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#### The Messiah of eye care...The life and times of Dr G.D. Agrawal...

f vou ever drive on the state highway 93 from the city of Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh, towards Lakhimpur, vou would mesmerized by the lush green farms, water canals overflowing with water and migratory birds the city-folk seldom get to see. However, yet another structure will catch your attention...the Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital - Smt. Vimla Devi Netralaya, standing tall in lemon yellow and green, seemingly in the middle of nowhere.

This hospital that houses over 20 ophthalmic surgeons, has a patient load of around 600 patients each day and performs over 150 cataract and specialty surgeries daily in peak season. The hospital also boasts of advanced equipment, top-notch infrastructure and eight simultaneously running operating tables. With such staggering numbers and extreme attention to quality of service, it is no less than a tertiary care hospital.

#### One man made this possible...

He completed his Master's in General Surgery in 1982 from the prestigious King George Medical College in Lucknow. It is here that he felt the need for developing patient friendly medical products. G. Surgiwear Ltd., which is one of the leading Medical Devices & Surgical consumables manufacturing company, is based out of his hometown in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh. The business was originally set up for his in-laws but eventually the responsibility running it fell on him. Despite a myriad of challenges and the initial turnover of just ₹30,000, the company is now hundreds of crores.

Supporting SCEH wasn't a strategic decision for him, but a moment of inspiration, when he saw the good



and honest work being done by the institute. His first act of encouragement was donating the land where the hospital now stands. And his contribution has only grown.

He isn't just an entrepreneur and philanthropist, but also a creator and innovator. He is passionate about designing and inventing. He and his team have developed about 140 medical device innovations, some patented in India and some abroad. Not everything he creates, is for sale. Some innovations are only for pleasure. One project close to his heart is - resorbable metal implants plates, that dissolve in the body after healing a broken bone.

Call it destiny, call it fate, or just serendipity, but association with Dr GD Agrawal has changed the face of eyecare in Mohammadi and surrounding areas.

"I believe giving comes from the heart. You can't force anyone. People have to realize that we don't take our wealth with us when we go. If I hold onto everything for my family, what message am I sending?"

Dr. G.D. Agrawal



**Editorial** 

Not all superheroes wear capes....

Contributed by Studio4

# "The best part of beauty is that which no picture can express" - Francis Bacon



Pre OP

## Patient Story

Contributed by Dr. Sagar Udasi Fellow, Cornea and Refractive Services

Rachana, a 17 year-old, resident of Mohammadi, Uttar Pradesh, always aspired to clear UPSC exams and get government job. She was hardworking, smart and aced in all subjects at school. With the guidance of her uncle, she was determined to clear the exams and secure a job. But the only thing she lacked in, was her confidence. Which stemmed from her appearance. She had a limbal dermoid (abnormal growth) in both her eyes which made uncomfortable and conscious in social gatherings. Her family discouraged her to pursue UPSC because the her ocular condition and she too wasn't ready to face the world with what she thought was a blemish. She visited multiple hospitals and was told her that surgery to remove the mass might compromise her vision. Almost defeated, she visited one of camps arranged by SCEH, there she was encouraged to join the Ophthalmic Allied Personnel



Post OP

programme. During her course, she dared to hope again and discussed her condition and apprehensions with the cornea surgeon posted in SCEH Mohammadi. Talking to him, convinced her and she underwent surgery in both. Today she is confident, socially comfortable and ready to pursue her dream.



Dr. Shalini Singh, consultant, vitreo-retinal services, was honoured with the prestigious Urban Innovation FICCI Award for her outstanding contributions and achievements in the field of Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP). She also won the best paper award in the annual conference of Indian Retinopathy of Prematurity Society.

SCEH Mohammadi completed 100 vitreoretinal surgeries.





## Humans of SCEH

**Dr Gagandeep Singh** Fellow, cataract and microsurgery

belong to Jammu, and did most of my schooling from Srinagar, Kashmir. Like most doctors in our country, I was too set on a path of acquiring one degree after another. After completing Diploma in Ophthalmology from Srinagar, I had two choices. The easier first choice was to take up a government job, with little work and decent salary. The tougher second choice was to either pursue a fellowship or do a secondary DNB. Even though I was slightly tempted to choose the first option, my fathers words changed my thought process. He worked as a documentation officer in Sher-e-Kashmir institute of medical sciences and always wished for me to make it big in the medical field. It suddenly struck me that if I only wished for an easy life, why did I become a doctor at all. By taking a government job I would be doing no good to myself or the community which I had aspired to serve. So the hard path was chosen.

That time I was recently married and preparing for DNB entrances was not possible in the festive home. I took up a temporary job in Rudraprayag where the salary was good and the working hours were limited. And simultaneously prepared. I cleared the entrance. But then came another turning point, as I also got selected as a cataract and microsurgery fellow at SCEH, along with my wife. I was again tempted to choose the easier path, and be in the same system as my wife, but the months spent in Rudraprayag would be a sacrifice wasted. So I first did secondary DNB



and then came back to join the fellowship again. My ultimate goal is to be a vitreo-retinal surgeon, and this time there will be no dilemma.

I was first introduced to SCEH by a senior resident in Srinagar who had done her Glaucoma fellowship here. Rave reviews from her had already convinced me that it's a good place but getting a positive feedback from my wife daily, really infused me with confidence. The teaching at SCEH is unique. Here the culture is to correct mistakes and not punish for them. Everything is addressed in a step-wise manner and most importantly everything is fair. While other places encourage the strong and leave the weak to fend for themselves, here, hands of each one are held equally and everyone is made to cross the finishing line together. The systems are flexible to adjust for the unpredictable adult life and everyone is extremely accessible.

I owe a lot to this place, and both me and my wife are indebted for the skill and culture that is imparted in us.

Dr Umang Mathur was invited to speak in the 108th Oxford Ophthalmology Conference on "Seriously high-volume cataract surgery - India" within the symposium entitled "Exporting Advances in Diseases and Technology From Around the World".



#### Public Health Quarterly Meet: Collaborating to Empower Eye Health

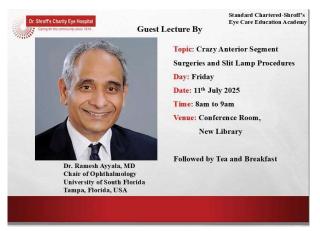
SCEH organised its Public Health Quarterly Meeting for the first quarter of FY 2025-26. The gathering brought together public health professionals, community leaders, community optometrists, and VC/ABFV coordinators from across regions to review performance, share learnings, and plan for the upcoming quarter. The objective of the meeting was to discuss planning and initiatives for the effective implementation of ongoing projects, with a special focus on Avoidable Blindness Free Village (ABFV) declarations, camp effectiveness, Vision Centre (VC) effectiveness and sustainability, and impactful case stories. A key highlight of the event was the official launch of the VC Clinical Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), marking a significant step toward strengthening standardisation and ensuring quality



care delivery across all VC's. An Award Ceremony was also organised to recognise the outstanding performance of VC's and regional teams.



SCEH Delhi and Mohammadi teams successfully organized two Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs focused on paediatric ophthalmological disorders. The events drew a diverse audience of paediatricians and ophthalmologists from the region, including the President and Secretary of the Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) Shahjahanpur chapter. The first CME was honoured to have Dr. GD Agarwal as the chief guest. The second CME, held in Bareilly, was organized in collaboration with the Bareilly Ophthalmological Association and attracted over 30 enthusiastic ophthalmologists, comprising both residents and senior consultants.



Guest lecture on "Crazy anterior segment surgeries" by Dr Ramesh Ayyala, Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology, University of South Florida.



First short term fellow completed her training in lacrimal surgeries in SCEH Mohammadi.

SCEH Vrindavan hosted a neuro-ophthalmology CME, attracting a notable audience. The event featured two renowned external faculty members who shared their expertise with residents from colleges in Mathura, Firozabad, and Ambala.



#### **Unruly Art event**

In a spirited and unconventional art event, children facing visual challenges transformed their struggles into vibrant expressions of creativity. Despite the blurry shapes and fleeting colours that danced before their eyes, these young artists fearlessly picked up art pieces and poured their hearts onto canvas. The room buzzed with unruly energy—laughter, bold splashes of paint, and unfiltered imagination breaking free from the confines of sight. This event was more than just an art session; it was a celebration of spirit, a powerful reminder that creativity transcends physical limitations and that beauty often lies in the unexpected.



## Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

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Delhi | Alwar | Mohammadi | Meerut | Modinagar | Ranikhet | Saharanpur | Vrindavan



In the quiet glow of the ocular histopathology lab,
Slides wait under glass,
It's a story written not in words
But in colours, shapes, and shadows.

Hematoxylin whispers in deep violet,
Tracing the nuclei's careful script,
A diary of division,
A secret of growth or stillness.

Eosin breathes soft rose into the cytoplasm, Showing where life has swelled, Or where disease has carved its mark.

Then come the special quests:

Periodic Acid-Schiff,
With its royal magenta revealing fungal threads,
Or basement membrane scars in a cornea's curve;
Masson's trichrome,
Painting collagen in ocean blues,
Measuring the stiffness of time's hand;
Ziehl-Neelsen's crimson,
Catching the quiet persistence of mycobacteria;
Oil Red O, glowing scarlet in lipid-laden cells,

Telling tales of metabolic storms.

The digital microscope hums alive,

Stitching fields into vast panoramas,

Magnifying not just tissue —

But understanding.

Ocular Histopathologists trace vessels pixel by pixel,

Quantify mitoses with an algorithm's eye,

And share the case in seconds

With a colleague continents away.

Through stained slides the truth unfolds,

A map of cells, their secrets told.

Guiding vision, sharp and clear,

Histology speaks, the path made near.

Healing eyes with knowledge bold.