



Embargoed until Monday, February 3, 2025

Operation Eyesight Universal and M. M. Joshi Eye Institute Hold Foundation Laying Ceremony for Secondary Eye Hospital in Yadgir District, Karnataka on February 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.

Media are invited to the foundation laying ceremony, 11:00am to 1:30pm, Monday, February 3, Patrikia Bhavan Yadgir, Opp. Nandini Oil mill, Hyderabad Road, Yadgir -585201

Patrikia Bhavan, Yadgir, Karnataka Monday, February 3, 2025: Operation Eyesight Universal and M. M. Joshi Eye Institute are holding a foundation-laying ceremony for a new secondary eye health care hospital in Patrikia Bhavan, Yadgir District, Karnataka on Monday, February 3, 2025. The new hospital, which will be named Secondary Eye Hospital of Shri Guru Mahipatiraj Eye Bank and Research Foundation Trust, will serve the 1.2 million people of Yadgir.

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 while Yadgir District is higher still. Currently, people can access primary eye health care at the government hospital, but there is no secondary eye health care hospital. Once operational, the new hospital aims to provide:

- eye exams for 12,000 people;
- 2,500 prescription spectacles;
- 1,800 sight-saving surgeries (cataract and non-cataract);
- screenings of an additional 2,500 people through partnerships; and
- increased capacity for primary health care staff and referrals to the new hospital.

Operation Eyesight Universal and the M.M. Joshi Eye Institute are working to prevent blindness and restore eyesight in Karnataka. The project encompasses Yadgir District. The new secondary hospital was made possible through a generous donation from the Gerald A. Cooper-Key Foundation (a charitable foundation based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada). The Foundation has been supporting Operation Eyesight's mission since 2015 and has played an instrumental role in making quality eye care services available in India and its neighboring countries.

Kashinath Bhoosnurmath, President and CEO of Operation Eyesight Universal, says, "Bringing eye health care to the people in Yadgir, regardless of where they live or their ability to pay, will transform not only lives but also communities. Children will better be able to learn, adults will be better able to earn a living and seniors can better maintain their independence. We are grateful



to the M. M. Joshi Eye Institute and the Gerald Cooper-Key Foundation for their longstanding partnership.”

Dr. Srinivas Joshi of M. M. Joshi Eye Institute says, "We are deeply grateful to Operation Eyesight Universal for their unwavering support in this endeavour. This hospital will be a beacon of hope for those living with avoidable blindness in the Kalyan Karnataka region. Our goal is to provide quality eye care to those who need it the most and improve the overall health and well-being of our community."

Media are invited to attend or conduct interviews by phone. Learn more: View a video on previous projects implemented by Operation Eyesight Universal and M. M. Joshi Eye Institute in Karnataka: <https://youtu.be/u8F0bn0afBo?si=UzW3z6eifdqGmZyi>

About Operation Eyesight Universal *Learn more at 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 mmjoshieyeinstitute.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.

Media Contacts:

Amy Dunn Moscoso, Media Officer

Time Zone: North America MST

Phone: 1-587-327-6582

Toll-free Phone: 1-800-585-8265

Email: media@operationeyesight.com

Yashwant Sinha, Regional Director, South Asia

Location: Hyderabad, India

Time Zone: India Standard Time (IST)

Phone/WhatsApp: +91 9550062862

Email: SinhaY@operationeyesight.com