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From the Chairman's Desk

The ending of the fiscal year is always determinant of the many commitments which we ought to meet.
Hence, these are also the months when everyone in the hospital stays on their toes to deliver best. Despite of the many challenges and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic we were able to reach the bench mark of 17300+ surgeries in the year 2019-2020. In this global emergency who would have thought that a viral contingency would cause a global lock down and not war. These are greater times to self-analyze, contemplate and grow as better humans. These are also the times we together stood up to support the government efforts coping up with the COVID-19 preparedness in the region providing them with our Unit II hospital. Our Doctors are keeping abreast providing emergency eye care services and online/tele free Ophthalmic consultation to our end stakeholders. I think the visit of First International Vice President Lion Douglas Alexander in February where he mentioned his reason for being a proud Lion because of the selfless service we together offer are the very emotions we are fighting for today. I hope we come out of this national emergency soonest possible and set new bench marks in the year to come. Hope, you enjoy reading this!

Lion P. C. Maskara

“Punar Jyoti” A Gift Of Vision

We found 66 years old Gurucharan Kewat’s struggle for vision worth sharing. Hailing from Katihar Kewat ji’s livelihood depends on Bamboo harvest and later cutting them into different sizes for sale. Eight years ago during one such occasion, while cutting Bamboo a sharp wood resin suspended with force and impregnated his left eye. Least concerned, and uninformed he went on rubbing his eye from outside without resorting to any medical aid. This resulted in the puncturing of his cornea and subsequent loss of his vision.

Now, alarmed and devastated by his eye condition, with a distressed wife he rushed to all the major eye hospitals in the region including in Nepal and other districts of Bihar where he was refused treatment calling the ailment untreatable. He explains all that is earned he was putting into travelling to find treatment for his eye. At Nepal after much await he underwent a Cornea reconstruction surgery and retained partial vision when again ignorance hit him hard. Relaxed, blinded by faith and keeping safety aside during Kumbh Mela Gurucharan ji risked taking dips in the Ganges with an already healing surgical eye condition which exposed it to further infection.

The resulting infection deteriorated and took away not only his vision but made any reconstruction surgery impossible. Being denied from Nepal, now Gurucharan ji was left without any hope when his Ophthalmologist at Katihar asked him to visit Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital for a last opinion. Here, at the hospital, our Cornea Surgeon Dr Rajiv Kumar heard him very carefully and after thorough diagnostic test assured him recovery of vision. And Gurucharan ji went through advanced Cornea Transplant surgery.

With strict monitoring and care of the hospital today he is back to his life smiling with a 6/9 vision. In his own words he says "Humko Bahut Umang Hai, Hamari Roshni Chali Aayi Hai" My excitement for life has returned, that my vision is back. And we learned that often, it is not lack of resources or economic deprivation but ignorance that has cost people their health, life and importantly vision. But, above all despite of your own ignorance it is your own fight against it that leads you to awareness.
The COVID 19 Pandemic
An Immediate Emergency Response

The hospital along with all its staff expresses deep concern towards the increasing spread of the COVID 19 pandemic which has now slowly stepped into North Bengal. As an early measure we issued awareness creation protocol including flagging of Standee informing Corona Virus Symptoms and Precautions to be taken. The hospital also started distributing information leaflets as an early preventive action including promoting patients to avoid routine check-up and entry of patients only on the basis of emergency.

To make this process easier and informed to the patients and other stakeholders, the hospital conducted a region wide social media campaign, and direct distribution of information leaflet on COVID 19 Pandemic to all its stakeholders.

Precautionary Measures At The Hospital

To stay abreast of the government measures to check the spread of the infection, as a responsible eye care provider the hospital immediately included the health care and housekeeping staff in the process. All the staff were inducted to the preventive measures and a strict cleanliness protocol was maintained. All the Clinical staff including Doctors were asked to wear Globs and Masks while any kind of engagement with the patients. Patients were encouraged to stay home while all emergency patients were provided detailed treatment.

#REACHINGWHERE THERE IS NEED
**Issuing Of Emergency WhatsApp Consultation Numbers**

As the emergency lockdown was implemented by the Centre, endorsed by the State to prevent the spread of COVID 19, supporting the government's measures, the hospital encouraged all its stakeholders to self-isolate and issued emergency WhatsApp consultation numbers to attend to patient ophthalmic needs until lockdown continues. Patient are provided with thorough online counselling and over phone, while emergency patients are being asked to visit the hospital where they are attended by our emergency on duty staff and Doctor.

**Extending Support During The National Crisis
Strengthening the State Government Systems**

As this ongoing national emergency ensued we were the first non-government institution to offer our immediate support to the State Government helping the government coping up with the infrastructural need to provide necessary isolation/ quarantine centre support which has been accepted.

The regional Isolation Centre has been created with support from the State Government at Siliguri Greater Lions Shri VidyaSagar Oswal Eye Hospital ready to function as an isolation centre support towards the people of the region.

**Winning The Battle Against Hunger
The Lions Club Of Siliguri Greater Jan Aahaar Project**

North Bengal being a region where most of its population stills depends on day labor and ongoing everyday market employment, with the state wide lock down and resulting unemployment ensuing economic melt down and hunger has become a growing challenge. Abiding to the government commitment to implement the same to regularize social distancing our parent Trust body Lions Club Of Siliguri Greater took its Jan Ahaar project to every home to meet the growing need for food supply to this needy population for 21 days.

Maintaining the continuity of Jan Ahaar Project Lions Club of Siliguri Greater, have started to provide Rice bag with Dal weighing 3 kg + to people in need during the entire lock down period. The Trust would distribute 10,000+ bags @1,000 bags per day with support from the District Administration.

Through cumulative community efforts the trust has provided food support at Mahavir Gram, Bhandibari panchayat, to the needy people of Sikarpur Belt, Siliguri Ward 2, SJDA, Siliguri Municipality, various wards of Siliguri, rural set-ups of Rajganj block and other urban pockets which are also stations for migrants working population.

#BATTLINGHUNGERBATTLINGCOVID-19
Creating Synergies With The Government
Visit Of Hon'ble MP, Jalpaiguri Dr. Jayanta Kumar

On March 15th visited the Hon’ble Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy at our Unit 2, Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital Shri Vidyasagar Oswal Eye Hospital, Kartoal.

He was received at the hospital by Chairman Lion P. C Maskara, Vice Chairman Lion Rajesh Agarwal, Club President Lion Bharat Changia along with Past International Director Lion G. S Hora with other Lion dignitaries. Dr Rajesh Saini CEO took the Honourable MP on a hospital tour explaining him the key services and facilities that the hospital offers to its patients through a well-built infrastructure, skilled and dedicated health care staff bringing them from across North Bengal, Bihar, Bordering areas of Bangladesh and Nepal.

Visit Of Hon'ble MP, Darjeeling Shri Raju Bista

On February 24th, Member Of Parliament Lok Sabha from Darjeeling Shri Raju Bista visited our Unit 1 Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital. He was received by PID Lion Gurcharan Singh Hora, PDG Lion P. K Shah, Chairman Lion P. C Maskara, Club President Lion Bharat Changia with other visiting PDGs and Lion dignitaries.

After going through the hospital and hearing Dr Rajesh Saini, CEO informing on the work and projects of the hospital he insisted to also include the preventive eye care initiative in Outreach that may help the general populace prevent general eye ailments or respond earliest being aware of the early symptoms. He congratulated the efforts of the hospital towards the people of the region and ensured his continued support that may unfold in a new era of health care services for the people of the region.

Setting New Bench Marks In Lionism – Visit Of first International Vice President Lion Douglas Alexander

On February 22nd, the first International Vice President Lion Douglas Alexander from Brooklyn, visited our Unit 2 Siliguri Greater Lions Shri VidyaSagar Oswal Eye Hospital. Dr Rajesh Saini Chief Executive Officer walked him through the hospital explaining the model under which the hospital works. Mesmerized with scale of service dissemination and patients who were receiving treatment he wrote "I am so impressed with the work that is being done to help those in need of care. Its when I see service of this level, it makes me proud to be a Lion. WE SERVE". He was accompanied with PID Lion Sangita Jatia and PID Lion A. P Singh.

He was received by Chairman of the Hospital Lion P. C Maskara, PID Lion G. S Hora, and PDG Lion P. K Shah along with Executive Chairman Lion Rajesh Agarwal, and Lion Binayamrit Mundra. During the occasion, he was also given the Club Brooch for completion of 40 years of service by Club President Bharat Changia and Secretary Lion Ashish Paul. The occasion was also visited by the all the past Chairmans of the hospital including Lion Praveen Jhawar, Lion Suresh Sinhal, Lion P.L Kedia, & Lion Ramesh Agarwal and others.
Opening Of Greater Lions Vision Centre at B.D Jain Lions Eye Hospital, Cooch Behar

The hospital partnered with B.D Jain Lions Eye Hospital to inaugurate the first primary eye care Vision Center in Cooch Behar, at Khagrabari. The Vision Centre has been opened with support from Lions Club of Cooch Behar and it is at the premise of the B.D Jain Lions Eye Hospital in Cooch Behar where the OPD services has been initiated with the setup of this primary eye screening centre. This is the first Primary eye care centre in Cooch Behar which would now cater to the surrounding populations in a radius of 10 km to ensure earlier interception and treatment to prevent avoidable blindness probability in the region. The hospital project was made possible because of the visionary leader, Chartered member PDG Lion S.C Jain of Cooch Behar.

The Vision Centre was formally inaugurated on March 4th, 2020 by the auspicious hands of the Chief Guest Deputy Inspector General of BSF, Cooch Behar Viresh K Singh, with Guest of honour Minister of North Bengal Development Shri Rabindra Nath Ghosh, Jila Vyavsayi Samiti President Shri Narayan Modak along with Lions Club of Siliguri Greater President Lion Bharat Changia, Executive Chairman Lion Binayamrit Mundra and Chief Executive Officer of the hospital Dr Rajesh Saini. During the occasion both the visiting guests also went through the eye screening process at the centre. Joining with the spirit of the event CEO, SGLEH Dr Rajesh Saini promised support from the hospital and explained the model of a primary eye care centre to the visiting audience including the free services that the people of Cooch Behar could avail through the centre. With a minimum OPD fee every visitor who would come for screening if diagnosed would be provided with spectacle and in case of surgical intervention would be referred to the base hospital at Siliguri until B.D Lions Eye Hospital is fully functional. Every patient who is coming from economically limited family would be provided free treatment.

Declaration Of 6 Villages At Mirik And Ghoom Block As Avoidable Blindness Free

It is one of the primary objectives of the hospital is to create a conducive social environment, an awareness that may facilitate early access to eye treatment; spaces that encourage participatory behaviour within the community to help access treatment.

As a protagonist who advocates for avoidable blindness free region, we with support from Operation Eye Sight Universal from February 12th to 23rd declared 6 villages avoidable blindness free. Through thorough on-ground engagement processes, door-to-door awareness drive and intercepting early symptoms of blindness, including providing the early intercepted with free consultation and surgery we declared with support from the local government functionaries 3 villages of Bangla Dhara, Lami and Minju from Ghoom, and 4th Village, 9th Mile and Nandu Lal Gaon in Mirik avoidable blindness free.

The occasion was honoured in the presence of Village President, ASHA, ICDS, beneficiaries of the hospital and villagers who supported and made the project possible.

#CREATINGEYECAREACCESSIBLESPACES
Annual Exhibition
Illustrating Theory Through Practical Models

On January 18th, the annual exhibition was held by the Training Department. This year the theme of the exhibition at the hospital was Environment awareness. Keeping up to the theme each student contributed their best through working models in small groups. The Chief guest of the programme was Medical Officer BSF Dr Himadri Biswas.

Someone exhibited the Fire at Australia and the Amazon, someone showed the effect of pollution on North and South Pole due to increasing global warming. All catering to how what is happening at the global environmental level would lead to the end of everything that we visually wonder and praise. This included the exceptional working models on eye and the structure of the eye, with a working handhold fundus camera by the very students of the hospital training institute who also decorated the role of an Optometrist through an exhibit.

Let’s Defeat COVID-19 Together
STAY HOME! STAY SAFE

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