



Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

Caring for the community since 1922...



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As we step into the centennial year of Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, we want to reflect, appreciate and above all celebrate the achievements of the year and the lives we impacted over the last century. 100 years of service is not just commitment, it's legacy.

A Century of Vision, A Future of Hope

Editorial

Dr. Umang Mathur
Chief Executive Officer

More than a decade ago, in a small, nondescript town called Mohammadi in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh, we began a modest eye care clinic. On the very first day, a five years old presented, in pain, with what should have been an eye but now reduced to infection and pus, the result of an infected, probably reused, intravenous cannula. It was a moment that stayed with us. Not because it was rare, but because it was heartbreakingly common. And it reminded us why we do what we do. Today, in that same region, we perform complex vitreoretinal surgeries, lamellar corneal transplants, and restore sight to tens of thousands each year. What changed was not just infrastructure or technology, it was the continuation of a vision that began a century ago. When Dr. Sorabji P. Shroff returned from his training at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, he could have chosen comfort and prestige. Instead, he chose service. Beginning his practice in a modest dharamshala (guest house) in Chandni Chowk, he believed that quality eye care should not be a privilege, but a right. His conviction led him to persuade the British administration to allocate land

and support the establishment of a dedicated eye hospital, an extraordinary achievement for its time. That vision took root in 1926 and grew into what we know today as Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital.

Inaugurated by Lady Irwin, over the decades, the institution has witnessed history, visited by Mahatma Gandhi, supported by national leaders, and host to global ophthalmic forums, yet it has never lost sight of its purpose. From a single room to a centre of global repute; from basic to advanced specialty surgery; from one patient to millions- this is a journey defined not by buildings or technology, but by belief.

How many institutions can truly claim a hundred years of relevance, resilience, and service? Fewer still can say they have remained faithful to the founding vision through generations of change.

As we step into our centenary year, we do so with humility and renewed resolve—to honour the dream of Dr. S. P. Shroff, to serve those who need us most, and to carry forward a legacy where compassion and excellence walk hand in hand.

In the 100th year of SCEH, it's hard not to wonder how it all started. What has now become synonymous with quality eye care services started in a one room clinic. Know about your founder...

The life of Dr Sorabji P. Shroff – “Live to Serve”



Dr Sorabji P. Shroff was born in Bombay on 31st October 1878 in a modest Parsi family of Lahore. His father Pestonji Shroff served in the government of Punjab. Sorabji Shroff qualified as a doctor from King Edward Medical College, Lahore, in 1904. After obtaining his basic degree in medicine and surgery, he went to U.K. and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in the year 1910. In 1913 he migrated from Lahore to Delhi and started his practice as an Ophthalmic Surgeon. Consulting practice was unknown in Delhi at the time and all doctors used to work in their dispensaries. Dr Sorabji Shroff, gave out prescriptions instead.

From the very start of the practice, the plight of the poor patients touched his heart, and he felt compelled to allay their sufferings, irrespective of their capacity to pay. He started by seeing poor patients free of cost, in his private consulting chamber. Very soon, he decided to start a charity eye hospital where poor patients would receive good treatment either free of cost or at very nominal charges. This was the beginning of Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital in a single room in the dharamshala of Lala Laxmi Narain in the walled city of Delhi in 1914. When the patient load became unmanageable in a single room setup, a noble

philanthropist, Haji Mohd. Ishaq, stepped in, and offered one storey of his newly constructed building on Burn Bastion Road for the treatment of the poor.

As the work continued to grow, Dr Shroff felt the need to form a trust to enable him to collect funds from the government, civic bodies, and other philanthropic organisations and individuals. The first board of trustees was formed in 1922. Upon creation of the trust, Dr Shroff collected funds, secured a plot of land on lease from the government and constructed the present building in Daryaganj in the year 1927. To secure a plot of land from the government was no easy task Dr Shroff, as the government had blacklisted him for his nationalistic views, which he expressed freely. He was able to finally secure the land by expressing his desire to serve the poor to the chief commissioner who liked his frankness. Lady Reading laid the foundation stone of the hospital at its present site on 19th November 1924. Lady Irwin did the opening ceremony in 1927. Thereafter, the hospital continued to grow and render quality service to poor eye patients.



Apart from his contribution to ophthalmology, Dr S.P. Shroff took keen interest in the activities of the Delhi Medical Association and was elected President of DMA for four years. He also served as the President of the Delhi Parsi Anjuman from 1944 to 1956. He served as the President of the Temperance society for many years. He was awarded the Kaiser-e-Hind Gold Medal by the British Government in 1933 for his social and humanitarian services and Padma Shri by the President of India in 1963.

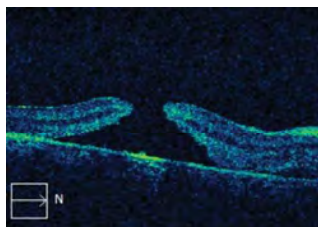
A bust of Dr S.P. Shroff was unveiled by the then President of India Shri K.R. Narayanan on the 75th anniversary of the hospital and is installed in the OPD department.

*"You never know what's around the corner unless you peek.
Hold someone's hand while you do it. You will feel less scared" – Amy Poehler*

Patient Story

Story contributed by
Dr Namita Kumari

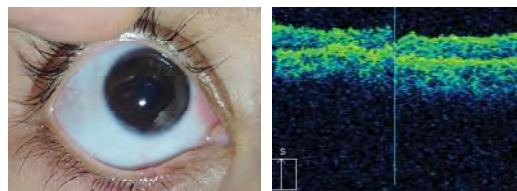
What began as just another playful afternoon in the village of Radhna Inayatpur, Kithore, Meerut, turned into a moment of fear for 8-year-old Master Aariz and his family. While playing Gilli-Danda with friends, he was accidentally struck in the right eye with a wooden stick. Within seconds, his eye began to bleed, and his vision turned blurry. For his parents, the shock was overwhelming. Their cheerful son, full of life just moments earlier, was suddenly in pain, frightened, and unable to see from his right eye. They feared the worst—could this injury leave him with permanent vision loss? But hope was not far.



Thanks to the eye-health awareness drives conducted in their area, the family knew about the Kithore Vision Centre, run under the network of SCEH. They rushed him there without delay. The trained vision technician not only cleaned the wound and comforted the child but quickly assessed the severity of the injury—his vision in the right eye had reduced to counting fingers close to face with a lower lid laceration. Understanding the urgency, the vision centre immediately referred Aariz to the base hospital at Delhi, where a team of specialists was ready to take over.

The family, however, had another burden weighing heavily on their hearts. Aariz's father, the only earning member, worked as a farmer and earned just enough to feed his family. When he was told that his child would need surgery, a new fear took over—How will I afford this? Would lack of money cost his child his eyesight? Would they have to choose between treatment and survival?

At SCEH Delhi, Aariz was promptly examined by the Oculoplasty and Cornea team. On detailed slit lamp examination, he had right eye lower lid full-thickness lower lid laceration, corneal abrasions and multiple small foreign bodies embedded in the cornea and subconjunctival space. Dilated funduscopy and OCT Macula revealed Berlins oedema and large full thickness macular hole explaining the severe loss of vision. An urgent lid laceration repair was performed to



preserve lid function, prevent infection, and ensure a good cosmetic outcome. All foreign bodies were carefully removed and the child was kept under close follow-up.

Post-operatively, Aariz's eyelid had healed beautifully with the scar barely visible. His parents were overwhelmed—what looked like a frightening, disfiguring injury now showed almost no trace. OCT macula showed that the macula hole had closed with a compact macula with RPE alterations with visual acuity gradually increasing.

Humans of SCEH

on why we like working at Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

"I enjoy working at SCEH because of its strong commitment to meaningful pro bono care that truly helps those in need, along with the supportive and dedicated people who make the institute a great place to work"– **Shayana Bhumbra, Doctor, Years of Service – 5**

"Like working at Dr. Shroff Charity Eye Hospital because of its positive and ethical work culture, strong teamwork, and dedication to serving needy people"– **Yogita Rawat, AOP Program coordinator, Years of service – 6**

"I have been working at Shroff for the past 26 years because of my strong belief in the organization's values, ethical medical practices, and commitment to providing the best patient care. Over the years, Shroff has given me continuous opportunities to learn, grow, and contribute meaningfully to hospital operations. The organization has also supported me whenever I or my family have faced any difficulties, which has strengthened my loyalty and dedication. Joined as optometrist now reached on top level"– **A.K. Singh, AGM Administration and Quality, Years of service – 26**

"Becoming self-dependent and having the opportunity to serve patients"– **Shail Gupta, Vision Technician, Years of service – 4**

"I learned and gained a lot of knowledge here, and I learned how to stand on my own two feet and also help my family"– **Pooja Devi, Fellow VT, Years of service – 3.5**

"The work culture is positive and patient care is excellent. Charity is real and meaningful, not just on paper. SCEH is renowned for its commitment to providing equal eye care to all patients regardless of their ability to pay"– **Kalpana Gupta, Assistant Manager - CEO office, Years of Service – 24**

"Shroff sets the benchmark of Global eye care in India. I have learnt not only clinical skills, but everything I can learn as a human being and a compassionate eye doctor. I have some responsibilities to fulfil, hence I will have to go back, but if not this could have been the place to work"– **Isha Agarwalla, Oculoplasty fellow, Years of service – 1**

"I love working at SCEH because it's not just a hospital, it's a movement towards restoring sight and transforming lives. The team's passion for compassionate care, the impact we create in patients' lives, and the constant learning opportunities – it all makes it an incredible place to be. Plus, seeing patients regain their vision and smile, that's what keeps me motivated every day"– **Alishbanoor, MRA, Years of service – 6.5**

"The behaviour of all the employees is very good and the satisfaction that patients get after getting proper service is commendable"– **Sangam Lal, Public Health coordinator, Years of service – 1**

"I find it incredibly rewarding to help people regain their sight and independence, and working in this hospital made me believe in myself to grow my life by helping people"– **Shruti Singh, Vision technician, Years of service – 4**

"As a Community Health Worker at SCEH, I feel proud to serve patients at the grassroots level and be part of a team that truly cares for vision and people"– **Salman Khan, Community Health Worker, Years of service - 1**



Children's Day Celebration

SCEH, known for its exceptional paediatric services celebrated Children's Day in a big way! The day was celebrated with outdoor games for children, bookmark crafts promoting myopia prevention, creative showcasing through paintings, and taking a collective pledge to swap screens for books. Our optometrists enthralled the crowd with a fun skit on paediatric eye health, and the homemade food stall was a treat for taste buds - all while supporting a great cause (glasses & amblyopia therapy)! The enthusiasm echoed across our secondary centres too with school screenings, awareness talks, and painting competitions by our team.



SCEH marked a major milestone in November 2025, completing free door-to-door eye care outreach across 150 villages in Mathura district, supported by Standard Chartered Bank. Thousands of underserved families received free eye screenings, counselling, spectacles, and timely treatment to prevent avoidable blindness. Awerni, the 150th village covered, symbolised the commitment to last-mile eye care. The celebration was graced by the Chief Guest, Ms. Karuna Bhatia.



Standard Chartered Shroff's Eye Care Education Academy Inaugurated at Vrindavan

Building on the success of the Standard Chartered–Shroff Eye Care Academy in Delhi, SCEH marked another major milestone with the inauguration of the Vrindavan Eye Care Academy on 18th November. The launch reflects SCEH's growing leadership in eye care education and its commitment to taking high-quality training beyond metro cities into rural and semi-urban regions.

The SCB–Shroff's Medical Education Academy at Delhi has trained hundreds of eye care professionals, contributed to high patient volumes, and strengthened service delivery across multiple levels of care. Encouraged by these outcomes, the Vrindavan Academy has been envisioned as the next step in scaling impact—focusing on skill-based training, hands-on learning, and the development of a locally rooted eye care workforce, in alignment with ***Standard Chartered Bank's sustainability and inclusive healthcare priorities under the guidance of Ms. Karuna Bhatia, Head of Sustainability, SCB India & Global Business Services.***



The inauguration was graced by ***Mr. Shailja Kant Misra***, Ex-IPS Officer, Bharat Ratna awardee, and Vice Chairperson, UP Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad, highlighting the significance of the initiative in advancing public health, skill development, and community empowerment in the Braj region.

With the Vrindavan Academy, SCEH aims to further strengthen its training footprint, enhance service reach in underserved areas, and continue delivering measurable, sustainable impact through education-led healthcare partnerships with Standard Chartered Bank



Ocular Imaging Summit 25

Dr. Monica Gandhi was an outstanding clinician, an inspiring teacher, and an extraordinary human being whose dedication touched countless lives. In her fond memory, the Department of Optometry organised a one-day academic meeting as a tribute to her lasting legacy. The programme featured hands-on workshops on various diagnostic platforms, led by an esteemed faculty, and was attended by 110 participants.



The department of Oculoplasty and SCEH Vrindavan hosted the first workshop - Basic Eyelid Workshop, in SCEH Vrindavan academy. This hands-on training event focused on managing basic eyelid diseases and injuries. This was attended by five externally practicing ophthalmologists and ten internal candidates. The workshop comprised didactic lectures, followed by a live surgery session. There was surgical hands-on session in wet lab using silicone eye models, allowing participants to replicate the surgical steps they observed during the live surgeries under guidance.



Department of Paediatric Ophthalmology and Medical Education department at SCEH successfully organised the prestigious Paediatric Ophthalmology FAICO exam.



World Quality Day was celebrated at SCEH emphasizing the importance of quality across all satellite centres. The day highlighted how quality improvement plays a vital role in organizational excellence, patient safety, and the delivery of quality care. The celebration encouraged involvement at every level through activities such as poster making, quality slogan campaigns, “Kaun Banega Quality Champion”, Quality Zone Fiesta, and Quality Awards.



Vision-Aid and SCEH inaugurated a Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI) centre at SCEH Vrindavan. So far, the centre has provided early intervention and low vision therapy to 64 children with CVI through 289 therapy sessions. The Vision-Aid team, led by Executive Director Mr. Ramakrishna Raju, visited the centre and interacted with the team.

World keratoconus day

On the occasion of World Keratoconus Day, SCEH organised a conference to raise awareness about keratoconus among optometrists and ophthalmologists. The event featured expert-led sessions highlighting the range of contact lens options available for visual rehabilitation in keratoconus. The conference was followed by a hands-on workshop on RGP and scleral contact lens fitting. Renowned national and international experts in contact lens fitting shared their knowledge and clinical experience, making the programme highly enriching.





Glaucocraft 2025

An international glaucoma conference, Glaucocraft 2025, was conducted by SCEH in November 2025. **Dr. Syril Dorairaj from the Mayo Clinic, USA** was the guest speaker along with eminent glaucoma specialists from across the country. Numerous international and national faculty members contributed their time, expertise, and perspectives, greatly enriching the academic depth and overall experience of the program.

The deferred live surgical demonstrations—including ***iStent implantation, Canaloplasty, GATT, Tanito procedure, KDB goniotomy, AADI implant, and Trabeculectomy***—together with focused lectures and panel discussions.

Glaucocraft 2025 concluded with renewed inspiration and a strengthened commitment to advancing clinical excellence, ongoing education, and patient-centred glaucoma care.



DOS Monthly meeting

Every year, SCEH takes pride in hosting the Delhi Ophthalmic Society monthly meeting, which is not just an academic fest, but also a culinary fest. The meeting started with wet lab training session in different sub-specialities followed by interesting case presentations and a mini-symposium titled “The turning point: What changed the outcome in challenging cases”.



World Prematurity Day

SCEH was honoured to co- host a convening of leaders, innovators, and changemakers from across India's eye health ecosystem in New Delhi. Co-hosted with Peek Vision, this meeting brought together world-renowned organisations and practitioners who share a common commitment: ensuring that every person, regardless of geography or income, can access timely, affordable, and quality eye care. Together, we examined the power of data and digital tools, and how evidence-based, data-driven approaches can strengthen planning, improve service delivery, and help translate "vision for all" into measurable reality.

As a part of our INSPIRE lecture series, SCEH invited Dr. Geoffrey Tabin, Professor of Ophthalmology at Stanford, Co-founder of Cure Blindness project, and Co-founder and Chairman of Himalayan Cataract Project. He spoke about his journey, "From Everest to Ending blindness: The Power of Purpose in Ophthalmology".



"Sometimes the most scenic roads in life are the detours you didn't mean to take" - Angela N. Blount

SCEH hosted the launch of the book "Journeys & Destinations" by Mr. Ramesh Shankar, our former CEO and supporter and mentor to our faculty.



Global meeting – PEEK Vision

SCEH was honoured to co- host a convening of leaders, innovators, and changemakers from across India's eye health ecosystem in New Delhi. Co-hosted with Peek Vision, this meeting brought together world-renowned organisations and practitioners who share a common commitment: ensuring that every person, regardless of geography or income, can access timely, affordable, and quality eye care. Together, we examined the power of data and digital tools, and how evidence-based, data-driven approaches can strengthen planning, improve service delivery, and help translate "vision for all" into measurable reality.



In the year 2025, SCEH Wet Lab training program, crossed over 5,000 surgical trainings, marking the highest-ever surgical volume in the Wet Lab to date in a single year. Kudos to the efforts of the Wet lab team and the trainers.

On the occasion of World Diabetes Day, Vision 2020 India released the revised National Guidelines for Diabetic Retinopathy. Dr. Manisha Agarwal & Dr Shalinder Sabherwal were formally acknowledged for their valuable contributions to the development of these guidelines, which aim to strengthen the prevention, early detection, and management of diabetic retinopathy at the national level. SCEH was also appreciated for its continued support to Vision 2020 India in advancing evidence-based eye care practices. The release of the revised guidelines marks an important step toward improving diabetic eye care services across the country.





Dr Suneeta Dubey appointed as the Treasurer, Women Ophthalmic Society



Dr. Manisha Agrawal has completed her tenure as Secretary of the Vitreo Retina Society of India



Dr. Virender Singh Sangwan is serving as the President of the Asia Cornea Society



Dr Manisha Acharya appointed as the Treasurer, Cornea Society of India



Dr Manisha Agrawal won the best surgical video award for her video on "Repairing cyclodialysis cleft" at APVRS 2025.



Dr Shailja Tibrewal appointed as the Secretary, Global Genetics Society



Dr Tanya Jain won the NextGEN USI 2025 competition, which was a national-level platform where young uveitis minds from all over India applied. She spoke on "Recognizing retinal signatures in Subacute Sclerosing Panencephalitis".



Dr Abha Gour wins the best paper presentation titled " Unraveling ECM and immune dynamics in chronic Stevens-Johnson syndrome" at Keracon 2025.

Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

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