Raising awareness about glaucoma

India is facing a critical public health issue: a high prevalence of glaucoma coupled with low awareness and limited access to proper care, says Dr Rajashekar YL, ophthalmic surgeon at Shekar Eye Hospital, during World Glaucoma Week (March 10 – 16).

"An estimated 11.9 million Indians have glaucoma, with nearly nine million tragically losing their sight to it. Glaucoma, the third leading cause of blindness in India after cataracts, thrives where access to proper eye care is limited. Our multi-pronged campaign targets this very gap," says Dr Rajashekar, and adds that the hospital conducts interactive online sessions with glaucoma specialists, empowering individuals to learn and ask questions from the comfort of their homes.
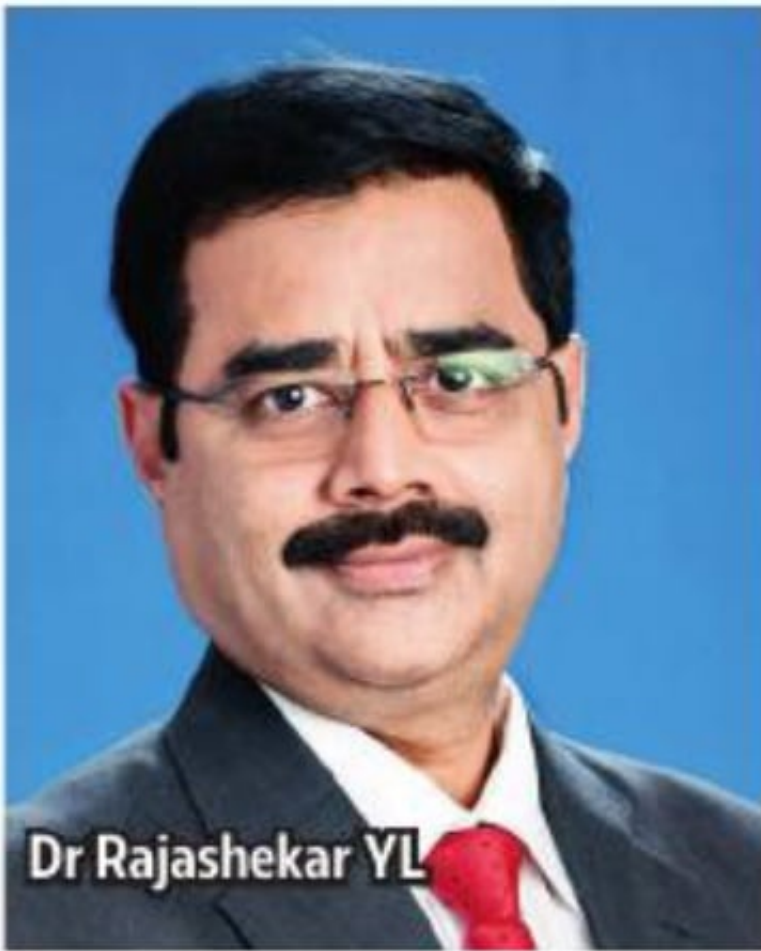
"The hospital regularly organises public walks to raise awareness, free eye pressure checks, glaucoma screenings in public parks and discounted

glaucoma checkups to make essential examinations accessible to a wider population," he says.

He explains, "These efforts are important not only for early detection but also for clearing myths about glaucoma. One misconception is that only people with a family history are at risk. However, those over 40 years having high myopia, diabetes or an eye injury are at risk. Regular eye examination is the key."

"The hospital is NABH-accredited and equipped with the latest advancements in ophthalmic technology. From routine checkups to complex surgeries for cataracts, retinas and corneas, they offer a holistic approach to eye care," he sums up.

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Dr Rajashekar YL