Padma Shri, Rai Bahadur
Dr. Mathra Das Pahwa
(1880-1972)

A brief compilation of his life story

www.mathradaspahwa.com
First Edition Published on November 20, 2012
Dr. Mathra Das Pahwa, grandfather of Mr. Deepak Pahwa, was a renowned eye surgeon and had worked tirelessly in the field of vision, more so, for cataract surgery, free of cost. Bry-Air is carrying the mission forward through the "Dr. Mathra Das Pahwa - Vision outreach Program".

Dr. Mathra Das Pahwa is remembered by all those who knew him during his lifetime and all of us who are discovering the wealth of his humanity as the creator of modern Moga and a ray of light to all those whose sight he restored.

A specialist of eye ailments, he conducted over half a million surgeries in his life time, continuing to operate till the age of 92 years.

He helped innumerable people to gain their eye sight through numerous charitable eye camps he held in various cities in India, mainly in Moga, Punjab; Beawar, Rajasthan; Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir; Darbhanga, Bihar; Delhi and many other places. He created a record by conducting 750 operations in a single day. He established the Civil Hospital in Moga (1927), which is now known as the Mathra Das Civil Hospital.
Apart from the Hospital, he also laid the foundation of many education institutions which are running in his name today; viz Arya Putri Pathshala, MDAS – High School 1919 (Sr. Sec. School), DM College of Education (1926), Moga & many other similar reputed institutions.

Bry-Air draws its inspiration from his work and is attempting to carry forward the mission. Bry-Air's underlying philosophy with regards to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is to pressure corporate value enhancement through innovation and sustainable business practices.

CSR at Bry-Air is practiced at three (3) levels, for the:

- Stakeholders (Employees, Business Associates, Customers)
- HVAC&R Community
- Society at large: Bry-Air's CSR initiatives are focused on 3 areas:
  - Right to Vision
  - Right to Education
  - Environment protection

This booklet is a tribute from Bry-Air. It intends to bring out a book which details life and works of Dr. Pahwa. We need your support to bring out the book. Please give us any information you may have in the form of stories, letters, photographs, contact of people who knew him.

Our contact details have been provided on the back page.
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>9th October' 1880</td>
<td>Born at Hafizabad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Joined Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st January' 1903</td>
<td>Joined Service in Moga</td>
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<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>Started Eye Work for the first time</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st January' 1912</td>
<td>Awarded Kesari Hind Silver Medal</td>
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<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Appointed as Asst. Surgeon</td>
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<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>Moga High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st January' 1919</td>
<td>Awarded title of Rai Sahib</td>
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<td>1st January' 1921</td>
<td>Awarded title of Rai Bahadur</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st January' 1924</td>
<td>Awarded Kesari Hind Gold Medal</td>
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<tr>
<td>1924-1940</td>
<td>Elected President, Municipal Committee, Moga</td>
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<tr>
<td>1925-1935</td>
<td>Appointed as Viceroy's Honorary Asst. Surgeon</td>
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<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Started Moga Intermediate College</td>
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<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>Set-up Moga Hospital Named M.D. Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Officiating Civil Surgeon, Ferozpore</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st January' 1932</td>
<td>Awarded Kesari Hind again</td>
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<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Officiating Civil Surgeon</td>
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<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Retired as Civil Surgeon</td>
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<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Set-up Moga Degree College (D.M. College, Moga)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930-1936</td>
<td>Member, District Board, Ferozpore</td>
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<td>1936-1937</td>
<td>Member, District Board, Lahore</td>
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<tr>
<td>1940-1946</td>
<td>Member, Swami Dayanad Trust, Ajmer</td>
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<td>1936-1937</td>
<td>Member, Punjab Medical Council</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>Member, Punjab State Medical Faculty</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>President, N.W.R. Doctors Association.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Member, Punjab State Medical Faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Maharaja Rajendra Bahadur awarded him by Khilat Fakhra</td>
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<tr>
<td>1946-47</td>
<td>Vice-President, Punjab Medical Council.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Honoured with Padma Shri</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Dr. Pahwa leaves for his heavenly abode.</td>
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Brief History of Dr. Mathra Das Pahwa
... in his own words

“When I was student of Medical School, Lahore, and Col. Perry who was incharge of Eye Department went on leave and Dr. Hari Ram was appointed in his place. Dr. Hari Ram was training one Dr. Jagan Nath in Eye Disease during his appointment.

This inspired me to specialize in Eye Disease after completing the course.

In 1901 after getting Diploma of L.M.P I joined Govt. service and was appointed as Sub-Assistant Surgeon at Jandiala District, Sialkot on Plague Duty.

After that once while walking in Anarkali, Lahore, I entered chemist shop of M/s. Jai Singh & Sons and saw some old Eye instrument which some Civil Surgeon sent to the chemist for sale. I purchased those instruments for Rs. 8/-only.

Till the end of December 1902, I was posted at different places.

On 1st of January 1903 I took charge of Civil Dispensary, Moga which was situated on main road from Ferozpur to Ludhiana and it was at a distance of two miles from Moga village. As the dispensary was at long distance and there was Jungle all in between very few patients were coming.

On seeing the patients record of previous years it was noticed that the attendance of patients during the previous years was higher than when I became the Incharge of the dispensary. When Civil Surgeon came for inspection of the dispensary and enquired about the cause of fall in number of patients, I replied that the health of people of the area have improved and this is the cause of fall of attendance.

The actual cause of difference was that the previous Incharge was entering fictious names of the patients in the register to show higher attendance which I did not like at all.
I started thinking of ways and means of improving the number of patients. After some time of this incidence Deputy Commissioner of Ferozpur came to Moga on tour and I sought his permission to keep one table, almirah and some medicines at Moga village itself where I would like to see the village patients there daily in the evening in addition to my morning duty at dispensary.

The permission was granted and I started to go to Moga village on bicycle in the evening to see the patients there. This method worked and the number of attendance started improving and also the fame of my dispensary.

Once a poor woman came to me and requested me to see her ailing son at her residence, I agreed and went to see her son and prescribe the medicine. She paid me official fee of Rs.2/- by mortgaging her Thali (plate). When I came to know this fact later on, I felt it very much and decided not to charge any fee official or un-official at all from the residents of Moga.

I started going to see the patients on bicycle in the surrounding villages and telling the people that whosoever are suffering from eye disease may come to me at Moga and I will treat them free.

In 1903 I did three cataract operations and in 1904 the number rose to 43. I was giving free food and also paying conveyance charges to poor patients to go back to their villages. Whatever, I was charging from rich people I was distributing among the poor. In this way my work started improving immensely and also my fame.

In 1905, Civil Surgeon of Ferozpur came to Moga and saw me performing eye operation. He was pleased to see and suggested that I should go to Jullandhar for sometime with Col. Smith who was Civil Surgeon of Jullandhar and also doing Eye operation.

After some time I went to Jullandhar in connection with some other engagement and met Col. Smith and saw his technique of performing Cataract operation. His technique in medical community was not popular. Medical Conference was to be held
in 1909 in Bombay and Col. Smith was to deliver lecture on his technique of Cataract extraction.

As his technique was not considered best, he was anxious that someone else should also speak in support of his technique in Medical Conference at Bombay, so he invited me to Jullandhar to work with him for sometime and speak in support of his technique of operation in Medical Conference at Bombay. I obliged him by doing this.

In 1920, when Col. Smith was leaving India for England after retirement from service he told me that “his one son is studying in Medical College in England and he would like to bring him to me at Moga for training after he completes his course”.

In 1921, I invented my own technique of removing the Cataract, but I did not publish in any Medical Journal.

In 1925, Col. Smith brought his son to me at Moga for his training in Eye Operation and they stayed at Moga as my guests. I told Col. Smith about rule I had made for the Doctors who were coming to me for training. According to that rule after training for sometime, I was allowing them to do one Eye Operation daily to the Doctors of Indian origin and three Eye Operations to the Foreign Doctors. But I told Col. Smith that I had a great respect for him, therefore, I would allow his son, five Eye Operations daily.

After a few Days Col. Smith talked to me and suggested that out of daily total number of Eye operation half of the lot may be given to his son for operation and other half may be divided among other Doctors to which I did not agree and he went back to England.

In 1925 Col. Smith also saw my technique of Cataract Operation, which I invented in 1921 (but I did not got published in any journal), when he came to Moga with his son. After going back to England, he got published in Medical Journal of England and America. My technique of operation in his own name claiming that he had invented this technique of Cataract Operation.
When the American Doctor Bull who had been to me at Moga for training in 1922 saw this Journal, he was surprised to see and immediately wrote to the editor of medical journal that he had already seen this technique of Cataract Operation in 1922 at Moga and this is the technique of Doctor Mathra Das of Moga (India). He also informed me about all this.

In those days it was practice that the Doctors who were coming to me for training of operation were having group photograph with me before going back to their countries after completing their training.

In this way the group photograph of the Doctors who came in 1925 were taken before Col. Smith went back, Col. Smith and his son both were in that group photograph with me. To drive home my point I sent a copy of that 1925 group photograph to Doctor Bull in America and wrote him that the technique published in the Medical Journal in the name of Col. Smith was mine and he had learnt it from me.

MOGA
The year in which construction of new Hospital started 1908
Year in which Hospital was completed 1909
Year in which new method of Hard Cataract Extraction invented 1921
Year in which Doctor Bull visited 1922
Year and date in which I was transferred to Sheikhupura 8.6.1395
Date of Retirement 14.9.1035

How I came in contact with his Highness of Kashmir

In 1916 His Highness issued invitation by telegram. Have been visiting the state regularly from 1916 to 1925

Did not visit Srinagar from 1918 to 1920 but only to Jammu.

His Highness requested me in 1917 and then in 1925 again to accept the appointment as Eye Surgeon to the state.
Letter from the Military Secretary to the Viceroy, to Dr. Pahwa

Viceregal Lodge,
Simla.
The 11th July 1931.

Dear Dr. Mathra Das,

I am pleased to inform you that the Viceroy has appointed you an Honorary Assistant Surgeon on His Excellency’s personal staff with effect from the afternoon of the 13th April 1931. The appointment will hold good during His Excellency’s term of office or until your retirement from service if that happens first.

Yours sincerely,

Rai Bahadur
Dr. Mathra Das,
MOGA.
(Personal)

www.mathradaspahwa.com
As expressed by Mahatma Gandhi which appeared in HARIJAN

Mahatma Gandhi wrote:

"Though I had heard a lot about the reputation of Dr. Mathuradas of Niga, I had never had occasion to witness any of his famous operations for cataract, until I saw them in course of last month. He came especially at the invitation of Jummala Lakji and with his assistant wandered from town to town in search of cataracts. In 300 operations, there were no cases of cataracts. And now it certain to have operated out of cataracts. It is a sacrifice.

Mathuradas was a Vajra Ka. He began a few years ago at Vishnupur Bhakta and then became a doctor. He then invited the doctor to this time to Niga. I listened to Dr. Mathuradas with admiration for his unerring and quick surgical hand. He performed operation at the rate of one in a minute. He was never weary and never mishaps occurred. He said that he has cured their eyes free as he charges fee to the poor."
Eyes to the Blind

Though I had heard a lot about the reputation of Dr. Mathuradas of Moga, I had never had occasion to witness any of his famous operations for cataract, until I saw them in Wardha last month. He came specially at the invitation of Jamnalalji, and with his assistants restored eyes to about three hundred people who had been blinded by cataract.

These mass operations have been described as a yajna (sacrifice). And yajna is certainly is, as any act of selfless service is a sacrifice. This yajna began some years ago in the Bhagavad Bhakti Ashram at Rewari, with which Jamnalalji was closely connected. He therefore invited the doctor this time to Wardha. I bowed to Dr. Mathuradas in admiration for his unerring and quick surgical hand. He performed operations at the rate of one in a minute, there was scarcely a mishap. Thousands thus get back their eyes free, as he charges no fee to the poor.

The doctor told me that nowhere except in India was cataract so common as was also rhinoplasty. These operations, therefore, place him in the forefront of the surgeons for cataract throughout the world. No doubt many doctors have now taken up the work and copy his example. It is just as it should be, for the medical profession should be one of selfless service. And there was no humanitarian mission for which Jamnalalji was not ready. It came to him as naturally as any of his business enterprises. That was why he had a scheme in hand for making these operations a periodical feature in C. P.

I hope that the scheme will not be interrupted by his death, and Dr. Mathuradas is always ready for these yajnas.

On the train to Calcutta, 17-2-42
(From Harijansevak)
and the speed of the operation, and also to the fact that
the eyes are not dressed often.

A letter received by Dr. Fisher from Dr. Mathra Das
Pahwa, Lahore, India, January 14, 1942, stated that he
operated on 2,200 eyes at Patna, in November, 1939, in four
and one-half days. Such numbers are unthinkable in any
place outside of India.

Another letter from Dr. Arthur W. Miller of Riverside,
Cal., dated March 27, 1942, in answer to one from Dr.
Fisher regarding Dr. Mathra Das Pahwa stated that he was
in the Dr. Mathra Das Pahwa Clinic for one week at Delhi,
India, in December, 1935, when 2,000 senile cataracts were
operated on in one week; and the following week on 2,000 at
Patna, and in one day Dr. Mathra Das Pahwa did 550 opera-
tions. Miller states that he counted the operations for one
hour, and 58 were done. Six tables were used, the patients
are prepared and placed upon the tables; after the opera-
tions are performed the assistant dresses the eye. Male
nurses anesthetize the eyes and keep sterile instruments on
each table. Miller states that the operations done at Delhi
and at Patna were on charity patients, and that he considers
Dr. Mathra Das Pahwa is doing wonderful work, which is
appreciated by the poor people on whom he operates. Dr.
Mathra Das Pahwa makes the incision in either eye with
his right hand.

The patients were housed in a building at Delhi, and the
floors were covered with straw for them to sleep on after
the operations. At Patna, tents were used, and straw cov-
ered the ground. (End of Dr. Miller’s letter).

In Holland’s clinic at Shikarpur, during the busy days,
about 18 operations are performed in an hour. The largest
number operated on by Dr. Fisher in one day was 117. In
this clinic two tables were used.

The operations are so simple and uniform that the great
numbers that are performed in a single day are done without
any thought of speed. It is generally conceded that the
'Eye Madness' published in Time Magazine Jan 15, 1951

MEDICINE

Too Much to Bear

Just after Christmas, 1950, black-haired Mrs. Marshall Pullard was something which made her turn cold: her 11-year-old daughter Carolyn was building toys close to her knees as she played in the Porchey's cozy little house at Elgin, Ill. A sudden outburst of color explained why it was the only way she could see them.

Mrs. Pullard and her husband Frank, an unemployed store owner, had moved their family to Elgin so that the mother could open herself to the cheerful sight of Christmas through the children's eyes. The children's toys, however, were not hers, but those of the Pullard's new-born baby, who had died a few months before. This little girl had done herself in by a leap from a window. The sight of her creations has forever remained so vivid in the children's minds that it has caused them to suffer from a condition known as "Eye Madness." The baby's sudden death has caused the children to suffer from a condition known as "Eye Madness."

Eye Madness

Every 40 seconds, "Eye Madness" is reported. Youngsters who have lost a loved one often suffer from this condition. The children's toys, however, were not hers, but those of the Pullard's new-born baby, who had died a few months before. This little girl had done herself in by a leap from a window. The sight of her creations has forever remained so vivid in the children's minds that it has caused them to suffer from a condition known as "Eye Madness."

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STAFF OF THE M.D. HOSPITAL MOGA
FAREWELL GROUP PHOTO IN HONOUR OF
R.B. DR. MATHRA DAS PAHWA,
On his transfer as Civil Surgeon Sheikhupura.


Chairs: - Miss M. Habibullah, Dr. Jai Gopal Bahl, Dr. Bhagya Wati, B.B. Dr. Mathra Das Pahwa, Captain Dr. Tulsidas, Dr. Wazir Chand, Dr. Inayatullah Khan, Mrs. D. Datta, Mrs. V. Scott.

Two dedicated healers of the blind

Combining high professional skill with selfless service, two dedicated surgeons are restoring the precious gift of sight to countless afflicted people in India’s villages.

W. N. NANDA

Some thirty years ago a doctor in the little town of Meera, one of India’s great ophthalmological centers, was treating patients in the primitive, makeshift hospital. He was Dr. Maina Das, then a number two in the Provincial Medical Service and attached to the civil hospitals in Meera.

As the surgeon’s reputation spread, patients flocked to his agency from all parts of the province. Injections and eye operations were added to the small hospital, year after year, to accommodate the increasing number. Many Indian doctors and foreign medical students also came to watch Dr. Maina Das at work and learn something of his methods and watchfulness. Among them was Dr. W. A. Fisher, M.D., of Chicago, who wrote after his visit: “I consider you the greatest ophthalmologist the world has ever produced and it will be a long, long time before anyone ever duplicates what you have done.”

While much of Dr. Maina Das’s work had been done in Meera and Lahore before Indian independence, he has continued to be active after shifting to Delhi in the wake of the country’s partition. By the end of 1957 he had performed some 20,000 operations for cataract and 50,000 for strabismus, besides a number of miscellaneous operations.

In recognition of his professional skill and service to the community, the British Government awarded him the K.S. M. gold medal and the title of RAF Balaknir. The hospital at Meera was also named after him.

Although he is now eighty-eight, Dr. Maina Das is still active. He performs eye operations in Delhi and in camps organized by social agencies in such other towns as Darbhanga, Jalalabad, Harrow, Southampton, and Strasbourg, and in 1937 performed 4,629 operations—345 of them in one day. Most of these operations were free and in other cases only a nominal fee was charged.

The record of Dr. Maina Das’s achievements is indeed impressive to be in Indian medical history. We may hope to do and perform continued
Contd... Two dedicated healers of the blind

The late Helen Keller called Dr. Modl “A light piercing the darkness in selfless service.”

Even amid the noise of an era, separated from the American doctor not only by a distance of more than a thousand miles but also by a generation or more in age, is Dr. Manona M. Mathrada, now in her nineties, whose unique work for the blind has been acclaimed both in India and the United States.

A medical graduate of Hunting University, Dr. Modl started organizing eye camps for the poor in rural areas shortly after completing his post-graduate training about twenty years ago. As an eye specialist, he could have built up a lucrative practice in Bombay, but he preferred to serve India’s blind in the villages and set up his first camp at Patna village in Gujranwala. This pioneer eye camp, operated in the face of resistance and bridging the gap between the villages and the town, served an estimated 40,000 operations and ensured that no one left the village without treatment.

To cope with the large number of patients needing eye surgery, Dr. Modl transformed what he calls “production line medicine.” Right off the operating table, patients are immediately ready for the next patient. The doctor’s aids move quickly to keep the operating theatre in constant motion, ensuring that there is no delay in the surgical process. This approach has been a testament to Dr. Modl’s dedication and commitment to providing the best possible care for his patients.

Despite the challenges, Dr. Modl never wavered in his commitment to serving the blind. His work has not only improved the quality of life for countless individuals but has also inspired others to follow in his footsteps. His legacy continues to this day, as his clinic remains a beacon of hope and a symbol of the power of selfless service.
The legend that was Dr Mathra Das

There was a man who was a legend, a Doctor who was revered by many. His name was Dr Mathra Das, a name that was synonymous with excellence and dedication.

Dr Mathra Das was known for his unrelenting passion for medicine. He was a man who believed in treating the root cause of a problem, never just the symptoms. His approach was holistic, and he believed in providing comprehensive care to his patients.

One of his most famous cases was the case of a little boy who was suffering from a rare disease. Despite the odds, Dr Mathra Das refused to give up. He tirelessly worked on a new treatment plan, and finally, after months of hard work, the boy was cured. This was just one of the many cases that Dr Mathra Das handled with ease and grace.

Dr Mathra Das was not just a doctor, but he was also a mentor to many. He was known for his ability to inspire and motivate his students. He believed in teaching by example and always practiced what he preached.

Dr Mathra Das was a man who lived his life with integrity. He was known for his honesty and his commitment to ethical practice. He was a man who always put his patients first.

Dr Mathra Das passed away on a cold winter day, leaving behind a legacy that would continue to inspire generations. He was a true legend, a man who left a lasting impression on the world of medicine.

P.S. Dutt
Letter written by Saligram Gosai

Dear Darpan ji,

I am so pleased and thankful for receiving the photo of Dr. Pahwa Sahib which you have sent. It has touched my heart. As I see the photo, several memories come back to my mind. I always recall how we worked together on the title of "Matra 1" and other projects. I am still in touch with Dr. Pahwa Sahib and share with him our work and experiences. It is very difficult for me to express my gratitude to you for sharing these memories.

However, I will try to describe some of the happy moments I spent with Dr. Pahwa Sahib. When I met him several years ago, he was at the Lahore Savings Bank, and I met him again at the railway station in Lahore. On another occasion, I met him in Delhi, and we had a great time together. He was always so kind and helpful.

Dr. Pahwa Sahib was known as the doctor of our community. I will always remember him with love and respect. Thank you again for sharing these memories with me.
of Moga. He spent almost his whole career at Moga.

For this I tell you of an incident.

An old friend of mine, Sir Frank 45 years
in Peshawar, M. Sindoni (Dhaknot) in Sindhi Perfectionist. Dr. Batera
Abhara's English, he inaugurated the Bihar Ophthalmological
Conference at Jagjivan Nagar.

Hospital at Jhundpur. It was to honour Dr. Dutchham Raw,
The Eye Specialist of Peshwa, the function was to conclude with any
Note on the EYE

As I came down the stage, Dr. Dutcham
Raw asked me a question. I, there,
mentioned to him the name of Dr.
Maithnera Das. He at once said,
"Maithnera Das of Moga. He replied,
"Yes, you are right, but he was..."
The same night my 90-year-old mother died, I received Dr. Pahwa's condolence well-typed on a telegram. He died on 20 Dec 1971, and was buried next day.

It was from thispost card that I got the full address of your house. Dr. Pahwa had 3 houses as Holyroads

(Gray and Delhi district). Whenever he visited our town, he would pass through the main road, with folded hands all through. Shopkeepers stood up to respond. Once that red car was seen in the bazaar, I still remember, the whole crowd with folded hands.

My father knew his son and wished to move as his companion, to learn eye-operation. His son (my elder brother), son of Cholera there and Dr. Pahwa performed all the funeral & other ceremonies.

The nephews came back, as
Letter written by Saligram Gosai Contd...

"Dr. Anant Ram Goswami. It is very
was in our Thakurdwar and when
a boy I used to see him perform
eye operation. The patient
made to lie on a table. He would
are touch. And he would perform
operation of cataract without any
helping hand. I saw the
child reach to his holding in the
his hand.
I have mentioned this to tell
you that even his description
because "Doctors" and eye-
specialists.
I have written this letter, the
pen helping me, but I cannot read
clearly what I have written. So
please excuse me,
Dr. Radhose was a
Qualified priest. He was
who initiated holding of three
eyes. Raaj. Thus he was
The pioneer of eye camps. He was not only a civil surgeon but also a spiritual leader. He served the people of Ahmedabad with dedication and compassion. He was a doctor of the people. He was for the people and by the people. He was a man of the people. He was a true representative of the people.

The new station of the Rabari was inaugurated in the presence of the entire village and the surrounding areas. The station was dedicated to the people and was named after the village. It was a symbol of the people's connection with each other and their love for each other.

Although he was a doctor, he was also a spiritual leader. He was a man of the people and by the people. He was for the people and by the people. He was a true representative of the people.
published his record of life's services, having opened seven latch eyes.

My heart is most helping me to write. So I conclude with my regards to your mother who is only eleven by 2 years. She must be narrating to me a tale of Dr. Pahwa's life with regard.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

P.S. Dr. Pahwa was invited every year by Mahadev Deshpande in Bhubaneswar, where he did 10,000 cataract operations.

Shri Debadas Pahwa

To: Rajkiran RD

Delhi
Dr Mathura Das Pahwa was the most sought after physician of Lahore in the years before partition. More than his skills as a doctor it was his perpetual cheerfulness which taught his patients to look at the sunnier side of life. Among his closest friends was Rai Bahadur Ishwar Das, Registrar of Punjab University (grandfather of Justice B N Kirpal of the Supreme Court) who usually took a very melancholic view of the world. I often ran into Dr Mathura Das in Ishwar Das's home. After assuring Ishwar Das that there was nothing wrong with him, he would recite his favourite couplet in Urdu:

\[
\text{Meyrey Yaar, patang Uraya Kar} \\
\text{Kat Jaee to gham na khaaya kar}
\]

My friend, always fly your kite high in the sky
If, by chance, its string is cut and it falls apart
Do not let it get you down, do not take it to heart.

Strangely enough, this brought a brief smile on Ishwar's Das's face. But while he often quoted these lines to other people, he himself relapsed into his gloomy world. On the other hand his son, Prem Kirpal, repeats the same lines and though now deaf and confined to a wheel-chair, he remains a cheerful nonagenarian. All one can conclude is that a formula for survival may work with one person but not with another.
Message from
Shri V.V. Giri (the then President of India) on
the passing away of Dr. Mathra Das Pahwa

(Message sent to a memorial meeting held
at the Arya Samaj Dewan Hall, Chandni
Chowk on 19th November at 10 A.M.)

“I am deeply sorry to learn of the passing
away of one of our most eminent eye
surgeons, Dr. Mathura Dass Pahwa. By his
expertise in the science of healing and his
deftness in performing operations on mass
scale, he has acquired a legendary renown
which will continue to inspire many others
engaged in this humanitarian cause. His
complete dedication is visible from the fact
that even at the ripe age of 91 he was
performing operations for the benefit of
the poor.

I appreciate the proposal to hold a
memorial meeting in his honour and join
his numerous in paying tribute to his
astounding zeal to help the needy and his
unswerving devotion to the noble cause”

Sd/

V.V. Giri

www.mathradaspahwa.com
Dr. Mathra Das Pahwa was the grandfather of Mr. Deepak Pahwa, Chairman Pahwa Enterprises and Managing Director Bry-Air (Asia); Bry-Air is a global solution provider for humidity/moisture control/removal, drying, air & gas purification & complete environmental control systems.

Pahwa Enterprises, headquartered in India, is a group of innovation driven companies specializing in Desiccant based Technologies & Products.

Bry-Air's underlying philosophy with regards to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is to pursue corporate value enhancement through innovation and sustainable business practices. Bry-Air recognizes that its business activities have a direct as well as indirect impact on the community it operates in. Currently Bry-Air CSR initiatives are focused on 3 areas; viz. Right to Vision, Right to Education & Environment Protection.

Under Dr. Mathra Das Vision Outreach Program, Bry-Air already organized 18 such free eye camps in underprivileged areas of Delhi and Haryana. On the occasion of 1st free eye camp at Moga grandchildren of Dr. Mathra Das Pahwa and other members of the Pahwa Family were present. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Deepak Pahwa, Chairman, Pahwa Enterprises and grandson of Dr. Mathra Das said that he was very touched at the warmth of the people of Moga in rebuilding the relationship with family with Moga.
Glimpses of CSR Activities

www.mathradaspahwa.com
We need your support to bring out a book which details the life and work of Dr. Pahwa. Please give us any information you may have in the form of stories, letters, photographs, contact of people, who knew him or any other information.

Please contact us, so that we can get in-touch with you individually.

Sonali Dutta
Vice President (Corporate Affairs)

Bry-Air (Asia)
21C Sector 18,
Gurgaon, Haryana
Tel: 0124-4091111, Extn. - 147
Mobile: 08826008134
Fax: 0124-4091172
email: csr@pahwa.com
Website: www.bryair.com / www.mathradaspahwa.com