



**Media Advisory: For Immediate Release**

## **Operation Eyesight Universal and M. M. Joshi Eye Institute Hold Foundation Laying Ceremony for New Secondary Eye Hospital in Yadgir, Karnataka Feb 3**

*The hospital will provide access to affordable eye care services, including eye exams, treatment for eye diseases, prescription spectacles, and surgeries for cataracts and other eye diseases to Yadgir's population of 1.2 million people.*

**What:** Foundation-laying ceremony for the construction of a secondary eye hospital in Yadgir, Karnataka, made possible through a donation from the Gerald A. Cooper-Key Foundation (a charitable foundation based in Calgary, Canada). The name will be the Secondary Eye Hospital of Shri Guru Mahipatiraj Eye Bank and Research Foundation Trust.

Once operational, the hospital will provide secondary eye health care services for the 1.2 million people of Yadgir. The new hospital will include a payment model that sees patients pay treatments costs that they can afford, including full payment, partial payment and treatment for those who cannot pay at all.

**When:** The foundation-laying ceremony runs from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. IST Monday, February 3

**Where:** Patrika Bhavan Yadgir, Opp. Nandini Oil mill, Hyderabad Road, Yadgir -585201

**Why:** Operation Eyesight Universal and the M.M. Joshi Eye Institute are working to prevent blindness and restore eyesight in the state of Karnataka. The project encompasses Yadgir, where a government hospital provides primary eye health services but there is currently no secondary eye hospital to provide eye health care such as surgeries for cataract and other conditions. The new hospital will serve Yadgir's population of 1.2 million people.

The prevalence of blindness in India is estimated to be 0.36 per cent according to [the National Blindness & Vision Impairment Survey](#), conducted between 2015 and 2019. Karnataka is estimated to have a significantly higher rate of blindness, and this rate is higher still in Yadgir District. Currently, people can access primary eye health care at the government hospital, but there is no secondary eye health care hospital.

Once operational, the hospital's first year service goals include: eye exams for 12,000 people, 2,500 prescription spectacles dispensed, 1,800 sight saving surgeries (cataract and non-cataract) performed and screenings of an additional 2,500 people through partnerships. The



project will also build capacity for primary health care staff which will refer those in need to the new hospital.

**Who:** Mr. Kashinath Bhoosnurmath, President and CEO, Operation Eyesight Universal; Dr. Srinivas Joshi, MM Joshi Eye Institute, and others

**Media are invited to attend the event and conduct interviews in person, or by phone.**

**Learn more:** View a video on Operation Eyesight Universal and M. M. Joshi Eye Institute in Karnataka. <https://youtu.be/u8FObn0afBo?si=UzW3z6eifdqGmZyi>

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**About Operation Eyesight Universal** *Learn more at [operationeyesightindia.org](http://operationeyesightindia.org)*

Operation Eyesight Universal is an international development organisation working to prevent blindness and restore sight. Its vision is to eliminate avoidable vision loss. It is registered as a charitable Trust in India, where it has been working for more than 60 years. Inspired by a physician working in India, Operation Eyesight was founded in Calgary, Canada in 1963 and has grown into a global community spanning four continents – South Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. The vision is global and the focus local, with teams on the ground in communities of work. Through activities like community outreach, water and sanitation projects and health education, Operation Eyesight is addressing the root causes of avoidable vision loss which contributes to [six United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: no poverty, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, and partnerships for the goals.](#)

**About M. M. Joshi Eye Institute** *Learn more at [mmjoshieyeynstitute.com](http://mmjoshieyeynstitute.com)*

M. M. Joshi Eye Institute is the biggest exclusive, ophthalmic super specialty eye care hospital in Hubli (North Karnataka). It was founded in 1967 by Dr. M. M. Joshi, and since its inception, it has been an icon of advanced ophthalmic care. It is a high-tech eye hospital offering comprehensive eye care facilities and a postgraduate training institute of ophthalmology. It is now a household name through free and subsidized eye camps and treatment. The Managing Trustee is Dr. M. M. Joshi who is founder chairman of M. M. Joshi Eye Institute. Dr. M. M Joshi, has been conferred with the prestigious “Padma Shri” Award from the Government of India as a recognition of his yeoman service to mankind in the field of community eye care.

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