

One 2 one with Dr. Laxmi Jhalla Director Alakh Nayan Mandir

1. Tell us about your education and early years in Udaipur.

Did schooling at St Paul's School Udaipur and thereafter graduated in Medicine from RNT Medical College, Udaipur. Later, pursued Masters in Medicine with a Specialization in Ophthalmology from Jaipur. Belongs to a very simple family from Jhadol Village of Udaipur District. But his upbringing in early childhood shaped his personality to a great extent. Later after he was married to Dr Laxmi in 1997, he came under the divine influence of Her Holiness Mahatma Bhuri Bai, which further developed him into an empathetic human being.

2. When was Alakh Nayan Mandir established?

The hospital commenced its functioning in 1984 as a private hospital founded by well-known Ophthalmologist of Udaipur, Dr. H. S. Chundawat. Thereafter, it was transformed and donated in totality to a newly formed trust named Alakh Nayan Mandir, founded by Dr. H. S. Chundawat and his family in 1997.

3. What was the vision behind establishing Alakh Nayan Mandir?

Provide quality eye care to all on a sustainable basis, irrespective of socio-economic status and to make the region free of needless eye problems. The primary objective is to provide eye care without discrimination and reach out to those patients who cannot afford quality eye care.

4. Who/ What was the inspiration behind Alakh Nayan Mandir?

Alakh Nayan Mandir derives its inspiration of service to humanity from Her Holiness Mahatma Bhuri Bai "Alakh", a lady saint from Nathdwara who practiced the visualization of One God in All, an extremely powerful message through which she inspired thousands and thousands then and even now. According to her, every human being or rather every creature on this planet is a physical representation of all-pervading God or Supreme Power. Hence, service to humanity is service to God. This understanding inspired her staunch disciple, Dr. H. S. Chundawat to rise above self and work for others.

5. Give details of the philanthropic work undertaken by Alakh Nayan Mandir.

Descriptive program details have been written under the head 'Community Eye Care Programs' on Page 3.

Broad statistical figures are as follows:

Total patients treated : 11,27,815
Total Free Patients Treated : 4,07,981

Total patients provided surgical and advanced services : 1,18,912

Total patients provided Free surgical and advanced services: 65,649

No. of Village Camps: 3401



Patients benefitted through camps: 4,07,981 patients provided free of cost treatment
No. of Schools Screened : 1748

No. of school children treated: 3,16,148

No. of Corneal Transplant Surgeries : 458

Patients treated through our Vision Centres in Villages: 66,876

6. Major Recognition and Awards that Alakh Nayan Mandir has received.

• Maharana Mewar Foundation Award for its philanthropic services at the state level.

• Honoured by District Administration, Udaipur (Government of Rajasthan) for its rural and community outreach activities.

• Numerous gold medals in the annual state conferences of Rajasthan for the best research papers

• Awarded for best paper presentations in various conferences nationally and internationally.

• Invited as Faculty in some of the most prestigious conferences at state, national and international level.

• Honoured by then Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Smt. Vasundhara Raje for its exemplary philanthropic services to the humanity.

• Honoured by various voluntary organizations and groups for its blindness prevention programs.

7. Give our readers the details of Dr. Chundawat's charitable, humanitarian mission.

The stimulus of compassion and empathetic love for fellow beings created grounds for the emergence of this Eye Institute. Dr. H. S. Chundawat, the Founder - Trustee of Alakh Nayan Mandir, who having a blooming private practice as an ophthalmologist, gave up everything - his entire life time earned business along with his goodwill for the sake of mankind. He and his family transformed their business in entirety into a public charitable trust, so as to reach out to more number of underprivileged eye patients and serve them with a noble spirit.

8. What are the services

offered by Alakh Nayan Mandir?

Alakh Nayan Mandir provides eye care services in three broad categories:

- Quality Eye Treatment
- Community Eye Care Programs
- Teaching and Training Programs

Quality Eye Care- Alakh Nayan Mandir offers its patient an array of high-end, state-of-the-art eye care services in the following super-specialties:

- a. Cataract - No stitch Phaco surgery: SICS / Phaco with foldable & multifocal implants- Alakh Nayan is a pioneer in Rajasthan to adopt the Phaco technique for cataract surgery
- b. Retina & Vitreous
- c. Glaucoma
- d. Refractive Surgery - Lasers
- e. Oculoplastics
- f. Low Vision Aids
- g. Contact Lens Clinic
- h. Cornea / Anterior Segment
- i. Paediatric Ophthalmology and Squint
- j. Corneal Transplantation Centre (Eye Transplant)

Community Eye Care Programs - The community outreach programs comprise of the following three modules of work:

- a. Eye Care Services for under privilege persons
- Free eye screening camps are organized in remote rural and tribal villages in entire Udaipur division.

- Team from Alakh Nayan Mandir goes to the camp site.

- Patients are screened for all kinds of eye problems.

- Preliminary treatment is provided on the spot and patients who need surgical treatment or detailed investigations are then transported back to the base hospital.

- They are then operated here by the latest and most sophisticated technology.

- Expenditure for the arrangement of stay, food and medicine are also borne by the institute.

- Follow-up of these patients is done after five days and final follow up check-up after one month of surgery.

- We have organized 3407 Eye Camps till date and pro-

vided eye care services to 4,07,981 patients.

b. Vision Centres in 12 Villages - Primary Eye Care Services in the villages

- We have 12 Vision Centres in 12 Villages in this region, which are equipped with basic eye check-up units and equipment required for a primary level of eye care for villagers.

- The idea is to provide low-cost or free services at their doorstep and connect them to the base hospital for advanced services if required.

- This helps in timely intervention and large cost savings for villagers who would have otherwise spent considerable money to come to nearby cities for a simple eye checkup.

- A team of Vision Technicians and Community Health Workers even do a population survey to assess the quantum of eye problems in that region. Based on this data, the team from base hospital plans eye care programs and camps in these areas.

- Alakh Nayan Mandir is the only eye hospital in South Rajasthan doing such activities.

c. School Eye Care Programme

- Preliminary screening of school students is done absolutely free of cost in the school premises itself.

- The training of teachers is done for vision testing so that they may assist in the screening process.

- Students with diminished vision/ other problems referred to the base hospital for further investigation and provision of spectacles.

- Idea is to screen children at a young age and timely provide treatment, so that they do not end up having complicated eye ailments later on.

Besides all of the above, we have programs for Premature babies who are born with an eye disease named Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), which leads to blinding conditions if not treated on time.

We also have a program on Diabetic Retinopathy, which is an eye condition caused by the effect of Diabetes in the body. The Program is named

as Community Based Diabetic Retinopathy Project. The program encompasses population surveys and studies, creating awareness about the disease, organizing screening camps, identifying prospective patients, and finally offering them the required treatment.

Teaching and Training Programs: Details of teaching and training programs have been covered under point no. 13.

9. Is Alakh Nayan Mandir empaneled under Chiranjeevi or other such health insurance plans?

Alakh Nayan Mandir is empaneled with Chiranjeevi and many other private health insurance plans. To name a few, Rajasthan Government Health Scheme, Ex Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme, and other private insurance schemes. Besides, it is also a recognized hospital by National Program for Control of Blindness (NPCB) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. It is actively working with NPCB on blindness prevention activities in South Rajasthan, by way of free eye care and imparting high quality education ser-

Mission Statement: To Provide quality eye care to all patients in need on a sustainable basis, irrespective of socio-economic status of the patients, by building linkages with various government, non-government, and corporate organizations and to make the region free of needless eye problems.

12. 2030 vision for Alakh Nayan Mandir?

- Take Alakh Nayan Mandir to the Centre of Excellence Level in eye care

- Create a network of Vision Guardians ('Community Health Workers' in layman language) and Vision Centres in a majority of the villages in this part of the country, who reach out to eye patients in need in a timely manner and facilitate their treatment.

- Further develop out Tele-Ophthalmology system and strengthen it for the use in our villages and community programs.

13. Is there a reckoning towards education in the near future (Alakh Nayan Mandir has short term training courses, are you planning to providing full Degree/Diploma course)?

Alakh Nayan Mandir has a few long term courses cur-



vices to in-practice Government Ophthalmologists.

10. Can you elaborate on the schemes under which Alakh Nayan Mandir is empaneled?

Same as no 9.

The Chiranjeevi schemes have fixed packages for cashless treatment of low income patients. The NPCB programs have a bare minimum reimbursement of Rs 2000/- to the participating NGO hospitals to perform free cataract surgery on needy patients brought from the camp.

The money is routed through the State Blindness Office, however very rarely the amount is reimbursed to NGOs and if at all done, the money comes after 3-4 years, which is quite pathetic.

All other schemes are for patients coming from different insurance companies or their respective government offices.

11. What is Alakh Nayan Mandir mission when it comes to serving people in the remote areas around Udaipur / South Rajasthan?

rently;

- Post Graduate Course DNB in Ophthalmology also known as NBEMS equivalent to MS in Ophthalmology

- One Year Comprehensive Fellowships in Ophthalmology

- Two Year Certificate Course for Vision Technicians

- Besides, there are various ongoing training programs for Community Health Workers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers and for our in-house nursing and support staff

Till date 92

Ophthalmologists in various categories have been trained at Alakh Nayan Mandir coming from various parts of the country and 4 of them were foreign nationals. More than 500 candidates from allied health workforce have been trained under various initiatives.

Future plans: - Besides, Alakh Nayan plans to impart Diploma or a Degree Course in Optometry which will be 3-4 yrs course.

- There are plans for One Year Fellowships in various other super-specialties of Ophthalmology for post PG residents.

MOU RESERVES SEATS FOR ARMY WARDS



Jaipur: A Job Seminar by Oberoi Group of Hotels in collaboration with Army Wives Welfare Association was conducted on 22 May 2023 at Sapta Shakti Auditorium, Jaipur Military Station.

As per MoU signed between President AWWA and CHRO, Oberoi Hotels

and Resorts; the interactive session aimed at discussing potential recruitment and employment opportunities available in the hospitality sector for the wards of army personnel.

Natasha Mehta, Senior Faculty, OCLD, New Delhi briefed about STEP (Systematic Training and Education Programme). Which is a fully funded 3 year course and provides Bachelor of Tourism Management degree from IGNOU, the course is designed for class 12th pass out students between the age bracket of 18-20 years. Seats are offered to the army wards on priority.

Attended by 450 enthusiastic students of Army Public School, the session was highly informative and interactive. Students asked questions related to the nature of training, goals and future prospects of the course. Natasha Mehta Yadav and Pranav Virmani of Oberoi group happily answered their queries, which was followed by one to one interaction of class 12th students with the Oberoi team.

The session was well received by the students of APS, Jaipur and shall help those who wish to embark on a rewarding career in the hospitality sector. The event concluded with presentation of the token of appreciation to the Oberoi team by Gayatri Kulshreshtha Principal APS, Jaipur.

ORGANISED VISIT FOR SAPTA SHAKTI ASHA SCHOOL STUDENTS

Jaipur: Army Public School, Jaipur organized a visit for students and teachers of Sapta Shakti ASHA School on 18 May 2023.

The visit aimed to exchange knowledge on effective classroom inclusive practices between the teachers and mentors in both schools. Students of Sapta Shakti Asha School have presented a token of remembrance related to an origami-based craft activity.

Volunteer Students of APS Jaipur diligently guided and supported the specially able students throughout the visit. This interaction was fruitful and enlightening for the educators and students as it aptly focused on the quote, "Inclusion Starts with us".

Pratap Jayanti was celebrated in MPUAT and a memorial lecture

Udaipur: Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology celebrated the 483rd birth anniversary of Veer Shiromani Maharana Pratap on May 22, 2023. Student Welfare Officer Dr. Manoj Mahala said that the faculty members, staff, and students offered floral tributes in front of the equestrian statue of Maharana Pratap at 10 am in the Rajasthan Agriculture College. After that, at 11 am, Dr. Pramod Kumar Joshi, former Director of South Asia - International Food Policy Research Institute and internationally renowned agricultural economist and policy expert, delivered the prestigious "Maharana Pratap Memorial Lecture" virtually. Dr. Ajeet Kumar, Vice Chancellor, MPUAT, Karnataka, Presided over the program. He talked about the unprecedented life of Veer Shiromani Maharana Pratap, his unwavering faith in his abilities, the continuous effort for freedom, taking all the social people together, and taking inspiration from public welfare works. Organized by the Directorate of Student Welfare, all the high officials in the Directorate of Research, the offline mode of this lecture. In an online way, more than 1000 participants from all over the country, mostly students and young professionals, joined and took advantage of the program.

yet 90-plus marks



Udaipur: The posts of Lecturer in Physics, Chemistry, and Hindi subjects were vacant at Government Senior Secondary School, Parsola, Udaipur.

There was no one to teach this subject to the children. Despite this, Priya Soni, a student studying here, secured 91.40% marks in the Rajasthan Board of

Secondary Education 12th Science result.

Also, Priya got more than 90 marks in subjects with no teachers. She Got 95 marks in Physics, 94 in Chemistry, and 85 in Hindi. According to the Information, earlier there was a lecturer in Physics and Chemistry here, but he was transferred from this school. In such a situation, the course remained incomplete for the students. She Was able to teach only one or two units. Priya's father has a jewelry shop in his house. She is the third among four sisters. Priya studied in a private school till 8th standard. After this, the students studied these subjects at their own level. Priya's father has a jewelry shop in his house. She is the third among four sisters. Priya studied in a private school till 8th standard. After this, she has been studying in a government school since 9th. It was from here that Priya secured 92 percent marks in 10th. Her dream is to become an IAS.

Government teacher taught daughter in a government school, secured 95% marks.

Khushi Patel, a student of Government Higher Secondary School Amarpura, Sarada in Udaipur, has secured 95.60 percent marks in Science. Khushi's father, Amarlal Patel, is a level-2 teacher at Gamdi Government higher Secondary School in Jaisamand.

Donors who helped in the development of RNT felicitated

Udaipur, Udaipur. Since the establishment of the city's premier RNT college, the felicitation ceremony of the donors who have supported various development works of RNT till now was honored, Chief Guest the Governor of Assam, Mr. Gulabchand Kataria and speaker of Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Dr. CP Joshi not on; ly graced the ceremony but felicitated them at RNT Auditorium on Thursday.

Assam Governor Shri Kataria said that Mewar had been the land of Bhamashahs, and the people here have a unique spirit of service. Expressing gratitude to Bhamashahs and Danvers

who cooperated to develop RNT, he said that serving patients is pious work and, as far as possible, every person should come forward for service work. He noted that Bhamashahs should be honored every year to inspire other people. Vidhansabha Speaker Dr. CP Joshi, while congratulating all the honored Bhamashahs and Danvers, said that in this ritual of service, every person should earn virtue by sacrificing himself. Appreciating this event, he congratulated the doctors of RNT.

Divisional Commissioner Rajendra Bhatt, RNT Principal Vipin Mathur, MLAPhool Singh

Meena, Dr. Lakan Poswal, Dr. DP Singh, SK Kaushik, Ramesh Joshi, and other heads of departments and dignitaries were present in the program.

They were respected During the ceremony, M.K. Agarwal, Ms. Anupam Nidhi, CSR Head of Hindustan Zinc Limited, Bohra Samaj, Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin Prakash Purohit of Miraj Group, Mahendra Pal Chhabra and Satyendra Pal Chhabra of Swaroopendra Singh Chhabra Trust, Dr. Hemant Porwal, Dr. Vinod of Porwal Trust Porwal, Dr. Hemant Porwal and Dr. Vinod Jaskaran, Director IIFL Foundation Mrs. Madhu Jain,



GR Infra Welfare Society's Devki Nandan Agarwal Mrs. Shakuntala Jain, Professor S. S. Lodha Ms. Premalata Mehta "Raj Lodha and Ganesh Daglia of Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Seva Samiti, Veer Sunil Gang of Mahavir International

Udaipur, Veer Vardhaman Mehta, Veer Ranjit Singh Sojatia, Manav Seva Samiti, Bharat Singh of Vagad Seva Sansthan, Brigadier Vijay Saxena, Gopiram Aggarwal, Mayor of Udaipur Municipal Corporation, Govind Talk, and

Deputy Mayor Paras Singhvi, Dalpat Surana, RK Dhabhai, Managing Director of RSMML, Sandesh Nayak, Smt. Sheela Bordia was felicitated. On the other hand, donors Dinesh Pratap Singh Tomar, Vinod Jain, Epirock Mining India Limited, Sanjay Singhal, C.S. Rathod, K.G. Gupta, A.C.T. Grants, Roshan Lal Jain, felicitated. Similarly, for cooperation in organizing the 6 Decades Celebration, Mrs. Anjali Bhanga, J.P. Agarwal, Ashish Agarwal, Dr. JK Chhaparwal, Dr. Kirti Jain, Dr. Arvinder Singh, Dr. Amit Ding, senior doctors of Annata Charitable Education Society were honored.