

For Immediate Release

Operation Eyesight Universal and C. L. Gupta Eye Institute aim to diagnose and treat Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) to prevent blindness in premature infants in Moradabad and five area districts

Sunday, November 17 is World Prematurity Day: The Retinopathy of Prematurity Project, a partnership between Operation Eyesight Universal and C. L. Gupta Eye Institute, has prevented blindness in 50 premature infants through early screening and treatment

Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, India, November 15, 2024: Operation Eyesight Universal and C.L. Gupta Eye Institute are working to prevent blindness in premature infants through early screening, diagnosis and treatment of Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) in Moradabad District and the surrounding districts of Sambhal, Bijnor, Amroha, Rampur and Baduan. ROP impacts premature infants and is the primary cause of childhood blindness in infants under 34 weeks (8 months) old.

- Preterm birth is a global issue. An estimated 13.5 million babies around the world, or 1 in 10, were preterm in 2020, according to the World Health Organization.
- In India, data from [The Lancet](#) states three million premature babies were born in 2020.
- Premature infants are at high risk for ROP and urgent screening, diagnosis and treatment can prevent blindness.

To address ROP in premature infants, Operation Eyesight Universal and C. L. Gupta Eye Institute partnered to launch the Retinopathy of Prematurity Project in September 2020. The project initially served Moradabad District. The model is based on outreach, sending optometrists to screen premature infants for ROP regularly at 40 local neo-natal intensive care units (NICUs). Infants with ROP are referred to C. L. Gupta Eye Institute for urgent treatment.

Dr. Ashi Khurana, Vice Chairman, C.L Gupta Eye Institute, says “ROP is a modern condition that is on the rise as more premature infants survive, due to an increased number of NICUs. As we look at their lives, we need to raise awareness of ROP, which can have a huge impact on children and their families. ROP-caused blindness can be prevented with screening and treatment that leaves kids good to go. We are raising awareness of ROP among communities, families and medical professionals, including doctors, nurses and NICU staff.”

Kashinath Bhoosnurmath, President and CEO of Operation Eyesight Universal says “no child should needlessly go blind from ROP due to lack of screening or access to treatment, no matter where they live. We are working with our partner C. L. Gupta Eye Institute to scale services to make this a reality in Moradabad and the surrounding areas. Children deserve access to eye health care when and where they need it so they can thrive.”

Retinopathy of Prematurity Project: Phase One prevented blindness in 50 infants; Phase Two, launched in July, expands service to five districts surrounding Moradabad

In the initial phase of the project, screening covered Moradabad District. More than 464 premature infants were screened, while treatment prevented blindness in 50 infants. Phase Two launched on July 16, 2024, expanding the project to five more districts: Sambhal, Bijnor, Amroha, Rampur and Baduan. Reaching these semi-urban areas takes place through:

- A mobile van with the required equipment, made possible through the Rotary Foundation, for onsite screening and treatment in rural and underserved areas.
- A piece of equipment (a tele-ophthalmology platform) that allows experts to provide remote consultations, diagnoses, and treatment recommendations.
- An expanded network of neo-natal intensive care units in the five new regions.
- Continued medical education to raise awareness of ROP, capacity and skills of NICU staff in the additional districts.

Jim Dawson of the [Canadian Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise in Simcoe, Ontario, Canada](#) says “We are pleased to be able to support this critical project to prevent blindness in premature babies. We greatly value the long-standing partnership with Operation Eyesight Universal which aligns with Rotary International's focus on disease prevention.”

While the project ends in December 2024, the services are sustainable. They will be maintained by the C. L. Gupta Eye Institute in partnership with local NICUs.

Learn more about beneficiaries and the impact of the project in these stories and video:

- Baby Aarsh: [This little one has a big future ahead - Operation Eyesight](#)
- Twin sisters: [Double victory: Twin sisters overcome Retinopathy of Prematurity](#)
- **Video:** [Born too Soon: Retinopathy of Prematurity Project - Moradabad, India - YouTube](#)

About Operation Eyesight Universal [Operation Eyesight Universal](#)

Operation Eyesight Universal is an international development organization and registered charity working to prevent blindness and restore sight. Founded in Calgary, Alberta, Canada in 1963, Operation Eyesight is a global community spanning four continents – South Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. Its vision is global and the focus local, with teams on the ground in communities of work. Through activities like community outreach, water and sanitation projects, and health education, Operation Eyesight addresses the root causes of avoidable vision loss which contribute to six United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: no poverty, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, and partnerships for the goals.

About C. L. Gupta Eye Institute [About CL Gupta Eye Institute](#)



C. L. Gupta Eye Institute, a unit of C. L. Gupta Charitable Foundation, is a Tertiary Eye Care Centre equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic and surgical equipment, specializing in treating various eye problems. The main aim of the institute is to provide the same quality of treatment and patient care to all sections of society irrespective of their socio-economic status.

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