



## **King George's Medical University, Lucknow Promotes Eye Donation Fortnight and Eye Donation to Eliminate Corneal Blindness**

*~With 2 lakh people waiting for cornea transplants, we need community awareness to increase eye donation. Cornea donation is only the top layer of the eye, not the whole eye. And by dialing 6390-826-826 to report deaths to eye bank 24x7, you can give sight to two blind persons~*

**Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (25<sup>th</sup> August, 2018) – King George Medical University (KGMU)** held a community awareness event to recognize the annual Eye Donation Fortnight. Chief guest included Shri Sul Khan Singh, Former Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh. King George's Medical University and Prof MLB Bhatt hosted the event.

The KGMU UP Community Eye Bank, which is operated by the global not-for-profit organization, SightLife, and funded by The Hans Foundation, is located inside the trauma centre at KGMU. Aided by the highly trained and dedicated 24x7 staff, the Community Eye Bank has advanced microscope technology for precise determination of cornea suitability. The facility is integrated with the helpline number 6390-826-826 which connects all the enquiries directly to the community eye bank. Leaders request families report all deaths to the eye bank 24x7 so they can discuss eye donation with an eye bank coordinator.

Eye bank has performed 815 restoring transplant surgeries since inception in Dec 2016. Eye bank has established Hospital Cornea Retrieval program in King George's Medical University and in discussion with other medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh. Currently eye bank team reaches to Lucknow, Sitapur, Raebareli, Barabanki & Lakhimpur districts for retrieval.

*"Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in India, with two-thirds the population of the U.S.," explained Atul Kapoor, Vice President of Asia, Global Programs for SightLife. "The U.S. performed almost 50,000 transplants last year, whereas in UP only 1100 cornea transplants were done. The cornea is only the top layer of the eye – not the entire eye and can help cure blindness for a person waiting in blindness. Simply report all deaths to the eye bank by dialing 6390-826-826 24x7".*

*"With increased awareness and community support, we can remove corneal blindness in our state" states Dr. Arun K. Sharma, Associate Professor of KGMU, Ophthalmology Department and KGMU UP Community Eye Bank Medical Director. "Join us in this great endeavor of eliminating corneal blindness."*

**Attendees at the fortnight event included Shri Sul Khan Singh, Former Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh. Prof MLB Bhatt, KGMU Vice Chancellor. Dr. Vinita Singh, KGMU Ophthalmology HOD. Mr. Atul Kapoor, SightLife Vice President of Asia. Dr. Madhu Bhaduria, CMO, Sitapur Eye Hospital. Dr. Poonam Kishore, Professor Cornea Unit. Dr. Arun K. Sharma, KGMU Associate Professor and Eye Bank Medical Director.**



### **About SightLife**

Founded in 1969 and based in Seattle, SightLife is the only global health organization working relentlessly to eliminate corneal blindness worldwide by 2040. With partners across Asia, Africa and Latin America, SightLife is focused on preventing new cases of corneal blindness and treating existing cases with corneal transplants. Sight restoration has a profound impact on recipients, their families and communities—no one should have to wait to experience the joy and possibilities that vision brings.

### **About KGMU**

King George's medical University, for a while known as Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj Medical University, is a medical school located in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India. It came into being after the upgrade of King George's Medical College (established in 1911) into a university act passed by government of Uttar Pradesh on 16 September 2002. Located in Lucknow, it serves the over 2 million people of the city and Prof. Ravi Kant serves as Vice Chancellor.

### **About The Hans Foundation**

The Hans Foundation (THF) is a charitable trust fund created to provide a source of endowment of funds for nonprofit organizations in India. THF is committed to strengthening India by addressing the areas of health care, education, and disability. It holds a powerful vision of India where human suffering is alleviated and a strong foundation for the future is built.

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