Observations as Faculty Chair, Harvard University's Advanced Leadership Initiative Fellowship Program

Speaker: Professor Meredith Rosenthal, PhD, Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

10:00 AM - 10:05 AM

Book Release (Pustak Vimochan)

Book Title: Ananya: Curriculum for Arunodaya Program, Part 1

Introduction by: Satish Tripathi, PhD, MPH, Founder/President, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation for Education and Health, and Veena Tripathi, PhD, Director, Global Strategic Partnerships and Outreach, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation for Education and Health

Guest: Dr. Mallika Banerjee Nadda, Chairperson, Special Olympics, Bharat, New Delhi

10:05 AM - 10:30 AM

Refreshment Break

10:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Special Plenary and Panel Discussion 12

Title: Educating Children and Adults with Blindness

Session Chair: Dr. Himangshu Das, PhD, Formerly, Director, National Institute for the Empowerment of the Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan), Dehradun, Uttarakhand State and Director of Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's Advisory Board

Topics:

- Beyond the Stream of Arts: Moving towards Science & Technology Education for PwVD: Dr. Pankaj Kumar. National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangian), Dehradun, Uttarakhand State
- See A Million: A Collective of Transforming Persons with Vision Impairment into Active, Citizens and Nation Builders: Moses Chowdari, Executive Director, Enable India



Agenda | Day 2| October 31, 2023

11:15 AM - 11:30 AM Plenary Keynote Session 13

Title: Economic Implications of Blindness

Speaker: Bhushan Punani, Board Member BPA, IIM Alumni

11:30 AM - 11:45 AM Plenary Keynote Session 14

Title: Project Prakash: Merging Service and Science

Speaker: Pawan Sinha, PhD, Professor of Vision and Cognitive

Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM Plenary Keynote Session 15

Title: Role of Broadcast Media in Educating Individuals with

Blindness

Speaker: Yusuf Kapadia, Gen. Secretary, Blind Welfare Council &

Radio Awaj Dahod 98.3 FM

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Plenary and Panel Discussion 16

Title: Making Inclusive Education Successful for PwVD; Reaching

the Unreached

Speaker: Dr. S. R. Mittal, Former Professor, Delhi University, New Delhi

Title: Preparing Visually Impaired Children for Inclusion and Ways to

Make it Successful

Speaker: Nandita Saran, Principal, National Association for the Blind,

New Delhi

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM Luncheon and Networking Opportunity

1:00 PM - 1:45 PM Plenary Keynote Session 17

Title: Catalytic Role of Government at Central, State, and District

Level

Panel Moderator: Bianca Ghose, Chief Storyteller, Wipro; Director, Ek

Kadam Aur Board of Advisors

Panelists:

1) State and Central Government Perspective:

Rajesh Singh, IAS Jharkhand State

• Taha Haaziq, IAS, Secretary, Office of the Commission for Persons

with Disabilities, Goa State



Agenda | Day 2| October 31, 2023

2) Public Perspective:

- · Nidhi Goyal, Founder, Rising Flame
- Ramu Muthangi, CEO and Co-Founder, SHG Technologies Private.
 Ltd.

3) Perspectives at the level of Division and Districts:

- Abhay Verma, IAS, Commissioner, Jabalpur Division, Madhya Pradesh
- Richa Chaudhary, IAS, District Magistrate, Janjgir Champa District, Chhattisgarh State
- Prakash Chandra Shrivastav, IAS, Former District Magistrates, Auraiya District, Uttar Pradesh

1:45 PM - 2:30 PM

Plenary Keynote Session 18

Title: Role of Stakeholders in Education and Employment for VI Individuals

Panel Moderator: Dr Mahantesh Kivadasannavar, CEO, Samarthanam, Bengaluru

Panelists:

- Jitender Aggarwal, Founder & CEO, Sarthak Educational Trust, New Delhi
- · Preeti Monga, Founder, Silver Lining
- Shrikanth Bolla: CEO, Bollant Industries, Hyderabad
- George Abraham, Founder, Score Foundation
- Soundarya Kumar, Silver Medallist, The World Junior Chess Championship for the Blind, HSBC Bank, New Delhi, India
- Dr. Vinay Kumar Litoria, PhD, Director, Corporate Relations, Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, India

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Panel Discussion Session 19

Title: Assistive Devices and Accessories for Individuals

Topic: Artificial Intelligence in the Education of Blind Children and Adults

Panel Moderator: Dr. Veena Tripathi, PhD, Director, Global Strategic Partnerships and Outreach, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation for Education and Health



Agenda | Day 2| October 31, 2023

Panelists:

- Piyush Chanana, Head RLF, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, New Delhi
- Dr. Dipendra Manocha (PwVI, Founder SAKSHAM, New Delhi)
- Sanskriti Dawle, Co-Founder and Chief Technical Officer, Thinkerbell Labs
- Pranav Savla, High School Final Year Student; Head Start Educational Academy, Bengaluru and Founder, Vidya Drishti; Ambassadors of Change Program, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation

3:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Refreshment Break

3:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Plenary Keynote Session 20

Debate: Braille versus Digital Technology as Starting Point for Preschool Education

Moderators:

For Braille: Dr. Sushil Kumar Gupta, Former Professor, Kurukshetra University, and Professor Kusumlata, PhD, University of Delhi, New Delhi **For Digital Technology:** Homiyar Mobedji, Disability Expert, Asia and Africa. Benetech

3:45 PM - 4:10 PM

Plenary Keynote Session 21

Title: Using International Norms to Lead with a Disability in Higher Education

Speaker: Dr. Paul Harpur, PhD, Associate Professor, The University of Queensland, Australia

Speaker: Professor Anil Aneja, PhD, Chairman, Department of English and Director of Center of Disability Studies, University of Delhi, New Delhi

4:10 PM - 4:25 PM

Plenary Keynote Session 22

Title: Leading with Purpose

Speaker: Rahul Gupta, Research Associate, Harvard University; Managing Director and CEO, J.C. Flowers Asset Reconstruction



Agenda | Day 2| October 31, 2023

4:25 PM - 4:35 PM Plenary Keynote Session 23

Title: Empathy Exercises for Integrating Sighted and Blind Students

Speaker: Aditi Dey, Park Tudor High School, Indianapolis, USA

4:35 PM - 4:50 PM Concluding Session 24

Title: Inclusive Education in the Twenty-first Century and Plan of

Action from this Conference

Speaker: Dr. Stanzin Dawa, PhD, Principal, Lamdon Higher Secondary School, Leh, Ladakh, and Senior Leadership Team Member, High School Leadership Program, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation for Education and Health

4:50 PM - 4:57 PM Vote of Appreciation

Satish Tripathi, PhD, MPH, Founder/Global President, Ek Kadam Aur

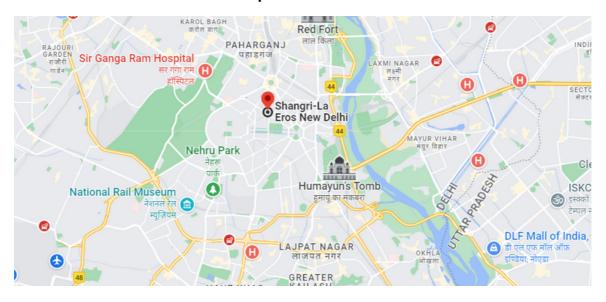
Foundation

4:57 PM - 5:00 PM Vande Mataram

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation Staff, Volunteers, and Delegates

5:00 PM Conference Adjourns

Map to The Hotel:





		Hotels for Guests		
INR 2,000-3,000 (Low Range)				
S. No.	Name	Location	Distance	
1	Ajanta Hotel	36, Arakashan Road, Ram Nagar, Diagonally Opposite to Church, New Delhi, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi and NCR, India, 110055	3.3 km (13 Minutes)	
2	Hotel City Empire Dx	Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi and NCR, India, 110055	3.1 km (13 Minutes)	
		INR 3,000-6,000 (Medium Range)		
S. No.	Name	Location	Distance	
1	Hotel Bright	M – 85, Connaught Circus, Opp. Super Bazar, Central Delhi, New Delhi and NCR, India, 110001	2.6 km (8 Minutes)	
2	Bloom Rooms @ New Delhi	8591, Arakashan Road, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi and NCR, India, 110055 -	3.1 km (12 Minutes)	
		INR 6,000+ (High Range)		
S. No.	Name	Location	Distance	
1	The Hans Hotel	15 Barakhamba Road, Central Delhi, New Delhi and NCR, India	1.5 Km (4 Minutes)	
2	Connaught Royale Delhi	106 Babar Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Central Delhi, New Delhi and NCR, India, 110001	2.5 Km (6 Minutes)	
3	Hotel Diplomat	9,Sardar Patel Marg, Chanakyapuri, Central Delhi, New Delhi and NCR, India, 110021	5.6 Km (11 Minutes)	
Discl	aimer: Hotel info	rmation is taken from internet. There is no contract between Aur Foundation and these hotels.	en Ek Kadam	

Our Media Partner:

TYC Communication

Our Knowledge Partners:



