



Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital
Caring for the community since 1922...



NEWSLETTER 53

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Chief Storyteller

Isha Chaudhari

Editorial Board Members

Arpan Gandhi
Kalpana Gupta
Umang Mathur

Designer

Alpana Singh

Photographers

Pankaj Chauhan
Deepak Goswami
Stuart Robertson



Centenary year celebration

A hundred years is not just a measure of time — it is a legacy of trust, compassion, and lives transformed

As we stepped into our centennial year, we felt the desire to celebrate this monumental occasion. This hospital has seen both prosperous and fruitless days, it has seen numerous stories written and narratives changed...It has seen a whole century of change. So, February 14th 2026 witnessed what we call a once in a lifetime event, an extraordinary evening that carried the legacy of a hundred remarkable years and the promise of many more. What began as a humble vision of Dr. S. P. Shroff, driven by a deep commitment to serve the underserved, has today grown into an institution that has restored sight and hope to millions across generations.

The celebration began with a walk down the memory lane with Drs. Noshir and Cyrus Shroff, who shared anecdotes from the past and tidbits from the lives of their father and grandfather. After revisiting our roots, we went to the next segment – **Leading with purpose**, where all the past CEO's, Dr Steven Roy, Mr. Ramesh Shanker and Mr. A. K. Arora, reflected on their experience and shared insights into the creation of the culture that SCEH is proud of.

Once, the foundation was laid, our next segment was about the future – **The Thinker's Forum**. Mr. David Green, High Impact Social Entrepreneur, Dr T. P. Das, Vice-Chair Emeri-

tus, LVPEI, Mr. Thulasiraj Ravilla, Former Executive Director, Arvind Eye care System and Dr Sanduk Ruit, Founder of Cure Blindness Project, visionaries from all around the country and abroad, talked about their views on how an institution survives a hundred years and what's changes are necessary for it to be successful for the next hundred.

Eradicating blindness is a mammoth mission. It cannot be accomplished by an individual or organization alone. What it demands is a shared commitment. To honour this shared commitment, the next segment was felicitating partners in Impact – Ms. Bidisha Dey, Executive Director, Eicher Group Foundation, Dr. Ghanshyam Das Agrawal, Chairman, Surgiwear, Ms. Karuna Bhatia, Head of Sustainability, Standard Chartered Bank and Mr. Shyam Sunder Beriwal, Secretary, BHRC, Vrindavan.

In the end we launched our **Coffee Table Book** which is not just a compilation of the history of SCEH, and a collection of pictures and memoirs, but a testament to the rich heritage of Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital.



QR Code
Coffee Table Book

New satellite centre at Munger, Bihar



Bihar Yoga Bharati, founded in 1963 in Munger by Swami Satyananda Saraswati, is a globally renowned institution for yoga education and spiritual development. It is currently led by Swami Niranjanananda Saraswati, who has strengthened its global outreach, research, and preservation of yogic traditions. During COVID-19, they felt the need to do help the people of Munger in terms of health care facilities. The Goenka family, who have been associated with the Ashram for over 45 years, felt the same way. A long-standing gap in accessible and quality eye care in Munger highlighted the need for a structured, institution-based facility to address the growing burden of avoidable blindness.

Responding to this need, the Goenka family supported the renovation of the a part of the Ashram into an eye hospital. However, more financial aid was needed to get the necessary equipment. The support for which came through Swami ji and the Ashram. Smt. Sita

Goenka Shroff Eye Institute commenced outpatient services on 19 January 2026 and operationalized its operation theatre on 29 January 2026, enabling comprehensive eye care under one roof.

The scale of unmet demand was evident during outreach camps held on 8 and 9 January, where 348 patients were screened and 214 were advised surgery, revealing a significant backlog of cases. Since the launch of surgical services, the steady transition from camp counselling to confirmed surgeries, along with a rise in direct walk-in patients, reflects growing community trust and urgent service need.

As of March 2026, the hospital has examined 3150 patients and performed 388 surgeries, including both camp-referred and walk-in beneficiaries, demonstrating strong clinical conversion and the Centre's timely and meaningful impact in the region.



Patient story

"You just can't beat the person who never gives up" - Babe Ruth



A Journey of Strength

From the moment she was born, Baby Sangya faced a world shrouded in darkness. Diagnosed with multiple complex and rare ocular conditions, including sclerocornea, microcornea with esotropia, nystagmus, congenital cataract, and secondary glaucoma in both eyes, her future seemed uncertain.

In the age where children only see the comfort of a parent's lap, Sangya went through numerous visits to the doctors and examinations under anesthesia to provide a detailed evaluation and ongoing monitoring of her condition. Her parents, determined to give her the best possible treatment, came to the Centre for Unknown and Rare Eye Diseases (CURED) at SCEH, where a multidisciplinary team of specialists collaborates to help patients like Sangya.

Over time, Sangya underwent several surgical interventions, each a step towards improving her vision. In December 2022, she underwent an optical penetrating keratoplasty (OPK) in her right eye, followed by a similar procedure in her left eye in March 2023. These surgeries were just the

beginning. She later underwent lens aspiration for cataract and advanced glaucoma procedures, including the AADI implant and trabeculectomy.

Despite the challenges, including graft decompensation in her right eye, Sangya's journey is one of resilience and unwavering medical care. Her story is a testament to the power of timely intervention, repeated evaluation, and comprehensive care in managing rare pediatric eye conditions. Sangya's parents continue to fight for her, seeking support and resources to ensure she receives the best possible care with the satisfaction that they are on the right path.

Contributed by
Team CURED

CURED: Building an Ecosystem for Rare Eye Diseases—From Awareness to Action

*“And sometimes, against all odds,
against all logic, we still hope” —
Unknown*



Rare eye diseases challenge modern ophthalmology not because they are untreatable, but because they are often unrecognized, misdiagnosed, and fragmented across specialties. In 2021, the idea of the Center for Unknown and Rare Eye Disorders (CURED) was conceived at Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital in response to a recurring and uncomfortable question:

Are we truly doing justice to patients like Sangya, with rare eye diseases?

Why CURED Was Needed

Globally, over 300 million people live with rare diseases, with 72–96 million affected in India alone, and nearly 80% having a genetic basis—yet only a fraction have disease-modifying therapies. In India, where 1 in 17 individuals is affected by a rare disease, the burden is magnified by socioeconomic disparities, delayed referrals, and limited access to genetic services. Clinical experience repeatedly highlighted the cost of missed diagnoses.

CURED emerged as a response to this gap—not as a standalone clinic, but as an ecosystem integrating clinicians, geneticists, researchers, counselors, and patient support systems.

Laying the Foundation: Small but Deliberate Steps

The foundational framework of CURED, formalized in June 2023, focused on:

- Disease prioritization and deep phenotyping
- Biobanking and creation of structured databases
- Affordable and clinically relevant genetic testing
- Genetic counseling, psychosocial support, and rehabilitation
- Awareness, advocacy, and clinician education
- Research through case series, small studies, and collaborative grants

Scaling Impact Through Collaboration and Grants

As CURED matured, collaborations expanded nationally and internationally—with institutions such as NIH, University of Wisconsin, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, Guru Nanak Dev University, and multiple genomics and research partners. A defining milestone came in 2024, when CURED secured a competitive **Velux Stiftung** grant to formally establish the Center for Unknown and Rare Eye Diseases at SCEH.

Education, Advocacy, and Community Building

Parallel to research, CURED emphasized capacity building—through CONCURED 2024 (India’s first conference dedicated to unknown and rare eye diseases), clinician workshops, patient awareness events like Race for 7, and structured training in genetic interpretation.

CURED has come a long way since 2021—but there is so much more to do. If rare diseases are to move from the margins to the mainstream of ophthalmic care, ecosystems like CURED must continue to grow—bridging uncertainty with science, and diagnosis with hope.

Humans of SCEH

*“Little by little, one travels far”—
J. R. R. Tolkien*



I come from a traditional family from Uttar Pradesh. My childhood dream was to be in the medical field but I wasn't sure of what I wanted to do and how I would go about achieving it. The first step of getting into medical is to get science subjects in school, however, I ended up getting Arts in 11th standard. I knew my options were limited. But I wasn't ready to **give on my dream**.

Someone in the family recommended the Allied Ophthalmic (AOP) Course here at Dr. Shroff's. I joined in 2023. It was overwhelming new world, but I knew I was one step closer to my dream. During my two years of training, I was offered a position as a coordinator in the genetic clinic. Even though I didn't fully understand what it entailed, I took it up because I loved working with children. Luckily it worked out well for me.

I think the most exciting and simultaneously challenging thing about working with paediatric patients is the fear and anxiety that



parents hold. It is an entirely different ballgame to counsel parents for even small things like getting glasses for the child. Talking about other diseases is much bigger. But during my time in paediatrics and in the genetic clinic, I have learnt to understand parents and counsel them. I am now trained to take blood samples, make pedigrees and also maintain data.

I always used to wonder how much can ophthalmology offer as a branch, until I stepped foot in SCEH and realized that this small eye holds so many secrets inside. What makes me want to stay here is the environment and the people. Everyone is always encouraging us to do better. I have gained more than I ever imagined in the last few years and I plan to do more exciting things in my professional life from here on.

Riya Pal
Genetic Clinic Coordinator



SCEH Mohammadi marked World Cancer Day with an awareness program focused on cancer prevention and the importance of early detection. The initiative aimed to educate the community about common risk factors, preventive measures, and the value of timely screening, encouraging individuals to adopt healthy practices and seek medical advice for early diagnosis.



Low Vision Awareness Month

During Low Vision Awareness Month (February 2026), SCEH organized several initiatives to promote awareness about low vision and support individuals with visual impairment. A major highlight was the launch of the Smart Vision Glasses Ultra, introduced by Ramu Muthangi of SHG Technologies. The hospital also distributed 30 Smart Vision Glasses and smartphones to visually impaired students at Aligarh Muslim Univer-

sity in collaboration with Vision Aid USA. Additional activities included an awareness campaign on government rights and welfare schemes for persons with disabilities and a student awareness session at Kirori Mal College, Delhi. These initiatives highlighted the importance of assistive technology, rehabilitation, and inclusive support systems for people living with low vision.

Patient Communication and Education Initiative



In partnership with **ORBIS**, SCEH initiated the **Patient Communication and Education Project** that focuses on strengthening patient-centric communication, enhancing counselling skills, and improving the overall patient experience across both clinical and administrative services. By embedding empathy-driven counselling at every patient touch-point and improving patient understanding and compliance, the initiative has been carefully structured to ensure focused and effective learning for **Allied & Health Professionals, Managers, and Ophthalmologists** across the SCEH network

A new Modular Operation Theatre (OT) Complex with six functioning operating rooms was inaugurated at **SCEH Mohammedi**.



SCEH Saharanpur conducted a two-day training program on Empathic Communication & Emotional Intelligence for Vision Centres team. This interactive workshop focused on strengthening patient-centered communication, enhancing self-awareness, and building stronger team collaboration.



SCEH Vrindavan, with the support of Department of Paediatrics and The SCB Academy, conducted a basic orthoptics workshop for over 40 participants, including external attendees. The session aimed to enhance paediatric eye care at vision centre level, improve tele-consultation and direct referral from district hospitals.



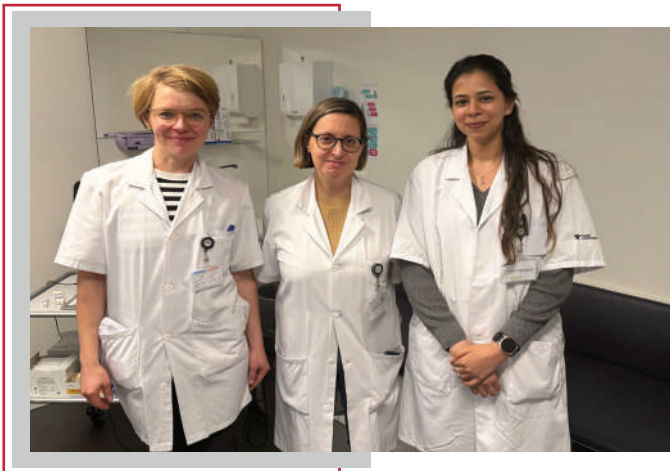
Genetic Insights in Glaucoma



SCEH successfully conducted a hybrid CME titled “Genetic Insights in Glaucoma” — a first-of-its-kind academic initiative featuring renowned national and international faculty. This CME is part of our collaborative project with Sanford University and Prema’s Genetic Lab, focused on advancing genetic understanding in glaucoma. The project has also been awarded a grant of ₹22 lakhs under which approximately 250 patients will undergo glaucoma genetic testing free of cost.



The Convocation Ceremony for Batch 38 of the Allied Ophthalmic Paramedics (AOP) Program was held at SCEH in collaboration with Nikon India Pvt Ltd.



Dr. Chhavi Gupta was awarded the IOFF-OF Subspecialty Three-Month Fellowship Award, sponsored by the Dr. Rolf M. Schwiete Foundation, Germany. She trained under the aegis of Dr. Christina Stathopoulos and Prof. Francis Munier at Jules Gonin Eye Hospital in Lausanne, Switzerland, in ocular oncology.



IJO Silver Award – best original paper awarded to Lag time for diagnosis and treatment in 1120 retinoblastoma children: Analysis from InPOG-RB-19-01 by Dr. Sima Das.



BEST OF IJO- Oncology awarded to the paper titled Epidemiological profile and clinical characteristics of ocular and periocular tumors in North and Central India, by Drs. Chhavi Gupta & Sima Das.



Dr. Khyati Roop, DNB resident, presented a scientific poster at the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress 2026 (APAO 2026). The study compared Mitomycin C (MMC) and 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU) as primary treatment for ocular surface squamous neoplasia (OSSN)



Dr. Isha Agarwalla, fellow Oculoplasty and Ocular Oncology, won the best video presentation on traumatic foreign body removal at TRAUMOCOON 2025.



Dr Abha Gour & Dr Isha Chaudhari won travel grants to Korean Cornea Society annual meeting & International Symposium. Dr Nidhi Chauhan won an award for her poster presentation and Dr Isha Chaudhari won the best video award.

Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

5027, Kedarnath Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002

Ph no:011- 43524444, 43528888 | Email:communications@sceh.net

It Takes an Entire Village

I usually wake up by 5:30 a.m. every morning, simply because I like a slow start to the day — enjoying the balcony view, sipping my morning elixir, reading a chapter of a book, or just pruning the plants.

On a particular Friday morning, I woke up at 5:30 a.m. but, missing my usual routine, went straight to the bathroom to get ready for a visit to our satellite centre. Because the hospital car was picking me up at 7 a.m.; I got ready, packed my breakfast, and walked to the agreed-upon pickup point.

At 7:03 a.m., I saw Jai Kishore Ji waiting exactly where we had discussed, patiently sitting in the car. As we talked, I learned that he had left home at 6 a.m., travelled 16 km from his home to Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital (a nearly half-hour bike ride in the morning and one hour in the evening), parked his bike there, taken the car, and then driven that car to pick me up. When I offered him a bite of my breakfast in the car, he refused, saying he would eat once he dropped me at the centre.

I couldn't help but feel a little guilty for the mild self-empathy I'd felt earlier about missing my morning tea on the balcony. Here was a 50-year-old man, driving me 153 km one side on an empty stomach, without a single frown line on his face, happily talking about his 20-something years of experience in the hospital.

On the way back, with Mohammed Rafi songs playing in the background, I thought about the countless number of people in the hospital who are essential to its smooth functioning, apart from the doctors. The drivers; the patient care technicians (PCTs) who make sure patients are shifted carefully between wards and the OT; the gardeners who bring smiles through the beautiful gardens of SCEH; our guards, who are on their feet the entire day; the cleaning staff, who keep the hospital squeaky clean; the electricians and plumbers; the photographers and coordinators, who ensure every small event is recorded well; the IT team, who make sure the EMR works properly; the OPD registration team and the OT counselling and PSC staff, who often serve as the first point of contact; the patient care supervisors; the certified ophthalmic paramedics (COPs); the optometrists; the vision technicians; the HR department; the MED department; and our technicians in the lab — without whom the hospital could not function. I'm sure I am still missing a few!

So I guess it is important to remember that: a hospital is not just a building, it's a living village and a proof that no one heals alone.

Dr. Aastha Garg

Plaques of SCEH



SCEH recently held its centennial celebration, where the institute's history and services were highlighted. The heritage building has seen a century go by, and history has left some footprints in the walls of the building. Do you know how many stone plaques are there in SCEH and where they are located?

DONORS		RUPEES
H.E. THE COUNTESS OF READING C.I. G.B.E.		100,000
THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA		50,000
THE DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE		32,500
TRUSTEES OF LATE SIR RATAN TATA, BOMBAY		10,000
SETH AMRATLAL AMARCHAND, BOMBAY		10,000
TRUSTEES OF N.M. WADIA CHARITIES, BOMBAY		10,000
INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY		10,000
LALA PEARAY LAL DELHI (MOTOR MERCHANT)		5,000
TRUSTEES OF LATE SIR RATAN TATA, BOMBAY (1927)		5,000
THE DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE (1927)		12,500
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (1928)		5,000
THE DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE (1928)		25,000
TRUSTEES OF N.M. WADIA CHARITIES, BOMBAY		5,000
H.H. THE THAKORE SAHAB OF LIMBDI		5,200
H.E.H. THE NIZAM OF HYDERABAD (DECCAN)		5,000

- The 'Donors' plaque
- Location: Main entrance of the building
- Names of donors who have generously donated to SCEH

DONORS		
IRENE & SAMMY SHROFF OF HONG KONG		Rs. 1,00,000
MRS SUSHILA KAPOOR & SHRI BANWARI LAL KAPOOR		10,000
DR JITENDER MAHESHWARI IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY OF HIS WIFE DR MRS ANJALI MAHESHWARI FORMERLY REGISTRAR, DR. SHROFF'S CHARITY EYE HOSPITAL		10,000

- The 'Donors' plaque no. 2
- Location: Right to the entrance of private OPD waiting room

DONORS		
IRENE & SAMMY SHROFF OF HONG KONG		RS.100,000
MRS SUSHILA KAPOOR & SHRI BANWARI LAL KAPOOR		RS.10,000
DR JITENDER MAHESHWARI IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY OF HIS WIFE DR. MRS. ANJALI MAHESHWARI		RS.10,000
ARUN PRAKASH IN LOVING MEMORY OF PARENTS		
DR. & MRS B. P. BOEL		RS. 20,000

- The 'Donors' plaque no. 3
- Location: Entrance of the private retina building

RETINA SERVICES - DONORS		
SIR DORABJI TATA TRUST		Rs. 1,00,000
IN FOND MEMORY OF DR SAM K DASTOOR FROM DASTOOR CONTACT LENS LABORATORY		51,000
PIROJSHA GODREJ FOUNDATION		50,000
THE LOTUS TRUST		10,000
MR R. S. GAE IN MEMORY OF LATE PARENTS BHIKHAIMAI AND SORABJI M. GAE OF NAVSARI		6,002
GRANDSONS OF NAVROJI PATUCK AND THEIR WIVES		6,001
A WELL WISHER		6,000
MISS NAJU N. PUNDOLLE IN LOVING MEMORY OF HER PARENTS NAWROJI DADABHOY AND MEHRA NAWROJI PUNDOLLE		5,001
MR. R. A. GAGRAT IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY OF MY LATE ESTEEMED FRIEND DR S. P. SHROFF		5,001
S. D. MARKER & Co., PRIVATE LTD.		5,001
ASHWANI KUMAR CONSULTANTS (P) LTD.		5,000
CAVAS SAROSH & ROZHAN IN LOVING MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS JEHANGIR AND TEHMINA LALKAKA		5,000
IN SACRED MEMORY OF LATE PROF. D. N. WADIA		5,000
MISS DOSA R. DHAPLA IN LOVING MEMORY OF DEAR MOTHER AND FATHER MAHIJEN & RUSTOMJI DHAPLA		5,000
SIR HORMUSJI NOWROJI MODY OF HONG KONG AND LADY MANAKBAI MODY CHARITY TRUSTS		5,000
DR. AND MRS. MINOD S. SHROFF		5,000
DR. & Mrs. N. JUNGALWALLA IN LOVING MEMORY OF DR. K. T. & Mrs. FRENY JUNGALWALLA		5,000
N. M. WADIA CHARITIES		5,000
DR. NARIMAN A. AND CAWAS N. LALKAKA IN EVER LASTING MEMORY OF WIFE AND MOTHER TEHMINA N. LALKAKA		5,000
NAVAJIBAI RATAN TATA TRUST		5,000
MRS. NERGISH ARCEIVALA		5,000
MR. PHIROZE H. VAKIL		5,000
ROZHAN TRUST (THROUGH MR. R. K. FRAMJI)		5,000
MRS. SHERA B. VAKIL IN SACRED MEMORY OF DEAR AND NOBLE HUSBAND BARJOR H. VAKIL		5,000
TATA CHEMICALS LTD.		5,000
Mrs. VANBIZ H. SHROFF		5,000

- The 'Retina services donors' plaque
- Location: Left to the entrance of private OPD waiting room

To the Glory of GOD
THIS FOUNDATION STONE OF
SHROFF CHARITY EYE HOSPITAL
WAS LAID BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE COUNTESS OF READING
C. I. G. B. E.
ON 19 th NOV. 1924

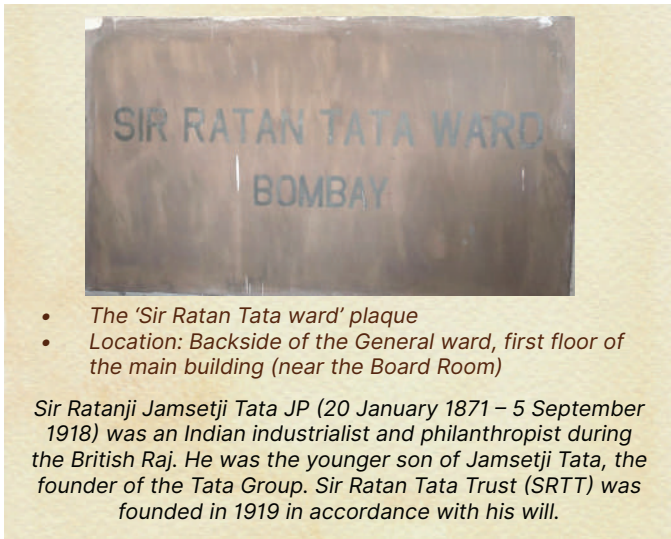
- The 'Foundation stone' plaque
- Location: Entrance of private OPD waiting room, below the Donors plaque
- Commemorates the laying of SCEH's foundation stone by Lady Reading, 1924



- The 'Opening' plaque
- Location: Entrance of the OT, behind the OT door
- Commemorates the opening of SCEH at Daryaganj by Lady Irwin, 1927



- From the archives: This plaque was previously near the 'Visit Room' in the verandah of the ground floor (now the OT complex)



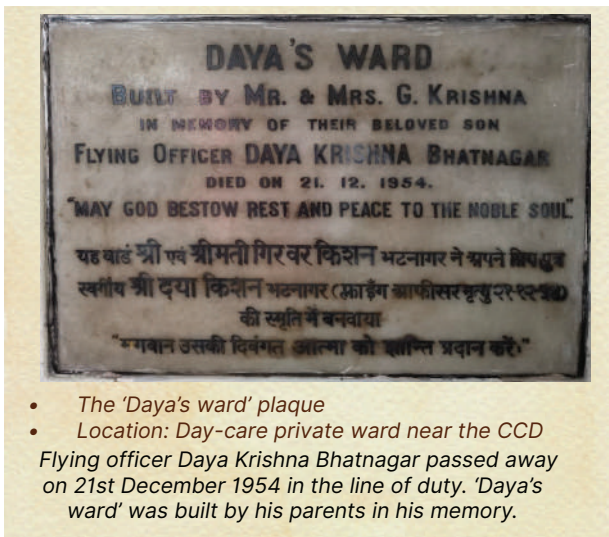
- The 'Sir Ratan Tata ward' plaque
- Location: Backside of the General ward, first floor of the main building (near the Board Room)

Sir Ratanji Jamsetji Tata JP (20 January 1871 – 5 September 1918) was an Indian industrialist and philanthropist during the British Raj. He was the younger son of Jamsetji Tata, the founder of the Tata Group. Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) was founded in 1919 in accordance with his will.

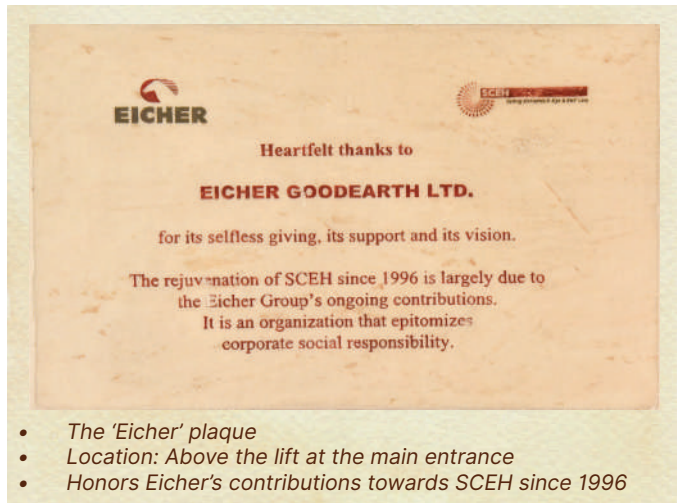


- The 'Amarchand Madhavji ward' plaque
- Location: Near the Septic ward, first floor of the main building

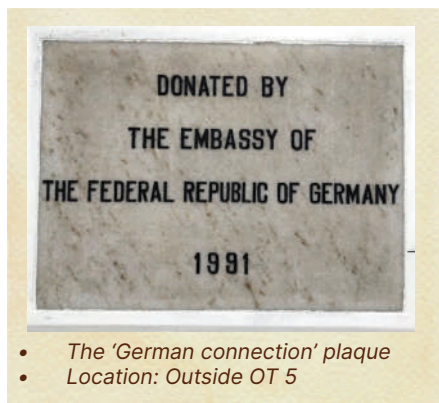
Amarchand Madhavji was a prominent businessman and mortgagor in 1900s. He was the founder of the firm Amarchand Madhavji and Co in Bombay.



- The 'Daya's ward' plaque
 - Location: Day-care private ward near the CCD
- Flying officer Daya Krishna Bhatnagar passed away on 21st December 1954 in the line of duty. 'Daya's ward' was built by his parents in his memory.



- The 'Eicher' plaque
- Location: Above the lift at the main entrance
- Honors Eicher's contributions towards SCEH since 1996



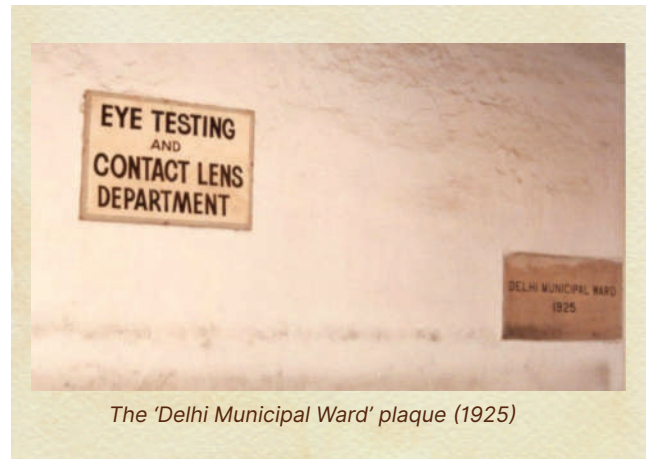
- The 'German connection' plaque
- Location: Outside OT 5

Plaques lost in time

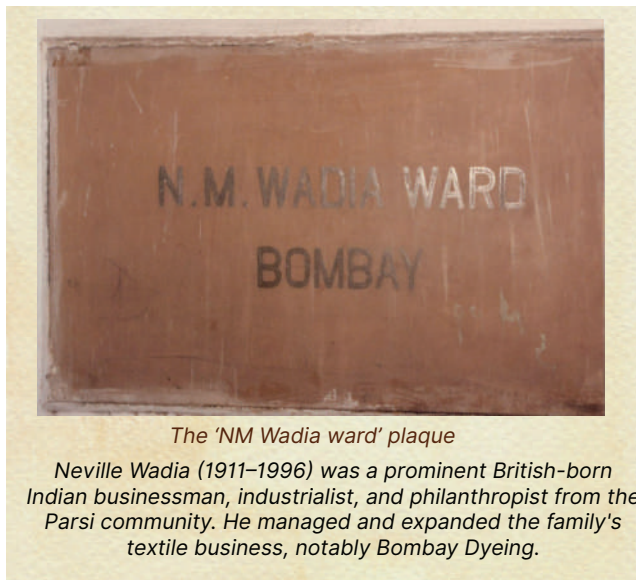
The documentation of some plaques has been recovered from old photographs.



The 'Lady Reading ward' plaque (1925)

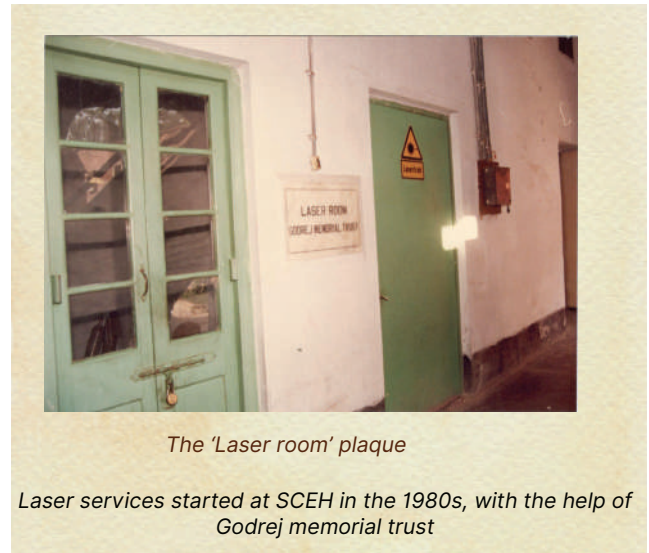


The 'Delhi Municipal Ward' plaque (1925)



The 'NM Wadia ward' plaque

Neville Wadia (1911–1996) was a prominent British-born Indian businessman, industrialist, and philanthropist from the Parsi community. He managed and expanded the family's textile business, notably Bombay Dyeing.



The 'Laser room' plaque

Laser services started at SCEH in the 1980s, with the help of Godrej memorial trust

Each plaque is a moment of history embedded in the being of SCEH. Each plaque is a story on its own. I compiled all plaques I could find, and welcome the readers to add any more I might have missed.

Contributed by-
Dr Obaidur Rehman