



# NEWSLETTER 54

MAR | APR | MAY 2026

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**My 18-month residency at Dr Shroff's Charity Hospital allowed me to immerse myself in a living, breathing clock-work system: surgeons as engine and heart, nurses as lifeblood, guards watchful yet relaxed, trainees intent and hopeful. Being in this particular hospital grounded me as I observed so many small miracles, acts of kindness that I was witness to. Being among this hospital community has changed my attitude to life."**

Stuart Robertson

”



*From April 28th – May 3rd, Bikaner House Centre of Contemporary Art witnessed a unique collection of art curated by **Mr. Stuart Robertson**, a British artist and photographer. The collection consisted of photographs, pencil sketches, cyanotypes and sculptures inspired by the everyday life at Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital. His exhibition, **Through the Artist's Eye** offered a unique perspective on the world of healthcare, capturing the compassion, dedication, and quiet resilience that define everyday life within the institution. Through his evocative artworks, he transformed ordinary moments of care into extraordinary narratives, reminding us that healing is not only a science but also an expression of humanity. The exhibition celebrated a century of service, honouring the people whose commitment continues to restore sight and hope to countless lives.*

“Stuart Robertson’s upcoming exhibition at Bikaner House is, for me, as much about friendship as it is about art. Stuart first came to us as a donor, but very quickly became something far more special- a friend who chose to stay, to observe, and to immerse himself in seva. What began as a gesture of giving grew into an 18-month journey of quiet companionship with our work at Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital.

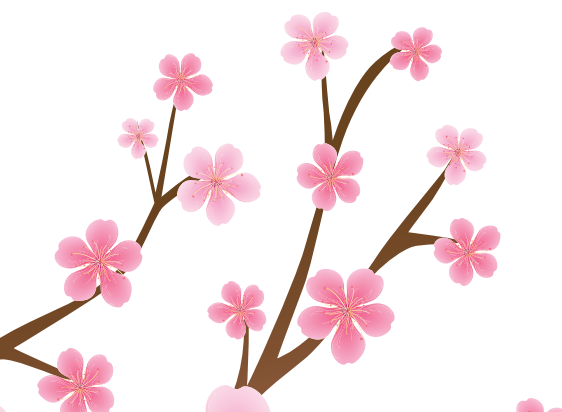


Stuart’s keen, patient eye notices what we often overlook: the small, almost invisible acts of kindness, the rhythm and discipline of surgery, the humanity that binds together everyone from surgeons and nurses to guards and gardeners. In his work, we begin to see ourselves again, but differently.

Through Stuart’s lens, the hospital is not just a building, it breathes. It spills into the streets of Daryaganj and Chandni Chowk, drawing energy from the life around it and giving back in equal measure. He reminds us that what we do inside our walls is inseparable from the community we serve.

This exhibition is his gift back to us. It captures not just the act of restoring sight, but the deeper idea of seeing- with attention, humility, and empathy. In doing so, Stuart shows how art can stand alongside the development sector, amplifying its stories, its people, and its purpose in ways that data and reports never can”

**Dr Umang Mathur**  
CEO, SCEH





*"At Bikaner House this April, a quiet yet powerful exhibition unfolds from an unlikely collaboration between art and medicine. British artist Stuart Robertson captures the human rhythms of a charitable eye hospital, where the act of seeing becomes both subject and metaphor" – The Hans India*



*"During a rare residency at an eye hospital, an artist learns the art of seeing and not just looking" – The Week*



**Hindustan Times 100**

**Artist's 18-month stay inside Delhi eye hospital translates to exhibition on care, vision**

By Anurag Singh

New Delhi: An artist's 18-month stay at St. Stephen's Eye Hospital in Delhi has translated into an exhibition on care, vision and the human rhythm of the place. The exhibition is the gift to us. It captures not just the act of restoring sight, but the larger "idea of seeing".

Robertson used his extended stay to observe the institution as a "living, breathing, do-or-die system".

"I came to see the surgeons as the engine and heart of the place, the nurses as its lifeblood, and the guards and maids as essential parts of the whole," he said in the statement.

Meanwhile, the hospital management said the exhibition captured not only the act of restoring sight but also the larger "idea of seeing".

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The project began after Robertson donated proceeds from the sale of two artworks to the hospital some years ago, eventually leading to an invitation to work from within the institution as an artist-in-residence.

Known for long-term immersive projects, Robertson studied at the Warholton School of Art and has spent several years in Delhi. Much of his work is rooted in close engagement with communities and spaces he documents, the statement read.

A section of the exhibition also moves beyond the hospital, into the streets of Daryaganj and Old Delhi, nodding the institution to the surroundings from where many patients, workers and visitors come.



*"At the centre of the exhibition is the idea of vision, both literal and perceptual. Inside the hospital, sight is restored through surgery and care; in Robertson's practice, seeing becomes an exercise in attention and stillness. The works hold this parallel quietly, where medical practice and artistic observation reflect each other without overlap" - Patriot*

**DECCAN Chronicle**

**Seeing is believing**

When Stuart Robertson, a British artist, spent 18 months at St. Stephen's Eye Hospital in Delhi, he didn't just see the patients and the doctors. He saw the rhythm of the place, the way the nurses moved, the way the guards stood. He saw the art of seeing.

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**The Tribune**

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**LEISURE**

**A WAY OF SEEING**

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# Table of CONTENTS

**01** Editorial: A Four-Laboratory Model

**02** Annual Day

**03** Aadya Initiative

**04** Humans of SCEH

**05 - 15** Events & Awards

**16** Creative Corner



## Chief Storyteller

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Stuart Robertson



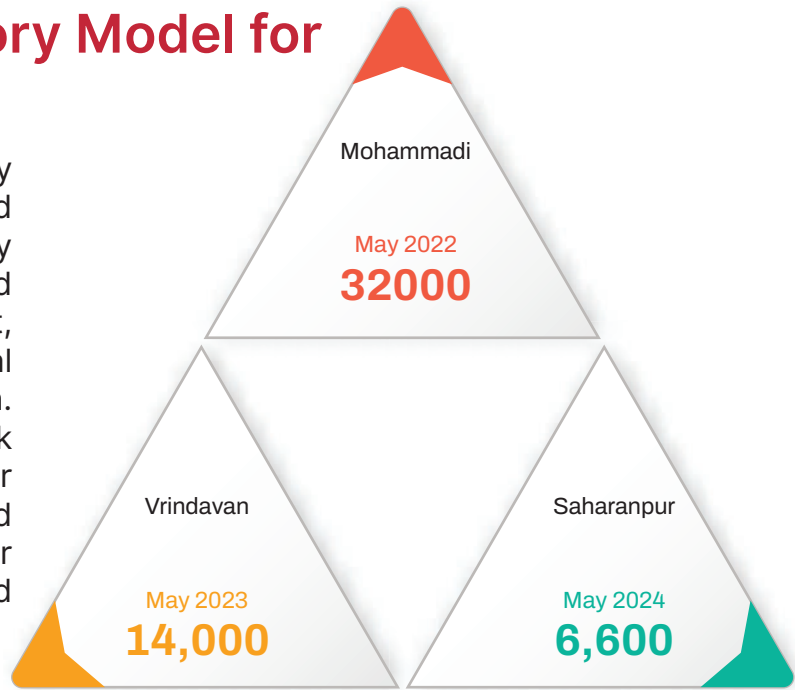
# Editorial: A Four-Laboratory Model for Integrated Eye Care

Traditionally, ophthalmic laboratory diagnostics in India were concentrated primarily in large tertiary institutions. Many secondary eye hospitals lacked dedicated ocular microbiology or pathology support, resulting in delayed diagnosis, empirical therapy, and increased referral burden. Recognizing this gap, the SCEH Network progressively built a dedicated ocular laboratory infrastructure that integrated microbiology, histopathology, molecular biology, cytopathology, and specialized biochemistry into routine ophthalmic care.



The laboratory services initially centered around the Delhi tertiary centre gradually evolved into a distributed network

model. Over time, satellite ocular laboratories were established at Mohammadi, Vrindavan, and Saharanpur, creating one of the few organized multi-centre ocular laboratory systems in India.



This expansion represented more than geographical growth. It reflected a strategic shift toward decentralized diagnostics, where patients in smaller towns and underserved regions could access specialized ocular investigations locally without dependence on distant metropolitan centres.

The rural laboratory model helped achieve several important objectives:

- 01 Reduction in referral delays to tertiary centres
- 02 Faster initiation of evidence-based therapy
- 03 Improved accessibility for economically disadvantaged patients
- 04 Lower travel costs and reduced patient burden
- 05 Enhanced continuity of ophthalmic care
- 06 Strengthened infection control and antimicrobial stewardship

Importantly, the decentralized model enabled local ophthalmologists and secondary eye centres to manage complex cases more confidently with laboratory support available nearby.

Contributed by  
**Dr Arpan Gandhi**



## Annual Day

The Annual Day celebration, held in March 2026, marked a significant milestone as we celebrated 100 years of SCEH—honouring our achievements and the people behind them. The event brought together doctors, staff, and leadership to recognize our collective service and impact. A key highlight of the evening was the **Dr. Monica Gandhi Service Excellence Award** which was awarded to the nurses for their exceptional service. We also honoured employees who completed 25 years of service and the celebration was further enlivened by vibrant cultural performances.

## Aadya Initiative - A journey to continued impact

What started as a door-to-door screening project in 2021 has now evolved into a model of impact, achievement, and women-centered community care - The Aadya initiative, in partnership with Combat Blindness International and technologically powered by PEEK Vision, has reached three million screenings across the network.



> **1,15,000**  
patients supported and referred

> **12,000**  
vision centres within the network.

> **13,000**  
direct surgeries facilitated through Aadya screeners

The initiative not just improved eyecare access, but helped build trust and rapport with community members. Another One greatest achievement of the project is the employment opportunity it has created for women. Many of these women stepped into a professional role for the very first time, supporting not only their children's education and their families' socio-economic balance, but also contributing meaningfully to their communities by promoting better eye health and preventing avoidable blindness. Today, we have over **130 screeners across the network, and 100% of them are women.**



A Biomedical Engineering Training Academy was launched at SCEH on 31 May 2026. The Academy reflects SCEH's continued commitment to developing competent biomedical professionals who play a critical role in ensuring the safety, reliability, and optimal performance of medical equipment—an essential component of quality patient care.

# Humans of SCEH

*Your past may shape your journey, but your determination decides your destination.*



My life didn't begin with comfort or certainty—it began with responsibility. I was born in Etah, Uttar Pradesh, into a farming family

but life took a harsh turn when I lost both my parents as a teenager. At an age when most are still figuring out their path, I had no choice but to become the backbone of my family. I had four younger siblings to care for. That is when I abandoned education and moved to Delhi in search of work.

My first job was as a housekeeping staff member at Dr Lal Path Labs under Shine and Standard Company. The work was tough, the pay modest, and the days long. I joined SCEH in 2011 as a housekeeping staff. Over the next eight years, I worked across various departments like ENT and Retina. During this

time, I got married myself and got my two brothers and two sisters married as well. In 2024, a position for an office boy opened up in the CEO office. I was offered this opportunity. Despite my reluctance and fear of not being able to fit in, I agreed. I have not looked back since then.

This job has given me more than I had ever expected. If you ask the 18 year old boy who was left to fend for his younger siblings after the untimely demise of both parents, he wouldn't believe, that someday he would be working in a fancy office, meeting and greeting educated people respected in their fields, and would see the president, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in real life.

I can't ask for more. I love coming to work every day. The warmth of people around me, the satisfaction of patients when I help them and the smiles of each and every one in the hospital...It just makes my day.

**Ranjit Lal**  
Office Boy, CEO office

A quarterly photography competition was organised by the teleconsultation team for vision technicians to encourage better picture quality.



## MEDRET 2.0

The department of Vitreoretina and Uvea conducted a three-day medical retina conference, MEDRET 2.0. The conference brought together esteemed experts and retina enthusiasts from across the country. The first day witnessed a high-yield secondary IOL surgical workshop featuring deferred live surgery by Dr. Nivien M, Dr. Sangeet Mittal, and Dr. Rahul Mayor,

followed by an engaging hands-on wet lab session in the wet lab. The second day focused on Medical Retina while the third day had a quiz competition, followed by hands-on training sessions where all delegates experienced practical learning on OCT interpretation, intravitreal injections, and retinal lasers.

## Glaucoma week



Glaucoma week 2026 was celebrated worldwide from 8-14th March 2026 with this year's theme "**Uniting for a Glaucoma-Free World**". The week began enthusiastically with a glaucoma awareness run with more than 75 participants. Other events included a painting session for children on Pediatric Glaucoma Day, Skit and poster competitions and awareness talks across the network. Q&A sessions were organised by the faculty for vision technicians manning the vision centers to improve diagnosis, camps were organised to increase screening, webinars were held to educate optometrists in various glaucoma related investigations and our fellows and DNB's (Dr Arya, Dr Khyati, Dr Srishti) won case presentation competitions and an intercollege quiz.



SCEH celebrated **Myopia Awareness Week** in May with a series of engaging activities which included educational webinars, interactive sessions, community outreach programs, awareness campaigns, and fun-filled activities for children.



As part of celebrating 25 years of partnership between SCEH and Orbis International, the Pediatric Outpatient Department for underserved children was inaugurated by Ms. Diana Wheeler, Board Chair, Orbis International, in April 2026.

*Dr Sima Das, Head of department Oculoplasty and Ocular Oncology conducted a Hospital-Based Training (HBT) in Ghana for Orbis International. She trained the faculty and fellows with 15 cases with orbit and eyelid pathology.*





On March 19, SCEH inaugurated the **Abhey Oswal Comprehensive Eye Care Centre** which has been established with the generous support of Aruna Abhey Oswal Trust (AAOT) and Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), underscoring a shared commitment to expanding access to high-quality eye care. The inauguration ceremony was graced by **Chief Guest Naveen Jindal, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Special Guest Savitri Jindal, and Guest of Honour Dr. Aruna Abhey Oswal**. The newly inaugurated OPD is designed to cater to approximately **300 patients per day**, translating to nearly **100,000 patients annually**, significantly enhancing access to timely diagnosis and treatment.



Two advanced procedures were successfully performed for the first time at SCEH Saharanpur Centre: Paediatric SLET by Dr Aastha Garg, and Dermis Fat Graft with Orbitotomy by Dr Obaidur Rehman.

The first short-term Lacrimal Specialty Fellow successfully completed her training at SCEH Mohammadi under the tutelage of Dr Obaidur Rehman and Dr Akash Kumar.

An orthoptics workshop was organised at SCEH Saharanpur which was attended by more than 38 Vision Technicians, Optometrists, and Ophthalmologists, both internal and external. Ms Amrita, our early intervention trainer, shared an inspiring presentation on the importance of early intervention and rehabilitation for special children, emphasizing the transformative role of rehabilitation services.





Dr Neha Kapur on presented her work on the molecular basis of Keratoconus at the prestigious World Keratoconus Congress, Italy.



SCEH was recognition as a Certified Peek Software User Training Partner by the Peek Vision Foundation.



In the words of Nelson Mandela, “Sports have the power to unite people in a way that little else does”. Keeping that in mind, SCEH organised an in-house badminton championship under the leadership of Dr Julie Pegu. The Championship winners were Dr Abhishek Sagar and Dr Julie herself. Man of the championship was awarded to Dr Shrey and Woman of the championship was a tie between Dr Sanchita and Ms Ishika.

SCEH family participated in a rejuvenating meditation session led by Dr Dikshit Kapil.





Implemented in partnership with **ORBIS** and **SCEH**, a **Patient Communication and Education Project** has been launched, that focuses on strengthening patient-centric communication, enhancing counselling skills of **Allied & Health Professionals, Managers, and Ophthalmologists**, and improving the overall patient experience across both clinical and administrative services. The project was led by **Ms. Jyotsana from ORBIS** and **Dr. Indu Arneja**.

In April, Standard Chartered Bank Vrindavan Academy connected with leading institutions in and around Mathura including KD Medical College, G.L.A. University, and SKS Medical University to create awareness about the academy's advanced training opportunities, modern wet lab facilities, hands-on cataract surgery exposure, and academic programs.



A two-day Research Vision Workshop was organised by the Department of Translation Research which included expert panel insights from seven global and national experts and the collective vision of 7 SCEH teams. It presented a synthesised core purpose, a vivid description of SCEH Research in 2035 and the roadmap to achieve it through an implementation plan with 15 immediate priority actions.



## Convocation 2025-26

The **Standard Chartered-Shroff's Eye Care Education Academy** hosted a Convocation Ceremony for the Long-Term Ophthalmology Fellowship Batch 2025-26 in the month of April.

This year the training capacity expanded five-fold, with fellows representing **17 states** across India. Through **21 Short-term courses**, **244 eye care professional** from **23 States** were trained and together **trainees contributed to over 46,000 sight-restoring surgeries**. The Academy also deepened its international collaborations, delivering training programmes in Mongolia and Ghana, and continuing its academic exchange with the University of Wisconsin. There were a total of **31 scientific presentation, 21 publications, and 7 awards by our learners** across the year. The convocation honoured the graduating fellows and equally, the trainers whose mentorship continues to shape the next generation of ophthalmologists across the country. The **Orbis international** team graced the occasion - including Ms. Diana Wheeler, Vice Chairperson. Ms. Kathleen Sherwin, President & CEO, joined in with a congratulatory message and commencement speech via an e-call.





## Concured 2.0

Rare eye diseases do not always make headlines. But for thousands of patients across India, and their families, they are a daily, life-altering reality. Rare ocular disorders are frequently underdiagnosed, undertreated, and under-researched. Many patients wait years to reach the right specialist.

**CONCURED is our response to that gap.**

The aim is to build a national ecosystem where rare eye diseases are recognized earlier, managed better, and studied more rigorously. Our long-term vision is to help India become a meaningful global contributor to rare ocular genetics. The **second edition of this Conference on Uncommon and Rare Eye Diseases** concluded on a strong note. The **ABC Workshop (Applied Bioinformatics for Clinicians)** offered hands-on training in genetic report interpretation, a critical and often hard-to-access skill in ophthalmic practice. The main **conference** brought together faculty from across India for keynote lectures, complex case discussions, and research presentations that sparked dialogue well beyond the session rooms.



## Retinoblastoma week

Retinoblastoma Awareness Week 2026 was successfully celebrated at SCEH from 10th to 16th May 2026, with enthusiastic participation by patients, survivors, families, doctors, staff, and volunteers. The week commenced with the installation of awareness displays and a “**Spot the G.L.O.W.**” themed photo booth to promote early detection of childhood eye cancer among patients and visitors. A Survivors’ Holistic Clinic was also held, during which nearly 30 children on follow-up were reviewed by a pediatric oncologist, low-vision aid, genetic counsellor, dietitian, teacher, psychologist, ophthalmologist, and ocular oncologist. A Reel Making Competition on the theme “**Voice of Hope**”, art and craft activities and a socio-cultural programme was organised for children and survivors. Recreational activities, including a gaming zone in the Pediatric OPD and a special food stall, the “**White Spot Café**,” were also organised during the week. Peripheral centres also actively participated by conducting similar programmes to spread awareness within the community further.





The Optometry Department at SCEH celebrated World Optometry Week 2026 from 15th to 23rd March under the theme “Vision for All – Your Vision, Our Mission.” The week-long celebration recognized the significant contributions of optometrists in advancing eye care through clinical services, education, research, and community outreach. A series of engaging activities, including the Vision Strikers Football Tournament, Opto-Premier League Cricket Tournament, Vision Walk, EYE Q Battle Quiz Competition, Treasure Hunt, Fun & Games, Nukkad Natak, and Model & Innovation Showcase, brought together optometrists and students in a spirit of learning, teamwork, and healthy competition. More than 120 participants joined the Vision Walk to raise awareness about eye health and the prevention of avoidable blindness. The celebrations concluded with an Optometry Day cultural program and prize distribution ceremony.



A CME on Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI) was conducted in Mathura with excellent participation from Paediatricians, Neurologists, Ophthalmologists, Rehabilitation Professionals, and other healthcare specialists. It highlighted the ongoing CVI Project at SCEH, including early identification, assessment, vision therapy, rehabilitation services, caregiver training, inclusive education support, and community-based interventions for children with CVI.

# Awards and Recognition



**SCEH won the Dr. Bodh Raj Sabharwal Trophy for the best DOS Monthly Clinical Meeting**



**Best of IJO - Dr. Julie Pegu, Dr. Suneeta Dubey**



**Best of IJO(Original article)- Glaucoma - Dr. Shayana Bhumbra , Dr. Suneeta Dubey.**



**IJO silver award - best original paper published in IJO 2025 - Dr Sima Das**



**Best Paper in Pediatric Ophthalmology AIOC 2026 - Dr Shailja Tibrewal**



**Dr Shalini Singh won the award for best clinical talk inDOS Monthly Clinical meeting (Dr. Krishna Sohan Singh Trophy)**



**Dr Tanya Jain won the HS Trehan Trophy for best case presentation in DOS Monthly Clinical meeting. She also won an award for contribution in DOS Lectures and completing 100 hours of teaching in DOS.**



**BEST OF IJO- Oncology of the papers published in IJO 2025 - Dr Chhavi Gupta, Dr Sima Das**



**Third prize in Think Under the Apple Tree 2026 - Dr. Obaidur Rehman**



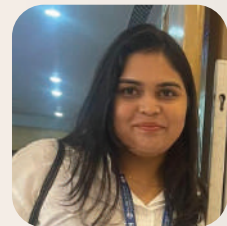
**Case Presentation winner: Dr. Diana Kwenuah Amoabeng - Composite Eyelid Graft Replantation in Dog Bite Injury**



**Best physical poster - Ocular oncology - Dr Khyati Roop**



**International achiever of ophthalmology award- Dr Chhavi Gupta**



**OPAI Best Photograph winner: Dr. Asmita Singh - Fireworks in Snowland**



**OPAI Best Free Paper Award for the Young Oculoplasty Surgeon winner: Dr. Chhavi Gupta - Clinical Utility of Circulating Free DNA for Pre-Enucleation Risk Stratification When MRI and Histopathology Differ**



**OPAI Best Free Paper Award (Non-Orbit) winner: Dr. Anureet Kaur - Optical coherence tomography in retinoblastoma: uncovering the disease at its dawn**



**Mr. Kartik Goel won the Best Poster Award for his work on "Correlating the Transcriptional Landscape and Immunophenotyping of Conjunctiva in Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS) Patients" at MRC 2026, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE).**



**Best Physical Poster in Pediatric Ophthalmology AIOC 2026 - Dr Divya Chaudhary**



**Dr Anju won the second best video award and a travel grant at retina Interesting cases – Miscellaneous session fellows retreat at PGI Chandigarh**



**Dr Sanchita Handa won the Interesting cases – Miscellaneous session at Annual DOS 2026**



**Dr Isha Agrawal won the Pentathlon at Annual DOS 2026**



**Dr Mitali Jhamb won the Interesting cases – Allied Ophthalmic at Annual DOS 2026**



**International hero award for best video award in ESCRS (Denmark)- Dr Abhijay Luthra.**



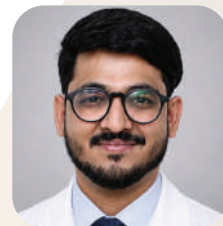
**Dr Sanchita Mehta & Dr Vanshika Arora won the Interesting cases – Retina and Uvea IV at Annual DOS 2026**



**Dr Karthika Chandran won the free paper - Strabismus and Neuro-ophthalmology II & Finale sessions at Annual DOS 2026**



**AIOS 2026 ARC PG thesis competition - 4th prize - Dr Rinkal Goyal**



**Best Physical Poster in Trauma category AIOC 2026 - Dr Adarsh Keshari**

# The other side of the glass

*Two worlds separated by a glass. LEDs on one side, sunshine on the other. Waiting for the patient to arrive on one side, for the delivery guy on the other. Pre-operative showers on side, colorful flowers on the other. Focus on one side, entropy on the other. In the midst of the OT, sometimes the noise is too much on this side and looking to the other side of the glass feels oddly calming.*



*(View of the 'other' side of the glass from the tea area on the doctor side of the OT – a favourite peeking site for the surgeons!)*

Contributed by  
**Dr. Obaidur Rehman**

## Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

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