



Darjeeling, 30 Jun, 2018

TRANSLATION:**SLIT LAMP MACHINE INSTALLED****LIONS VISION CENTRE OPENED AT HAYDEN HALL**

Darjeeling, 30 June: Eye patients seeking general check-ups will no longer need to travel to Siliguri for basic eye care services. With the support of the Lions Club of Siliguri and Lions Netralaya, a new Lions Vision Centre was officially inaugurated today at Hayden Hall Institute along with the installation of a modern slit lamp machine.

The Vision Centre was formally inaugurated by Lions Club President Sitaram Agrawal and Municipality Chairperson Pratibha Rai. On the occasion, ophthalmologist Dr. Kritima Gurung also demonstrated the slit lamp machine with the assistance of a Hayden Hall member.

As a continuation of the 30-year partnership between the Lions Club and Hayden Hall, the monthly free eye check-up camp held on the second Friday of every month will continue. In addition, the Vision Centre will now remain open every Thursday to provide regular eye care services to the community.

The inauguration programme was attended by former Lions Club and Lions Netralaya President Pannalal Agrawal, Suresh Kumar Garg, Club Administrator Bindi Chhetri, and Dr. Kritima Gurung, among others.

Speaking at the event, Municipality Chairperson Pratibha Rai appreciated the long-standing collaboration between the Lions Club and Hayden Hall and emphasized the importance of promoting this initiative widely so that the benefits and facilities reach the grassroots level.

Dr. Kritima Gurung and Hayden Hall In-charge Radha Karki also addressed the gathering. Dr. Gurung highlighted that due to a lack of awareness and timely treatment, many eye patients in the hills suffer vision loss from treatable conditions such as cataracts. She stated that the Vision Centre was established jointly by the Lions Club and Hayden Hall to provide accessible eye care facilities within the hills themselves.

According to Dr. Gurung, except for severe cases, most common eye diseases can now be treated directly at the Vision Centre, while patients requiring advanced care will be referred to Lions Netralaya for specialized treatment.

Hayden Hall In-charge Radha Karki informed that Hayden Hall and the Lions Club have been jointly organizing free eye check-up and treatment programmes for the past 30 years. Over the last four years alone, more than 3,000 eye patients have undergone examinations and over 4,000 cataract surgeries have been successfully conducted.

She further added that compared to earlier times, modern technological equipment has greatly improved eye diagnosis and treatment services. With the support of the Lions Club, equipment worth more than ₹2 lakh has now been installed at the centre, enabling the people of the hills to benefit from quality and accessible eye care services locally.