



▲
'Udat Abeel Gulal' -
Spreading the message
of VFI through the
vibrant colours of Holi



▲
Dr. Kulin Kothari &
his team at VFI's first
global event in Dubai



▲
'Soulful Symphony' -
Music for the Soul,
Soul for a Cause

Major Campaigns Dominate March, VFI Goes Global

VFI hosted 3 fundraiser events in the month of March, including its first ever international fundraiser held in Dubai. The underlying theme of each event was **'Connect-Contribute-Collaborate'** to eradicate preventable blindness from India which directly impacts the socio-economic development of the nation. In all three campaigns, this message was also driven home through an impactful audio-visual called 'The Blind Truth', which can now be viewed on our social media pages.

VFI sponsored a concert called **'Udat Abeel Gulal'** on 11th March in Mumbai. Celebrating the festival of colours, Holi, this event was conceptualised by well-known santoor exponent Snehal Muzoomdar in association with cultural groups Amruta and Udayan, supported by Janmabhoomi publications. The santoor and saraswati veena, in tandem with Kathak and Odissi nrityas, created a beautiful "jugalbandhi" of classical music and dance.

On 16th March VFI held its signature fund raising programme **'Soulful Symphony'**, sponsored solely by GIRNAR. This event was attended by many distinguished guests from various domains of society,

who lent their support to the cause promoted by VFI. The innovative harmonies played by raga pianist Deepak Shah and his orchestra created a mellifluous environment at the Nehru Centre, Mumbai.

In his speech at the event, Chief Guest Mr. Ajay Piramal advocated that by donating as small an amount as Rs 1500, we can help in changing someone's fate - we can help a person see. Mr. Deepak Parekh shared his experiences of visiting Sunday camps held by VFI where all patients are treated selflessly - from basic check-up to complete cure of the condition. Both the speakers acknowledged the dedication and hard work of Dr. Kulin Kothari and his team for relentlessly working towards eliminating blindness from India.

The last event for the month of March, but a first for VFI, was an **international fund raising campaign held in Dubai** on 19th March 2017. Augmented with data and his immense first-hand experience, Dr. Kulin Kothari captivated the audience with an informative speech that explained the grave situation of blindness in India. His speech and the entire programme were very well received and appreciated by the audience in Dubai.

"New Projects - Finer Vision" sets the tone for the 4th Trustees & Advisory Board Meeting

Mr. Deepak Parekh, Chairman HDFC graciously hosted the 4th Trustees and Advisory Board Meeting of VFI at HDFC House, Churchgate. Held on 15th April 2017, this meeting was attended by 9 Advisory Board Members, 5 Trustees and 5 other guests of VFI. Dr. Kulin Kothari spoke at length of plans to introduce three new projects under the VFI umbrella - (i) Eye Care for Mumbai Slum-Dwellers (ii) National Diabetic Retinopathy Project (iii) Dining in the Dark.

The Pilot for '**Eye Care for Mumbai Slum-Dwellers**' will be conducted with assistance from Mr. A. N. Roy, ex-DGP Maharashtra and Dr. Jockin Arputham, President of National Slum Dwellers Federation. Slums covering Shivaji Nagar and Mankhurd, and suburbs in the Harbour Line of Mumbai will be among the first to be covered under this project.

India is currently rated one of the three countries with the highest diabetic population. The '**National Diabetic Retinopathy Project**' will be launched for the early detection and treatment of vision related issues in diabetic patients. For timely diagnosis, the distribution of 50 special portable 'fundus' cameras to the associate hospitals of VFI is recommended. Excellent team resources are being pooled towards making this project successful.

Imagine walking into a pitch black restaurant with only darkness around you. You are escorted to your table with a helping hand and are served by visually challenged persons. This is the concept behind the '**Dining in the Dark**' project. Currently still in its nascent stage, VFI is hopeful to bring this idea to fruition soon in Mumbai.

In addition, Dr. Kothari discussed the status of '**Project Rashtriya Netra Yagna**', the main highlight being the ambition to treat 1 lac cases in 2017-18 against 40,015 cases that were treated in 2016-17. VFI is confident of reaching a minimum of 65,000 cases in 2017-18 under this project. He also gave a brief introduction to various quality assurance processes followed by VFI.

▼ Great minds think alike
(L-R) Mr. Piyush Pandey,
Mr. A. N. Roy, Mr. Ravi Kant,
Dr. Kulin Kothari



► Erudite Visionaries of VFI
(L-R) Dr. Kulin Kothari with
Dr. Ashok Ganguly, Mr. Deepak Parekh,
Dr. R. A. Mashelkar



▲ Engaging moment captured on camera

(L-R) Mr. Nihchal Israni, Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, Mr. Deepak Parekh, Mr. Navin Dave, Dr. Kulin Kothari



Esteemed Guests at 'Soulful Symphony'

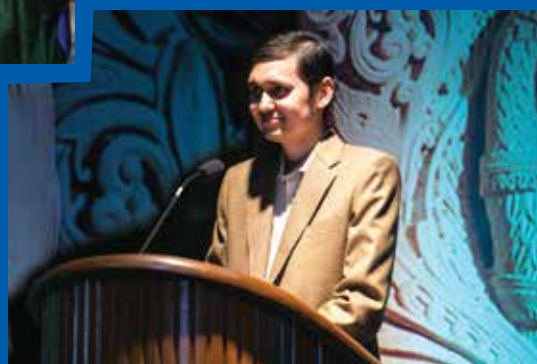
▲ Mr. Ajay Piramal taking the audience through the turmoils in a blind person's life



▲ Luminaries added to the brilliance of the evening (L-R) Mr. Deepak Parekh, Mr. Ajay Piramal, Dr. Kulin Kothari, Dr. Ashok Ganguly, Mrs. Swati Piramal, Mrs. Minaxi Kothari, Mr. Askaran Agarwal



▲ Pledging their support to the cause (L-R) Mr. Samir Agarwal, Dr Kulin Kothari, Mrs. Hema Deora, Mr. Milind Deora, Mrs Pooja Shetty Deora



▲ Dr. Saumil Kothari concluded the event with a vote of thanks



◀ Mr. & Mrs. Ramadorai lent their august presence to the event

Generous Donation



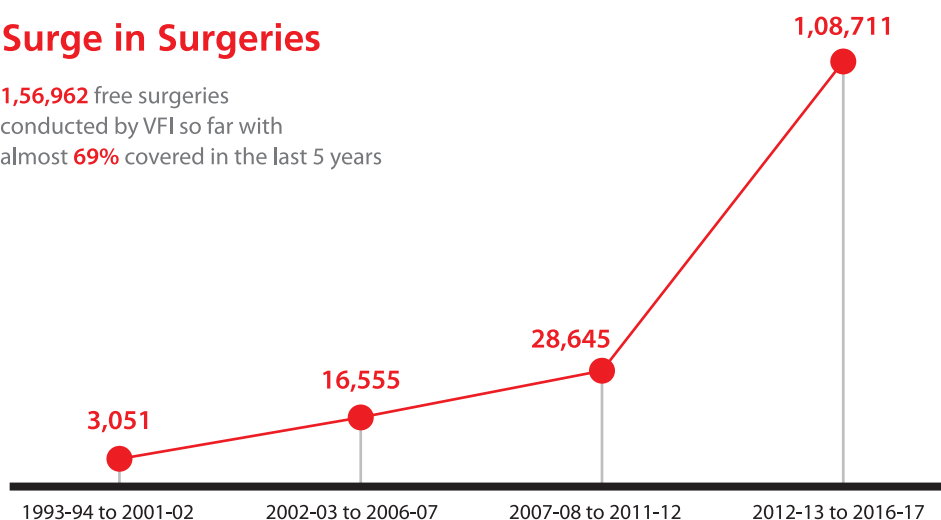
VFI says **thank you to the Gaya family** for their generous donation towards an eye examination room.

With this donation, VFI gets one step closer to their vision - to transform lives by giving needy blind persons the gift of sight and to become a leading force in the fight against preventable blindness in India.

Surge in Surgeries



1,56,962 free surgeries conducted by VFI so far with almost **69%** covered in the last 5 years



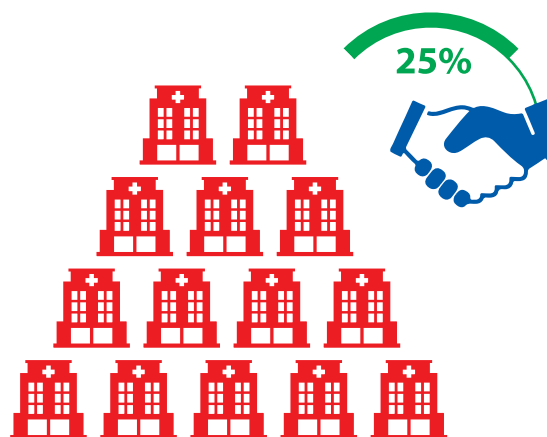
25% Growth in Hospital Associations in 2016-17

Since its inception in 1993, VFI has made inroads into various states of India by associating with many local hospitals. These partnerships widen the reach of VFI to serve even the remotest parts of India.

The financial year 2016-17 has been a landmark year in terms of an increase in the hospital association drive of VFI.

Total hospital associations as of date stand at 56.

Another achievement in this area has been our entry into **Chattisgarh** by partnering with MGM Eye Hospital. **VFI now has its presence in 20 States of India.** Almost 50% of its current associations are in the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra, indicating many unseen and long roads ahead to meet VFI's aim.



14 new hospitals added to the VFI partnership, due to which it witnessed **54%** increase in treatments



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