



Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

Caring for the community since 1922...



50th

EDITION

NEWSLETTER

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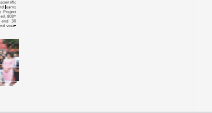
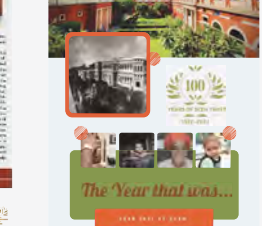
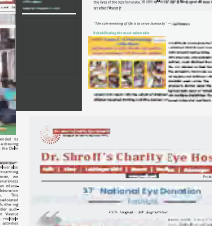
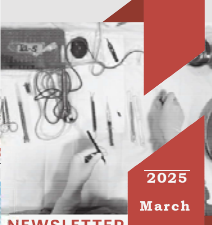
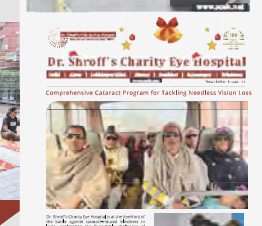
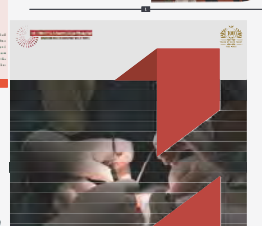
Stuart Robertson

NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER

Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

Doctors' Day celebration



SCEH Eye Bank - 20 Years of Committed Eye Banking Eye-Banking special

Editorial

Contributed by
Dr Manisha Acharya
Rakhi Nathawat

The Eye Donation Fortnight in India is celebrated every year from August 25th to September 8th to raise awareness about eye donation and encourage pledges for corneal donation. This two-week campaign was established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and aims to dispel myths surrounding eye donation and promote the noble cause of restoring sight to those with corneal blindness. The theme for India's 40th National Eye Donation Fortnight was **"Everyday Heroes"**. This theme aimed to recognize the selfless contribution of

donors and their families, as well as the crucial roles of eye bankers and corneal surgeons in restoring sight and closing the gap between cornea demand and supply.

At SCEH, we organised a myriad of activities to participate and spread awareness regarding eye donation with informative talks within the SCEH network and in partner hospitals.

Talking about everyday heroes in eye-banking, we interviewed one of our own....



"Simba, let me tell you something my father told me. The great kings of the past look down on us from those stars ... So whenever you feel alone, just remember that those kings will always be there to guide you. And so will I"
- Mufasa, *The Lion King*

Humans of SCEH

Roshan Singh
Eye Donation counsellor
cum Technician

I started working in SCEH in the year 2019, but my roots have been connected to SCEH for over five decades. And I can't tell my story without telling about my father whose sacrifice changed the course of my entire life. So here goes...

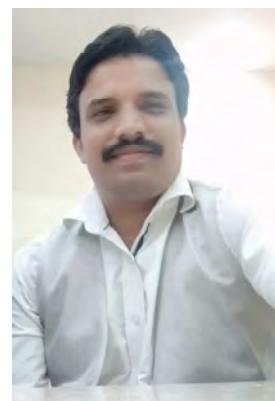
My grandfather, Sunder Lal Singh, worked in the Shimla residence of Dr SP Shroff. He brought my grandfather to Delhi in 1960 and with him his entire family. He made him the night watchman on the SCEH campus and gave him an accommodation in the premises itself. When my grandfather expired in 1977, my father, Jagat Singh, was only a teenager. But being the eldest in his siblings, the responsibility of supporting the family fell on him. With no formal education and no work experience, he decided to ask Dr SP Shroff for help. Hesitant to directly go and meet him, my father parked himself at the hospital gate, each time Dr SP Shroff's car left campus. Eventually, they spoke and my father was too employed as a night watchman at SCEH. Over the years, he worked as a watchman, in the operating room, in the emergency, in various capacities.



Jagat Singh ji as a toddler with his parents, when they first arrived in Delhi

With the salary from these odd jobs, he got his sisters married, supported his mother and siblings and raised his entire family. In 2004, when the SCEH was setting up the eye bank, my father was sent for training in eye-banking to LVPEI and that began a new chapter in his life and mine. In the first year of eye-banking in 2005,

when only five tissues were retrieved, to over 2000 per year now, I have witnessed the entire journey of my father. The job he got as a matter of chance, turned out to be his dream job. He dedicated himself to the work 24x7. Be it a family function or sickness, his first priority would be work. Eye-banking was like his child, who he nurtured just how he nurtured us.



He used to insist I attend calls with him, and used to explain in depth about each instrument, even when I didn't show interest. Today, when he isn't there, I realise the importance of those teaching lessons...he wanted to pass on the skills that he had acquired. I started my own journey as an eye bank counsellor in 2010 but only got a chance to join SCEH in 2019. While my family resides in Delhi, I work out of Vrindavan, because that is what I needed to develop. That is what I needed to do to respect the legacy of my father. For him, eye-banking was beyond family, and today, I want to make my father proud. Even in his absence, I feel a strong connect with him through our work. And when I step into SCEH, I feel I am somehow connected to his soul.

My story is more his story, because I am who I am, only because of him.



Patient Story

Contributed by
Dr Manisha Acharya
Rakhi Nathawat

Mrs. Manaki Devi, a 75 years old lady, resident of Banaras, Uttar Pradesh, was blind in one eye since childhood. However, with one good she was able to carry out her daily chores and raise a family. A few months back, she suddenly developed severe pain and diminution of vision in her seeing eye. Anxious and alarmed, she sought treatment in a nearby clinic, but despite treatment, her condition kept worsening. Another doctor then timely referred her to SCEH, understanding the gravity of the situation and need for surgical intervention.

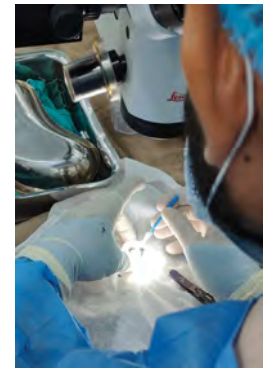
She reached us with an almost a 60% melt of the cornea due to infection. With one blind and another potentially blind eye, she was not independent

anymore. Her grand-daughter escorted her everywhere. She couldn't even fulfil her basic needs of bathing and getting dressed etc. She was gradually losing the will to live. At SCEH, she initially underwent salvage procedures while we waited for her infection to respond to medication. Even though she was responding, it wasn't fast enough and her mental status was deteriorating. She then underwent a keratoplasty to address both her infection and vision. A month later, she is now able to walk independently with a stick, and carry out her daily routine. While improvement in the vision is ongoing, her morale is now restored.

Just like Manaki Devi, there are many successful transplant stories. Yet, corneal blindness remains a major challenge—particularly in developing countries like India, where prevalence is high, intervention rates are low, and the burden continues to grow. The greatest challenge is the mismatch between demand and supply. Limited eye donations and the paucity of transplantable tissue remain the bottleneck.

The Role of Eye Banks

Eye Banks are not-for-profit organizations dedicated to donor cornea collection, evaluation, preservation, and distribution. Unlike organ donation, eye donation is cadaveric, relying on the consent of next of kin within a narrow timeframe after death. The Hospital Cornea Retrieval Programme (HCRP), coupled with voluntary donations, is today the most effective strategy to bridge this gap.

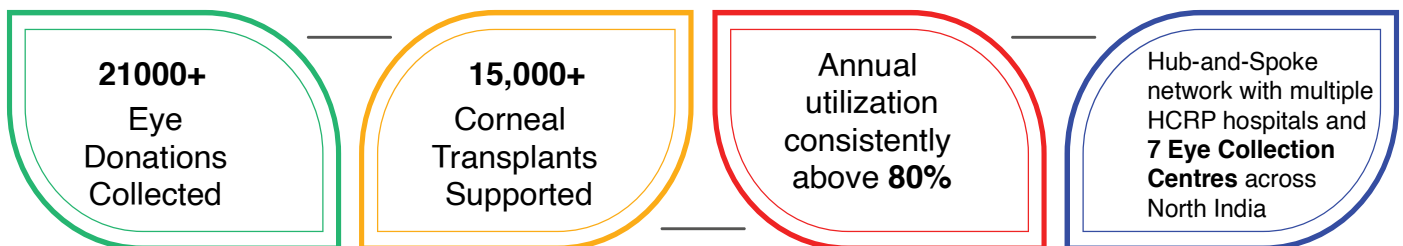


SCEH Eye Bank – Our Journey



Our eye banking journey at SCEH began in 2004 as an Eye Donation Centre with just one HCRP hospital on panel. In 2005, after government approval, we were registered as an Eye Bank. The very first retrieval was done by Sh. Jagat Singh and Sh. Badri Prasad. That year, our collection was just 28 corneas. Over two decades, we have grown into a state-of-the-art facility, moved into modern infrastructure in 2011–13, and become one of the top 5 Eye Banks in the country.

In the year 2024



Focus on Quality and Training



Quantity alone is not enough. Ensuring **quality of corneal tissue** is vital for surgical success. Recognizing this, SCEH Eye Bank has also established JS Eye Bank Training Academy in 2021 addressing the acute shortage of skilled professionals in eye banking. We have developed tailored training modules for counselling, retrieval, tissue evaluation, and coordination. Our trainees include participants not only from India but from Ethiopia, South Africa, Rwanda, Nepal.

"The Comprehensive eye banking course was indeed very comprehensive. The content was relevant and great. The sessions were intense and in small groups. Practical and realistic scenarios were discussed"

-Sandra Venter
onor Recovery and Awareness Manager
Bone SA: Vitanova Tissue Bank





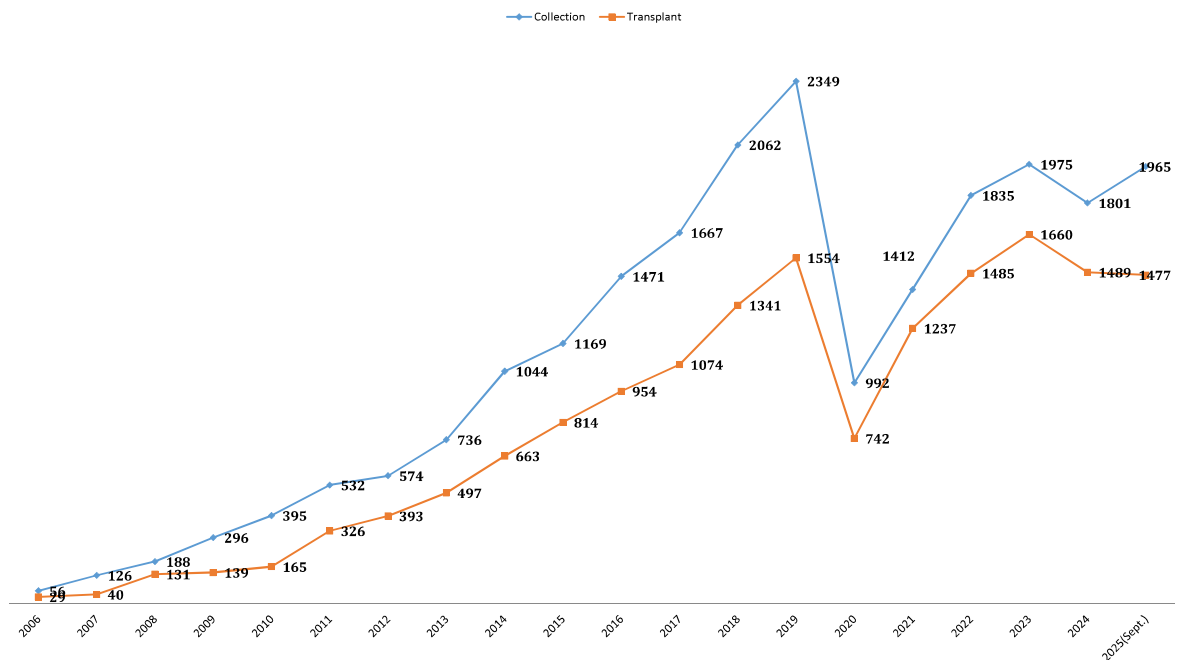
The prestigious *BMJ Award in 2016*, earning the distinguished title of
“Quality Team of the Year”
 The A. P. Shah Trophy for Best Eye Bank – North Zone in 2021

Collaborations

Over the last 20 years of our eye banking journey, we have been truly privileged to walk hand in hand with remarkable partners. The trust, and unwavering support of all these organisations have been instrumental in helping us restore sight and bring hope to thousands.



Our Journey so far



Looking Ahead



As we celebrate 20 years of SCEH Eye Bank, we reflect on how far we have come—from 28 corneas in our first year to becoming a national leader in eye banking. Yet, our work is unfinished. With innovation, partnerships, and community support, we will continue to bridge the gap between demand and supply, improve quality, and ultimately move closer to a world free of corneal blindness.

Contributed by
Dr Manisha Acharya
Ms. Rakhi Nathawat

Teleconsultation: Another life touched!

Miss Maya (name changed), a teenager from Mustafabad, New Delhi visited a nearby vision centre of ours with complaints of red mass protruding out of her left eye since early childhood days. As she grew older the swelling increased in size and was of great cosmetic concern to her and her family. Oculoplasty teleconsult was sought from the vision center and she was referred to SCEH Oculoplasty clinic where she was diagnosed as a case of low flow veno-lymphatic malformation after clinical examination and relevant imaging. She underwent a minimally invasive procedure of injection sclerotherapy and after two cycles of treatment the malformation had resolved completely, leaving behind the clear, white canvas of her conjunctiva. The transformation was more than physical. Maya's confidence, once shadowed, now shone brightly.



At her final follow-up, with her parents beaming beside her, Maya thanked the staff for the clinical success. It was a profoundly satisfying situation—not just the resolution of a swelling, but the restoration of a young woman's spirit, witnessed and celebrated by her loving family.

Contributed by
Dr. Khyati Roop and Dr. Namita Kumari



Dr Virender Singh Sangwan was conferred with the ISCKRS Masterclass oration award 2025.

Ms Rakhi Nathawat got elected as the Zonal Representative EBAI North Zone and will be part of the Executive Committee of Eye Bank Association of India for 2025-2028.



Orbis and Medical education department SCEH organised a Hands-On Glaucoma Training in Mongolia. This marked a significant milestone in SCEH's global outreach. Over five enriching days, the team conducted lectures, examined patients in OPD, and performed 15 advanced glaucoma surgeries—including tube implants, MIGS, and combined phaco trabeculectomies—while providing hands-on surgical training. Three glaucoma fellows were successfully certified, reflecting the impact of high-quality mentorship and capacity building.

Alongside the clinical program, SCEH's medical education department structure and best practices were showcased, fostering professional exchange with Mongolian doctors who had previously trained at SCEH. The visit culminated in an alumni meet, strengthening connections and sharing experiences across borders.

A team from DTU recently visited our premises to witness our systems and work. A partnership between SCEH and DTU, facilitated by the Koshika Foundation, is set to pave the way for a mutually beneficial relationship, with an MOU forthcoming.



“Eye care for all, regardless of ability to pay”

In a remarkable effort to combat childhood blindness and visual impairment, a **7-day Mega Camp** was successfully conducted in **Morena, Madhya Pradesh**. The camp was organized by Rotary medical mission in which SCEH team took part with a focus on serving underprivileged children. Held over the course of a week, the camp saw hundreds of children from low-income backgrounds screened for paediatric eye diseases, including conditions such as cataracts, squint, refractive errors, oculoplasty, cornea and other vision-threatening disorders.



This initiative provided free transportation for children from Morena to the hospital for evaluation and surgery. All surgeries were performed free of cost by experienced paediatric ophthalmologists at SCEH Vrindavan and SCEH Delhi. Following treatment, children were safely dropped back home, ensuring minimal disruption to their families. The camp aimed not only to provide sight-saving interventions but also to spread awareness among parents and local communities about the importance of early diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases in children.

The success of the camp is a testament to the power of collaboration between medical professionals, community workers, and local stakeholders—all coming together with one mission: to give every child the gift of sight.

“For many families, access to quality pediatric eye care is either unaffordable or simply unavailable. Through such outreach camps, we ensure that no child is left behind due to lack of resources”

- A representative from SCEH



August is SJS awareness month, and to create awareness regarding this rare but devastating disease, SCEH organised free OPD evaluation and free diagnostic testing each Friday of the month. A webinar that included insights on clinical management, and molecular and genetic aspects of SJS, was also organised.

Dr. Neha Kapur hosted a live DSAEK cybersight course, where she performed a live surgery. 352 participants from 87 countries joined the webinar.



The Department of Oculoplasty and ocular oncology organized a unique Lacrimal-focused CME and workshop in August. The program included case-based and clinical discussions, hands-on nasal endoscopic training on a specially curated model, and live demonstration of cases. The workshop focused mainly on advanced surgical training techniques. Speakers included renowned national and international faculty.

SCEH's monthly newsletter has reached a milestone, completing 50 editions! For four years, our newsletter has kept you updated on the latest developments, success stories, and initiatives from Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital. We thank our readers, contributors, and supporters for being part of this journey, making it a remarkable milestone. Here's to many more issues of sharing inspiration and hope!

Our team



Remembering Late Dr. Monica Gandhi, for her creative contributions to our monthly newsletter. We miss her for all her imaginative ideas, her command on the English language, and most of all, her tremendous support, guidance and love.



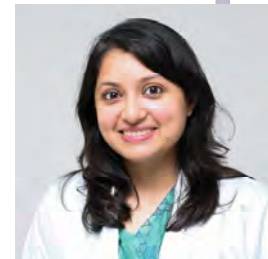
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