

THE Delhi delegation: John Walker (centre) is made welcome by the chief minister of Delhi, Sahib Singh Verma. Also pictured are Dr Gupta, Dr Harry Bennett, nurse Danny Chundoo and members of Delhi Rotary Club.



Operation India a great success

A GRUELLING 10-day mission to treat cataract victims in Delhi has been hailed a great success by an Inverclyde mercy team.

Eye doctors Sadhu Gupta and Harry Bennett — along with Ravenscraig nurse Danny Chundoo and Rotarian John Walker — returned from the whistle-stop trip after performing 104 operations and seeing another 71 out-patients.

Individuals and organisations in Inverclyde helped donate £10,000 worth of cash and materials to make the trip possible.

Dr Gupta, an ophthalmologist



By **BARRY
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at Inverclyde Royal Hospital, said: "We were delighted with the success of the trip.

"The local hospital staff were extremely supportive and very dedicated.

"Harry and I were exhausted when we got home. It would have been helpful if we had a third doctor, so that there were two of us

performing the operations and one consulting with patients."

But despite the fatigue caused by the stifling heat, Dr Gupta believes it was the most successful of his three medical missions to the Third World.

He is determined to embark on another expedition next year — with a return to the same Delhi hospital a possibility.

Although the main purpose of the visit was to treat the poorest cataract sufferers in the Indian capital, diplomacy was also on the agenda.

Mr Walker presented a plaque from Provost Cathie Allan to the Chief Minister of Delhi, Sahib Singh Verma at a welcoming ceremony attended by more than 200 people.

He said: "The plaque is now hanging in the chief minister's office and that's a permanent reminder of Inverclyde. We now hope the two areas will build upon that friendship."

A slide-show of the trip will be held in St Luke's Church, Greenock, although a date has yet to be fixed.