

# INDIAN TRANSPLANT

## NEWSLETTER

A quarterly publication from

MOHAN FOUNDATION

MULTI ORGAN HARVESTING AID NETWORK

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**Editorial Desk****Unlocking NTORC Potential for Deceased Organ Donation**

In 2011, the Transplantation of Human Organs Act underwent a crucial amendment aimed at boosting deceased organ donation rates in the country. This amendment introduced a provision allowing hospitals with the capability to treat potential organ donors in case of death to be registered as Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centers (NTORCs). However, over the past 13 years, these NTORCs have not effectively utilized their potential donor pool. A two-day conference held at the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 aimed to address this issue. This conference was conducted in partnership with Jeevasarthakathe (SOTTO, Karnataka), National Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences (NIMHANS) and Nephrology Association of Karnataka (NAK), under the guidance of National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO).

**The Need for NTORCs:**

Out of 8.4 million deaths in the country, approximately 1 to 4% result from brain deaths with neurological causes. The remaining deaths are due to cardio-pulmonary or cardiac issues. While there are 645 licensed hospitals capable of both retrieval and transplantation, there are an additional 145 non-licensed hospitals equipped only for retrieval. Recognizing the potential for organ donation across all hospitals totalling approximately 69,264 is essential. <sup>(1)</sup> Data from 2018 indicates that there are 43,486 private hospitals in the country providing 1.18 million beds which comprise 59,264 ICU beds and 29,631 ventilators.

Public hospitals, on the other hand, consist of 23,582 establishments offering 710,716 beds which include 35,700 ICU beds, and 17,850 ventilators. <sup>(2)</sup> These figures underscore the necessity of expanding the pool of hospitals capable of identifying and certifying brain deaths without the requirement for transplantation facilities.

**Key Recommendations from the NTORC Conference at IIM Bangalore:**

1. **Simplify On-boarding:** Grant ad-hoc/emergency licenses to non-licensed NTORCs when a brain death occurs to facilitate organ donation. Streamline the application process to make it more accessible, reducing the complexity of the current format (Application Form 13 for NTORCs with 49 fields.). In addition, automatically designate all 730 medical colleges as NTORCs and incentivize hospitals by offering extra credit for NABH certification or a Certificate of Appreciation upon successful donations.

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**To cite :** Shroff S. Unlocking NTORC Potential for Deceased Organ Donation. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Oct-Dec; 22(3):p1.



## Congress of the International Society for Organ Donation and Procurement (ISODP)



The International Society for Organ Donation and Procurement (ISODP) Congress in 2023 was a landmark event uniting physicians, surgeons, scientists, researchers, and educators in the field of organ donation and transplantation. The Congress was held in Las Vegas, Nevada from October 18 - 21, 2023, hosted by Nevada Donor Network.

Throughout the conference, attendees had the opportunity to engage in a diverse array of sessions, workshops, and panel discussions covering a wide range of topics. From best practices in organ procurement to strategies for improving donor consent rates, each session offered valuable insights and practical solutions to the challenges facing the organ donation community. The conference also provided a platform for collaboration, enabling attendees to network around the world, share experiences, and establish partnerships aimed at advancing the cause of organ donation and transplantation. The congress also featured laboratory sessions such as Organ Machine Perfusion Wet-Lab and Tissue Services Wet-Lab

As part of the Congress, the Canadian Blood Services hosted an international panel of experts in the field of organ and tissue donation and transplantation to discuss

- Role of donation focused ICU physician
- Family centered recommendations for improving the deceased donation process
- Reducing missed donation opportunities

The Congress also facilitated a discussion on MAID [Medical Assistance in Dying] and organ donation through 'Her Last Project' - A film by Rosvita Dransfeld.

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### INDIAN TRANSPLANT NEWSLETTER

A quarterly publication from MOHAN Foundation  
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## Advancing Deceased Donation: China's Progress and Challenges

Between 2015 and the close of 2022, China witnessed over 40,200 deceased organ donations, resulting in 120,100 solid organs being donated. Furthermore, the China Organ Transplant Development Foundation (COTDF) reported that more than 6.55 million individuals have voluntarily registered for organ donation.

This disclosure came during the commencement of the 7<sup>th</sup> China-International Organ Donation Conference and the Belt & Road Symposium on Organ Donation and Transplantation International Cooperation Development held at Nanning, in December 2023.

Presently, China holds the second position globally and leads Asia in organ donations, offering significant aid to numerous patients in need. In 2022 alone, 5,628 deceased organ donations were recorded, marking a 6.75 percent rise from 2021.

Despite these strides, challenges persist. China's organ donors per million people (PMP) remains below 4, starkly contrasting with the 47 pmp observed in developed nations, as noted by Huang Jiefu, chairman of China Human Organ Donation and Transplantation Committee and the Chair of the COTDF Advisory Board.

Huang emphasized the shortage of hospitals and medical professionals in China equipped to meet the demand for organ transplants. He highlighted the efforts undertaken, including a draft revision to regulations on donation and transplantation of human organs adopted during an executive meeting by China's State Council in October. This revision aims to establish a transparent system for monitoring organ donation procedures, enhance ethical oversight, and combat organ-related crimes.

Huang described the revision as a step towards purging any malpractices in China's organ donation system, reflecting the government's commitment to prioritizing organ donation. He stressed the importance of increased transparency and public participation in organ donation, expressing hope that China's organ transplantation expertise will extend to Belt and Road Initiative countries.

Dr. Sunil Shroff, the past president of Indian Society of Organ Transplantation (ISOT) delivered a plenary talk on the 'International Cooperation and Empowering Transplant Programs in South Asia'.

The Belt & Road Symposium on Organ Donation and Transplantation International Cooperation Development concluded with a commitment to collaborative action plans aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in organ donation through enhanced leadership, management, quality control, and technological innovation.

To cite : Shroff S. In the news. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Oct-Dec; 22(3):p2-3.



## Organs from a Four-Day-Old Infant Offer Hope to Three Children in Gujarat

Organs retrieved from a four days old infant who was brain-dead gave a new lease of life to three other children who received his kidneys and liver. On October 13, 2023, a young couple from Amreli, Gujarat, excitedly welcomed their second child. Their joy was short-lived, though, for the baby didn't cry or make any movement after birth. The baby was therefore moved to the Children Care Hospital for specialized treatment. Despite the best efforts of medical professionals, it became apparent that there was no chance of recovery, and the baby was pronounced brain dead.

Dr. Nilesh Kachhadiya from the state-operated New Civil Hospital, along with Vipul Talaviya, Managing Trustee of Jeevandeep Organ Donation, approached the family for organ donation. Moved by the appeal of their son's organs giving a new chance at life to other children, the couple and their family members willingly consented to this noble cause. Reflecting on the experience, Harshad, the child's father, shared, "Initially, we were uncertain about organ donation. However, it was my mother, who made the decision to donate the organs, and we all ultimately reached an agreement on it."

The baby was shifted to P P Savani Hospital in Surat from Children Care Hospital, where the organs were donated. The distribution of the organs followed the guidelines set forth by the Gujarat State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO). While the kidneys were transplanted into children aged 13 and 15 at the Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Centre (IKDRC) in Ahmedabad, the liver was transplanted into a nine-month-old child at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) in New Delhi. The baby's corneas were donated to an eye bank located in Surat.

### FORM – IV

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I, Sunil Shroff, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sd/-

Sunil Shroff

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023      Signature of Publisher



## Karnataka pays tribute to deceased donors, taking cues from Tamil Nadu

The Karnataka government is in the process of implementing the practice of honouring deceased organ donors and their families, aiming to promote the noble cause of organ donation. This initiative follows Tamil Nadu's announcement of the scheme in September 2023.

According to the State Health Minister of Karnataka, Mr. Dinesh Gundu Rao, "The state government has chosen to acknowledge and show appreciation to the families and individuals for their altruistic act." The Health Minister outlined that these actions mark the initial steps in a larger strategy to raise awareness and encourage participation in organ donation.

According to the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO), with 178 organ donors Karnataka ranked second in organ donation in the country in 2023, following Telangana with 200 organ donors.

### Editorial.... (continued from page 1)

2. **Hub and Spoke Model:** Adopt a Hub and Spoke model by assigning NTORCs to Transplant Centres (TCs) in their vicinity. This would create a seamless communication network between transplant centers and NTORCs, optimizing the organ retrieval and transplantation process.

3. **Awareness and Training:** Address the lack of awareness and knowledge about organ donation and brain death among medical professionals. Promote awareness through professional organizations like Indian Medical Association, Indian Critical Care Society, and Indian Society of Anaesthesiologists. Support them by providing online training modules and mobile apps tailored for educational purposes.

4. **Streamline Reimbursement:** Simplify the reimbursement process for NTORCs, allowing SOTTOs to independently manage funds. Offer incentives to doctors serving on Brain Stem Death (BSD) certifying committees and actively contribute to maintaining potential donors.

5. **Transplant Coordinator and Post-Mortem Support:** Ensure that all NTORCs have access to trained senior transplant coordinators, sourced from SOTTO, licensed transplant centers, or NGOs, whenever a donation occurs. Post-mortem procedures should be the responsibility of SOTTO or guidance shall be sought from the hospitals allocated organs.

6. **Establish a Brain Death Certification Helpline:** Create a dedicated support line to aid medical professionals in promptly identifying and certifying brain death. This helpline could also offer tele-ICU and online consultation support, along with the provision of e-signatures for brain death declaration.

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- Ministry of Health Data - 2018





**Prof. Dr Anil Vaidya M D**  
Chair and Director  
Institute of Multi-Visceral and  
Abdominal Organ Transplant  
MGM Healthcare, Chennai

Intestinal Transplantation has come a long way since its inception in the mid-sixties and popularization in the nineties of the last century. There were multiple interventions along the way that has paved the way to making intestinal transplantation not only a viable therapy for patients that qualify, but has forged a unique understanding of intestinal failure, gut rehabilitation procedures and treatments. This article focuses on these new tenets that have contributed to the success of Intestinal Transplantation.

### Intestinal Failure:

This is the inability for the gut to maintain appropriate nutritional requirements and fluid and electrolyte requirements of the body.

Intestinal failure has 3 categories<sup>(1)</sup>:

#### Type-1 Intestinal Failure:

This is mostly seen after major abdominal surgery, trauma where the intestine goes into prolonged ileus and can't be used for sustaining nutrition and fluid/electrolyte balance for the body. This phenomenon is typically self-limiting to a maximum of 30 days.

#### Type-2 Intestinal Failure:

This occurs when the intra-abdominal catastrophe is severe enough to cause disruption in the continuity of the gut and lead to enterocutaneous fistulae and/or open abdomens with cocooning of the abdominal structures. This phenomenon contributes to most of intestinal failure patients that need specialist centers to take care of them.

#### Type-3 Intestinal Failure:

This is a situation where there is irreversible intestinal failure, and the patients will be on exogenous nutrition for life. Fifty percent of Type-2 intestinal failure patients will progress to Type-3 intestinal failure where the only real treatment option would be an intestinal transplant.

### Gut Rehabilitation:

Gut rehabilitation is reserved for those patients with Type-2 intestinal failure who have enough length and quality of gut available, but, in discontinuity. This field has rapidly become one of the defining moments for the success of intestinal transplantation since it complements the specialty by weeding out patients that may not need a transplant and hence identifying the 'real' patients for transplantation.

Gut rehabilitation surgery is complex, and patients need to be referred to centers of excellence for this procedure. At these centers,<sup>(2)</sup> it is not only the surgeons that have the experience, but, the gastroenterologists, nutrition, Interventional Radiologists (IR) that quantify the level of malnourishment, engage in total parenteral nutrition (TPN), through expertly placed tunneled lines by an IR team.

A SNAP analysis will lead the patient to the surgeon for eventual gut rehabilitation surgery. SNAP is an acronym for Sepsis, Nutrition, Anatomy, and Plan. The patient is treated for sepsis; nutrition is the backbone of therapy; delineation of the anatomy left and then plan the next steps with a multi-disciplinary approach.

Fifty percent of Type-2 intestinal failure patients will benefit from gut rehabilitation surgery<sup>(2)</sup> and will be able to come off TPN. The rest will be considered to have irreversible intestinal failure where a transplant is the only option.

### Intestinal Transplantation:

This is reserved for patients that fail gut rehabilitation or have a pathology that renders them short or ultra-short gut right from the beginning.

Intestinal Transplantation has 3 categories depending upon the anatomy of what needs to be transplanted.

#### 1. Isolated Intestinal graft (II):

Here the total small intestine with or without the right colon is transplanted. Traditionally these donors have come from cadaveric donors. There are some centers that are engaged in live donor intestinal transplant<sup>(3)</sup> especially in children where a total of 100-120 cm of intestine is harvested from an appropriate family member.

#### 2. Modified Multivisceral graft (MMVT):

Here the graft includes the stomach, pancreatico-duodenal segment and the whole small bowel with or without the right colon. This graft is from a cadaveric donor.

#### 3. Multivisceral Graft:

This is a MMVT including the Liver.

The results of intestinal transplantation have shown a significant improvement over the last decade due to Alemtuzumab driven immunosuppression.<sup>(3)</sup> No maintenance steroids, cellular based therapies,<sup>(4)</sup> ability to close the abdomen with abdominal wall transplantation<sup>(5)</sup> and using sentinel skin flaps<sup>(6)</sup> from the same donor as a canvas to detect rejection much before it happens in the intestine are the other advances.



## Intestinal Failure, Gut Rehabilitation and Intestinal Transplantation in India:

These services are still in its infancy in India. What must be realized is that a center of excellence is defined by its ability to have all the 3 verticals described above that will make transplantation successful. Only a few hospitals in India offer such facilities, with MGM Healthcare in Chennai being one among them. Rigid protocols on nutritional assessment, line placement, line care, TPN team, and the surgical team governed by robust multi-disciplinary team approach can take these complex patients through to nutritional independence.

Perhaps a helping hand from the government may take care of the financial burden that engulfs this real therapy much like for liver and kidney transplantation.

**To cite :** Vaidya A. Intestinal Failure, Rehabilitation and Transplantation. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Oct-Dec; 22(3):p4-5.

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## Mini Fellowship at Gift of Life Institute, Philadelphia (USA)



Jaya Jairam at the Gift of Life Institute, Philadelphia

Ms Jaya Jairam, Project Director, MOHAN Foundation and Dr Amit Joshi, Deputy Medical Superintendent & Transplant Lead, Bombay Hospital, Indore completed the Gift of Life Institute's (GOLI) Mini Fellowship in Organ Donation from October 23, 2023 to November 3, 2023.

MOHAN Foundation and GOLI's agreement for mini fellowship aims at helping enhance the deceased donation and transplantation program in India through education and training of donation and transplantation professionals on the best practices in the US.

Gift of Life Donor Program is the USA's largest organ procurement organisation (OPO) that coordinates organ and tissue donations across eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware is a part of USA's nationwide organ and tissue sharing network run by UNOS (United Network for Organ Sharing). It manages all facets of donation process, including hospitals tie-ups, framing hospital protocols and systems for identification and referrals of potential organ and tissue donors, working with hospitals to ensure medical management of brain-dead donors, counselling families to consider organ and tissue donation, coordinating retrieval of organs and tissues, and allocating the organs and tissues to suitable recipients as per UNOS allocation policies.

The associated training arm - the 'Gift of Life Institute' offers education and training to transplant coordinators, critical care teams and to transplant physicians. It also has active patient support programs and volunteer engagement programs.

The attendees were given an overview of all these aspects, through didactic sessions. They were also given the opportunity to shadow the transplant coordinators at several hospitals, thereby getting a practical understanding of the family conversations, donor maintenance protocols, allocation of organs through UNOS waiting list. They also witnessed the retrieval of organs, thereby getting an understanding of protocols followed, including organ perfusion process.

They were invited to attend 'Life and Legacy' - an event conducted at Atlantic City, New Jersey in which the families of organ and tissue donors were honoured for their act of kindness. Recipients were invited to share about the transformative impact that transplants had on their lives, and the donor families were honoured with a medal and a wrap that was lovingly knitted by volunteers.



Jaya Jairam awarded the Mini Fellowship completion certificate by Howard Nathan, Executive Director (left) and Theresa Daly, Director (right) at Gift of Life Transplant Foundation, Philadelphia

**To cite :** Jairam J. Mini Fellowship at Gift of Life Institute, Philadelphia (US). Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Oct-Dec; 22(3):p5.

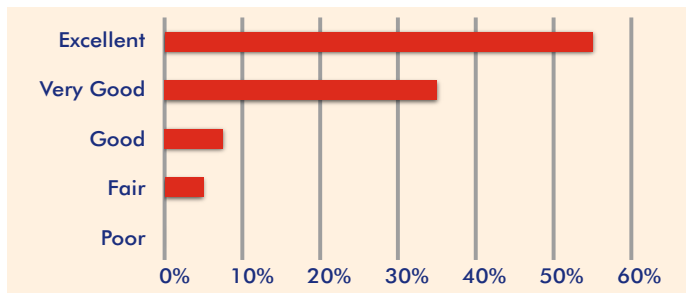
## One-Year Post Graduate Diploma in Transplant Coordination and Grief Counselling

The one-year online program on 'Post Graduate Diploma in Transplant Coordination and Grief Counselling' was successfully concluded in December 2023. Supported by the SBI Foundation and SBI Card, a total of 38 candidates fulfilled the course requirements and were conferred with course completion certificates.

Course curriculum included concepts of organ donation and transplantation, donation and transplant guidelines during the COVID-19 outbreak in India, legal and ethical aspects, medical aspects, grief counselling, and transplant coordination. Study materials were disseminated through an e-learning platform to ensure convenient access to resources, enabling a flexible pace of learning.

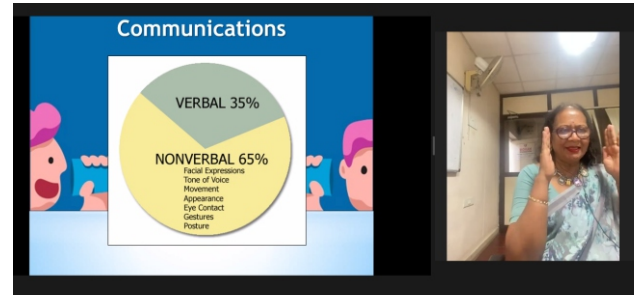
Within the course framework, virtual contact sessions were conducted using the Zoom platform, enabling participants' engagement and interactive discussions. Experts across the country were on the faculty board. The webinars also involved activities like quizzes and discussions that kept the participants engaged in the learning process.

### FEEDBACK

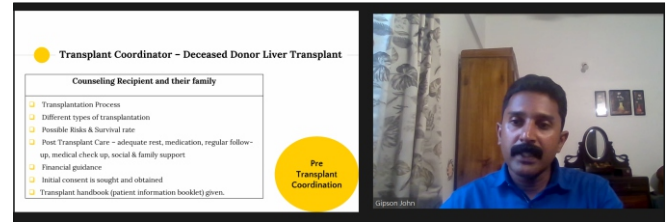


**Mr. SHAHZAD MANSOORI, Delhi**

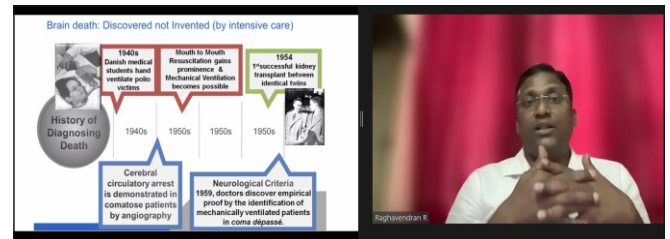
I am a Transplant Coordinator working in a Govt. Hospital in Delhi. I heard about this course from some of my colleagues. Thereafter, I decided to join this course. It helped me to learn new things and also enhanced my knowledge in the field of organ transplantation. I would like to recommend this course to each and every one who is a part of this noble cause. Thanks a lot for providing such a beautiful course.



Communication Skills - Ms. Lalitha Raghuram, MOHAN Foundation



Role of a transplant coordinator in liver transplant programme - Mr. Gipson John, Aster Hospitals, Bengaluru

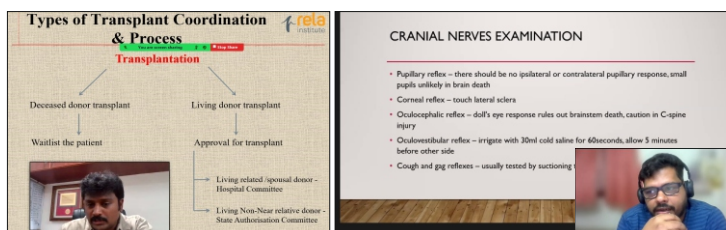


Brainstem Death Identification and Certification - Dr. R. Raghavendran, Madras Medical College, Chennai

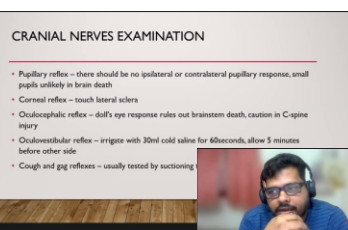


Coordinating Heart & Lung Transplant - K. Shankarganesh, KIMS Hospital, Hyderabad

## Six-Weeks Transplant Coordination Professional Certificate Course



**Mr. M Sivakumar**  
Assistant General Manager  
Liver Transplant Unit  
Dr. Rela Institute & Medical Centre  
Chennai



**Dr. Aruloli M,**  
Consultant  
Dept. of Critical Care Medicine  
PSG Hospitals  
Coimbatore

Two batches, comprising a total of 86 candidates, including one participant from Nigeria, successfully completed the six-week online course titled 'Transplant Coordination Professional Certificate' between October 2023 and December 2023. The comprehensive curriculum consisted of 40 modules covering medical, legal, coordination, and counseling aspects, featuring content in the form of text, PowerPoint presentations, and high-quality faculty lectures. The platform facilitated periodic self-assessments and assignments for the candidates. As part of the course structure, weekly webinars were conducted to encourage interactive discussions with the faculty.

**To cite :** Shroff S, Suriyamoorthi S. Training for Transplant Coordinators. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Oct-Dec; 22(3):p6.



## Masterclass on Grief Counselling - 'The Healing Touch'

It is paramount that the families of potential organ donors view organ donation as part of end-of-life care and they are provided with adequate information to make informed choices about organ donation. This masterclass aimed to help the learners to understand conversations with grieving families, to equip them with the necessary skill sets to offer the option of organ donation with sensitivity and empathy, and to address the unique challenges faced within the context of organ donation and transplantation.

Masterclass on Grief Counselling - 'The Healing Touch' was hosted by MOHAN Foundation on November 4 & 5, 2023 at Chennai. 12 participants from Chennai, Erode, Coimbatore and Mumbai attended the Masterclass, which was supported by the SBI Foundation and SBI Card.

The masterclass included the lectures on:

- Breaking bad news
- Approaching families for organ donation
- Deceased organ donation process
- Coordinating MLC cases
- Difficult donations - Counselling challenges
- Counselling living donors and caregivers
- Deceased organ donation - Legal framework

The masterclass featured engaging activities, such as:

- Role-plays - Simulated interactions which allowed participants to practice realistic and difficult conversations with grieving families
- Deceased organ donation : Pathway - Emphasized the step-by-step process to ensure a seamless and successful organ donation

**To cite** : Suriyamoorthi S. Masterclass on Grief Counselling - 'The Healing Touch'. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Oct-Dec; 22(3):p7.



Coordinating Medico Legal Cases (MLC) by Mr. A Johnson (Senior Manager - Transplant, Apollo Hospitals)



Team building exercise moderated by Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram (Country Director, MOHAN Foundation)



Dr. K Sudeep Kumar (Pediatric intensivist, Kanchi Kamakoti CHILDS Trust Hospital), discussing breaking bad news



Participants engaged in an activity on organ donation pathway

- Team-building exercises - Activity fostering collaboration and effective communication among the team members
- Coordinating medico-legal cases - An interactive quiz focussed on understanding medico-legal cases and coordinating such procedures
- Frequently asked questions - Addressing these questions effectively ensures that the recipients, donors, and caregivers are well-informed and feel more comfortable with the decision-making process and the journey ahead

## TALHero Awards 2023



'TALHero Changemakers - India Award' by the Touch-A-Life Foundation was conferred on Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram, Country Director, MOHAN Foundation in November 2023. The TALHero Awards is an annual event that celebrates the amazing individuals who go above and beyond to make a difference in the community

"Touch-A-Life Foundation takes great pride in honoring changemakers in India and the US with the prestigious TALHero Awards for their exceptional contribution to societal progress. This year's awardees inspire and motivate us to keep driving forward in our mission to amplify kindness in the world", said Dr. Pratiksha Gandhi, Jury Member, TALHero Awards; TALLleader.

**To cite** : Raghuram L. TALHero Awards 2023. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Oct-Dec; 22(3):p7.

## SABERA Social Leader Award 2023

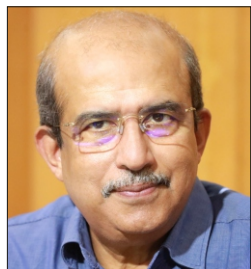


Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram, the Country Director of MOHAN Foundation, was honoured with the esteemed SABERA Social Leader Award for the year 2023, acknowledging her groundbreaking contributions to the field of organ donation on December 7, 2023 at Teen Murti Bhavan, New Delhi.

The SABERA Awards, initiated by Simply Suparnaa, a UN Women awardee, aim to recognize initiatives that extend beyond profit and are motivated by a larger purpose. Acting as a three-way bridge connecting corporate India, the civil sector, and non-profits, SABERA attracted a diverse array of submissions from India's leading businesses, impactful non-profit organizations, and committed individuals.

**To cite** : Raghuram L. SABERA Social Leader Award 2023. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Oct-Dec; 22(3):p7.

## Transplant Games 2023 - Kochi, Kerala



**Dr. Jose C Periappuram**  
Chairman  
Heart Care Foundation



The Transplant Games are a multi-sport event for individuals who have undergone organ transplants or are living donors. These games aim to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and transplantation, while also celebrating the success of organ transplantation in saving lives.

The primary purpose of the Transplant Games is to honor and celebrate the courage and determination of transplant recipients, as well as to recognize the selflessness of donors and donor families. It's also a way to showcase the success of organ transplantation in improving the quality of life for those who have received a transplant and to spread the message of organ donation. Participating in the Transplant Games enables recipients and donors to connect with others who have gone through similar experiences. This sense of community and support can be incredibly valuable for individuals and their families.

In December 2022, a group of volunteers ran for the cause in Kochi Spice Coast Marathon along with Dinoy Thomas, a heart transplant recipient. The event was highly appreciated by the Cricketer, Sachin Tendulkar. Dinoy, went on to represent India in World Transplant Games Perth 2023 in which Team India secured 35 medals. Those events were direct testimony, to demonstrate to the society at large, that a thriving life is possible after a transplant. Inspired by the World Transplant Games, the notion for a similar initiative in the country was conceived.



On a warm sultry March night in 2013, Manu left lying on a railway track with a bleeding decapitated hand. This cool morning of 9 December 2023, hardly ten years later, Manu was a celebrity, golfing with his transplanted hand at Transplant Games 2023, wowing participants, public and dignitaries alike! Manu is currently working as a Transplant Counseling Assistant at Amrita Hospital, Kochi.



Preethy Unnale (Delhi), the longest-surviving heart transplant recipient in the country, was a vision smashing shuttle cocks and posing with a heartfelt smile all through the day. She won multiple medals amidst the non-stop claps from the gallery.

While Varun, the 13 year old from Bangalore, who also participated in World Transplant Games 2023, Perth, was another winner, whose words feel so inspirational to all gathered.

Laced with stories like these from all corners of the country, the Transplant Games held in December 2023 at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium, Kochi saw a gathering of 450 individuals who had undergone organ transplantation, or donated or immediate family of those who chose to donate the organs of their loved ones.



The Games was organized by Heart Care Foundation in association with organizations such as Kerala State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (K-SOTTO), Liver Foundation of Kerala (LiFoK), Kochi Corporation, KMRL, Regional Sports Center, GCDA, and Kerala State Youth Welfare Board.





Padma Shri Mammooty, the actor, formally inaugurated the games by receiving the torch on December 9, 2023. The event was presided over by the chief guest Major Ravi, the film director and a kidney transplant recipient.



The Games included the 5 Kilometer Race Walk which was inaugurated by the kidney donor and the well known businessman Kochouseph Chittilappilli at the Jawaharlal Nehru International stadium, Kaloor.



A total of 450 individuals participated in 11 competitions. Among them, 47 were kidney donors, 56 were kidney recipients, 132 were liver donors, 167 were liver recipients, 38 were heart recipients. The recipients who underwent pancreas and hand transplant also became part of the Games. It is the first time in India that such a large number of individuals have participated in the Transplant Games. The competitions were conducted for various age categories (below 21 years, below 40 years, and above 40 years) and in specific segments for both donors and recipients. The Transplant Games, 2023 has secured a place in India Book of Records as the largest organ donation related gathering in India.



Valedictory event was presided by Hon'ble Speaker of Kerala State Legislative Assembly Shri. A N Shamseer. The event was honoured by the presence of Shri. P Rajeev, Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Law, Shri. M.B Rajesh, Hon'ble Minister for Local Self Governance and Excise, Shri. A.K Saseendran, Hon'ble Minister for Transport, Government of Kerala.

After the Games, there was a lot of discussion on the necessity of organ transplants which rekindled the transplant community's passion for advocating for the cause. The time has come to strengthen cooperation amongst all the groups working towards this goal, ensuring that nobody loses out on a second opportunity at life!



**To cite :** Periappuram J C. Transplant Games 2023 - Kochi, Kerala. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Oct-Dec; 22(3):p8-9.

"The purpose of organizing the games is to convey the message that organ transplant is the best treatment for end-stage organ failure patients, enabling them to lead a near-normal life. It is a noble gesture that provides new meaning to life for both living donors and deceased donor families. This initiative will encourage more families to come forward and consent to deceased donations, as well as motivate living donors to help their loved ones by donating a portion of the liver or a kidney."



**Dr. Noble Gracious K-SOTTO**

## Deceased Donation in Emerging States - Chhattisgarh



Interview with  
**Dr. Vinay Rathore**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Nephrology  
AIIMS, Raipur

**Raipur, Chhattisgarh has recently seen a rise in deceased organ donations. What do you attribute it to?**

The first donation in Raipur happened in Ramakrishna Care Hospital in November 2022, a private hospital performing kidney and liver transplants.

It was only in October 2022 that the state of Chhattisgarh adopted the amended law (Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994), which subsequently led to the formation of SOTTO at Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur, under its first director, Dr. Vineet Jain. Multiple meetings were held, and committees were formed. An organ allocation policy was formulated. While the will was always there, all this effort gave an impetus to the program.

**Did AIIMS, Raipur receive any of the organs from the first deceased donation?**

No. Both the kidneys and the liver were transplanted in Ramakrishna Care Hospital as no other centre had initiated transplant program back then. AIIMS Raipur only began its kidney transplant program in December 2022. It was a living donor kidney transplant.

**When did AIIMS Raipur did its first deceased donation?**

It was in February 2023. The donor was a young nursing officer in the renal transplantation ward itself. Her parents and brother who travelled from Delhi gave the consent and she became the first deceased organ donor of AIIMS Raipur.

Incidentally, on January 25, 2023, AIIMS Raipur hosted a one-day workshop titled 'Strengthening of Organ Donation & Transplantation process'. The workshop was an initiative of the Department of Nephrology along with the Department of Ophthalmology, Nursing Officers Association of AIIMS Raipur, MOHAN Foundation, and NATCO.

Since then, two more donations have taken place in AIIMS Raipur and three more in Ramakrishna Care Hospital, taking the total deceased donors number to six since November 2022.

One of the deceased donor kidneys from AIIMS Raipur was shared with Shri Balaji Hospital that helped them initiate their renal transplant program. In one of the donations, a green corridor was created to transport liver to a centre in Nagpur.

**To cite :** Rathore V, Kumar P. Deceased Donation in Emerging States - Chhattisgarh. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Oct-Dec; 22(3):p10.



Interviewed by  
**Ms. Pallavi Kumar**  
Executive Director (NCR)  
MOHAN Foundation

**How many transplants has AIIMS Raipur performed so far?**

AIIMS Raipur has performed 18 kidney transplants in the last one year – 14 living related and 4 deceased donor transplants. 16 of those 18 transplants were done under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and were free of cost to patients.

**Are there any other transplant centres in Chhattisgarh?**

Seven hospitals in Raipur and two in Bilaspur have applied and are in the process of being registered for renal transplants. Ramakrishna Care Hospital is the only centre performing liver transplants in Raipur.

**What other initiatives are being undertaken to raise awareness on organ donation?**

We are regularly conducting talks and pledging campaigns. We are planning to organize transplant games on the upcoming World Kidney Day. We raise awareness about organ donation by delivering talks in different colleges with the help of SOTTO and NOTTO.

Ramakrishna Care Hospital regularly organizes walkathons to raise awareness about the subject.

**Any last thoughts as we close?**

Almost all states have a AIIMS in various stages of development. I strongly feel that each one must work towards becoming a retrieval centre and subsequently start transplant programs. That is the only way transplants will become affordable for the poor.

**State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization  
Chhattisgarh (SOTTO)**  
DKS Super Speciality Hospital, Raipur, Chhattisgarh

**Transplant centers in Chhattisgarh**  
(As of December 2023)

Kidney - 11	Skin - 3
Liver - 2	Cornea - 3
Heart - 3	Homograft - 1
Lung - 1	Limb - 1

Source: [www.sotto.cg.gov.in](http://www.sotto.cg.gov.in)



## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Organ Transplantation (ISOT) 2023



Shri Sourav Ganguly (Former President BCCI), Dr. Atul Goel (Director DGHS) and Dr. Georgi Abraham (President ISOT) felicitating Dr. Arpita Roy Chowdhury (IPGME&R, Kolkata)

Worldwide, India stands at 3<sup>rd</sup> position in absolute transplant numbers only behind USA and China. The number of total organ transplants in the country has substantially increased from 4990 in the year 2013 to 16041 in the year 2022.

The Indian Society of Organ Transplantation (ISOT) was founded at Ahmedabad by the joint efforts of few senior nephrologists including Late Dr HL Trivedi, Late Dr Vidya N Acharya, Late Dr JCM Sashty, Dr S Sunder, Dr CM Thiagarajan, Dr Meshak Kirubakaran and Dr A Gopal Kishan. The Society was registered in Ahmedabad under the Societies' Act of 1860 on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1990. Since its inception, ISOT is working towards development and exchange of scientific knowledge and promotion of technical co-operation between clinicians, scientists and others involved in the field of transplantation.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual conference of the ISOT was held in Kolkata from 5 to 8 October 2023 at Hotel ITC Royal Bengal and ITC Sonar. Honorable Shri. Dr. Atul Goel, Director General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India was the Chief Guest and Shri. Sourav Ganguly, former Captain of the Indian national cricket team and the 35<sup>th</sup> President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was the guest of honor.

Dr. Anil Kumar, Director, National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) was the special guest for the meeting. The congress was attended by around 500 faculty including 40 international faculty. A total of 1700 delegates attended the conference over 5 days. 320 transplant professionals submitted abstracts and presented their transplant work in oral, mini-oral and poster format.

There were sessions on transplant immunology, transplant surgery, transplant pathology, transplant infectious diseases, ABO-incompatible transplant, swap transplantation, scientific writing and transplant coordination. The joint session by NOTTO discussed the recent reforms, unique difficulties and the challenges faced in North East India. Social media coverage was done mainly by live-tweeting, faculty interviews, and sharing the glimpses of presentations. There were 2.485 million impressions with 1253 conference tweets with #ISOT2023 by around 190 participants.

The ISOT 2023 was a unique platform that discussed the major issue of improving access to organ transplantation, increasing deceased organ donations, and collaborating with national and international societies and regulatory authorities.



Women in transplant in India at the ISOT 2023

**Authors:** Vivek B Kute (Secretary ISOT), Georgi Abraham (President ISOT), Pratik Das (Organizing Secretary ISOT 2023), Arpita Roy Chowdhury (Organizing President ISOT 2023)



**To cite :** Kute V B, Abraham G, Das P, Chowdhury AR. 33rd Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Organ Transplantation (ISOT) 2023. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Oct-Dec; 22(3):p11.

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference of NATCO, October 2023 - Kolkata



Dignitaries releasing Indian Transplant Newsletter (L-R) Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram (Country Director, MOHAN Foundation), Dr. Anil Kumar (Director NOTTO), Shri. Sanjay Prakash (MD & CEO, SBI Foundation), Dr. Sunil Shroff (Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation), Dr. Anirban Bose (Trustee, MOHAN USA), Mr. Mayukh Choudhury (Founder, Milaap)

A two-day conference for transplant coordinators was organised by the Network and Alliance of Transplant Coordinators (NATCO) on October 7 - 8, 2023 at ITC Sonar & ITC Royal Bengal, Kolkata. NATCO is a national body that is committed to professional development of transplant coordinators and advancement of organ and tissue donation in India. The theme of the conference was "Moving Towards Uniformity" signifying the need for uniform procedure across all spheres of organ & tissue donation and transplant. The conference was held under the aegis of Indian Society of Organ Transplantation (ISOT). A total of 141 delegates from 17 states and UTs attended the conference.

Subjects covered during the conference:

- Need for uniform laws for body donation in India
- Transplant schemes by national government
- Special skills involved in counselling with emphasis on skin donations, paediatric donations & donations after circulatory death (DCD)
- The Australian experience in increasing organ donation rates
- Swap donation & ABO incompatible transplants
- Living donation - Real life scenarios
- Organ trafficking & international laws addressing organ trafficking
- International transplant games

### International faculty

- Dr. Jeremy Chapman (Director, Division of Medicine & Cancer, Westmead Hospital, Sydney)
- Dr. Elmi Muller (Head of Transplantation, Groote Schuur Hospital, South Africa)

### National faculty

- Ms. Rimy Khurana (Healthcare Consultant)
- Mr. Harshdeep Malhotra (Dadhichi Deh Dan Samithi)
- Dr. Subho Banerjee (IKDRC, Ahmedabad)
- Dr. Pratim Sengupta (Bellevue Clinic & ILS Hospital, Kolkata)

Many senior transplant coordinators who were also on the faculty board shared their experiences, provided their valuable insights and highlighted the various challenges encompassing organ donation.



Mr. Sanjay Prakash, MD & CEO, SBI Foundation lighting the lamp during the inauguration



Dr. Elmi Muller speaking on 'Global efforts to address organ trafficking'



Panel discussion - 'Real life scenarios in living donation' moderated by Ms. Trilly Mathew, Marengo Asia Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.

### Swamy Narayan Best Transplant Coordinator Awardees



Ms. Ranjini Shankar, Project Manager, MOHAN Foundation Bengaluru



Ms. Mayuri Barge, Manager- Multi-organ Transplant Program, Dr. D Y Patil Hospital, Pune



Ms. Lijamol Joseph, Chief Transplant Coordinator, Jeevasarthakathe, SOTTO Karnataka

## Swamy Narayan Oration

The Swamy Narayan Oration was delivered by Mr. Kamal Shah, Co-Founder, Nephroplus. Nephroplus is Asia's largest dialysis provider and has a presence in 4 countries and runs 325 dialysis centres. Mr. Kamal Shah spoke about his journey after being diagnosed with kidney failure at the age of 21 and his own personal challenges with dialysis and transplants to setting up Nephroplus and dialysis units in remote parts of the country, providing dialysis at a subsidised rate. His journey was extremely motivational & left a profound impact on the audience. He received a standing ovation for his unwavering commitment and determination. His inspirational speech filled the room with positivity and motivated the audience to overcome adversities and find meaning in life.



Mr. Kamal Shah, Co-Founder, Nephroplus delivering The Swamy Narayan Oration

Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram, Country Director, MOHAN Foundation, and Dr. Bharath Shah, Director, Nephrology and Renal Transplants, Global Hospitals, Mumbai were the presenters at the closing ceremony.

The recipient of the 'Dr Amalorpavanathan Best Scientific Paper' Award was Mr. Bulu Behera, Transplant Coordinator, MOHAN Foundation, Nagpur. Best Poster Award was given to Ms. Laishram Monica Devi, Program Officer and Ms. Udayini Khuman, Transplant Coordinator of MOHAN Foundation Imphal, Manipur.

**To cite :** Raghuram L. 16th Annual International Conference of NATCO, October 2023 - Kolkata. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Oct-Dec; 22(3):p12-13.



Participants at the conference

## MOHAN Foundation Participates in ISODP 2023 in Las Vegas, USA

MOHAN Foundation participated and presented at the Organ donation Congress of the International Society for Organ donation and Procurement (ISODP) held during October 18 - 21, 2023 in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, hosted by Nevada Donor Network.

Such congresses have been held every other year in various geographic regions of the world to highlight the advances in organ donation with the intent to share best practices and improve organ donation across the world. The mission of the ISODP is to advance donation through science, develop professionals and inspire networks supporting organ donation to improve organ transplantation worldwide.

Dr. Sunil Shroff, Asia Councilor, ISODP presented on 'Global co-operation projects to enhance organ donation - Perspective from India' and 'How technology has been an enabler for organ donation and transplantation in India'.

Ms. Jaya Jairam presented on 'Empowering organ donation advocates through online grass-root level volunteer training: Organ Donation Ambassadors program' and 'Breaking barriers in transplant coordination training: A developing country's experience with online education initiative'.

**To cite :** Shroff S, Jairam J. MOHAN Foundation Participates in ISODP 2023 in Las Vegas, USA. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Oct-Dec; 22(3):p13.



Poster Presentation on Enabling organ transplants for the less affordable through crowdfunding



Ms. Jaya Jairam receiving the Scientific Abstract Travel Award from the ISODP President, Dr. Stephen Beed



Dr Sunil Shroff (front row - right) with the Council members of ISODP

## Transforming Lives: Enabling Organ Transplants for Underprivileged through Crowdfunding

### India - 3<sup>rd</sup> largest transplanting country in the world

In 2022, 16,041 transplants were carried out in India. Its organ transplants are anticipated to surge substantially in the coming years, due to factors such as:

- Rise in lifestyle diseases
- Rise in number of Transplant Centres across India
- Government and NGOs working to strengthen the deceased organ donation program
- Introduction of deceased organ donation in parts of the country that do not have a program

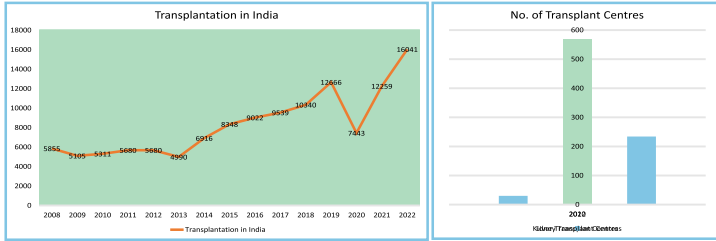


Fig1: India's organ transplantation rates have tripled since 2008  
Source: <https://www.transplant-observatory.org/>

Fig2: Increase in no. of transplant centres  
Source: <https://www.transplant-observatory.org/>



An initiative to raise funds for underprivileged patients to enable them to undergo life-saving transplants.

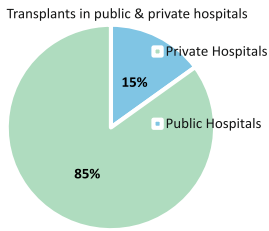
With support from other like-minded NGOs, corporates and philanthropic individuals



SCAN HERE  
TO READ ABOUT PATIENTS WE HAVE HELPED

### Affordable transplants remain elusive to the poor

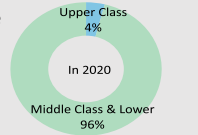
The number of organ donations / transplantations in public hospitals that offer free / subsidized surgeries, is low. 96% of the Indian population belongs to the lower and middle classes



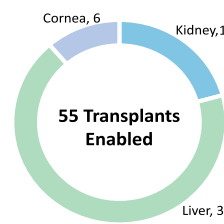
- #### Transplant costs
- Public hospitals
    - Free / Subsidized
    - Handle < 15% transplants
  - Private hospitals
    - Major contributors to transplants
    - Liver / Heart transplant – US\$ 25K - 30K
    - Kidney transplants – US\$ 10K - 12K
  - Lack of comprehensive healthcare schemes

Distribution of the Indian population by income

Class category	Annual household income
Upper class	> 36K US\$
Middle class	6K – 36K US\$
Aspirers	1.5K – 6K US\$
Destitutes	< 1.5K US\$



### Transplants supported : 2021 - 2023



**Age Group**  
 Children (<18 years) - 33  
 19 - 40 years - 12  
 > 40 years - 10

21 Female : 34 Male  
 20 Partner hospitals nationwide  
 Funds Raised – 144K US\$

- This initiative has enabled MOHAN Foundation to make available the 'Gift of Life' predominantly to children and young individuals so they can go on to lead healthy and productive lives
- Crowd funding is a highly effective way of raising funds for supporting transplants in poor patients, especially in countries that do not have comprehensive healthcare packages and where public healthcare systems lag behind in organ transplantation
- Success of this initiative lies in reaching new donors and demonstrating benefit to patients

### Concerts in Aid of Aundaan



### Raising funds through Crowdfunding

MOHAN Foundation launched 'Anudaan - making Transplants Affordable' in 2021

- Partially funding transplant surgeries in Private Hospitals
- For financially underprivileged patients
- By leveraging crowdfunding

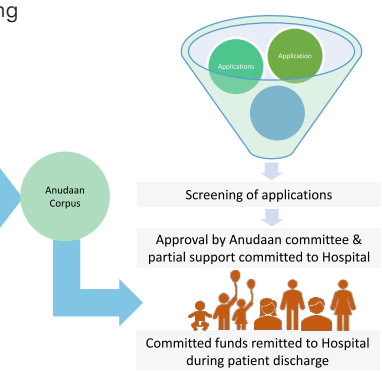
#### FUNDRAISING

Through crowdfunding campaigns such as -

1. Music concerts featuring renowned artists
2. Campaigns by school students

#### IN COLLABORATION WITH

1. Corporates
2. Fine arts societies
3. Member associations
4. Schools
5. Like-Minded NGOs



To cite : Jairam J. Transforming Lives: Enabling Organ Transplants for Underprivileged through Crowdfunding. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Oct-Dec; 22(3):p14.



## Design for Life

'Design for Life', a unique graphic design contest was organized by MOHAN Foundation to raise awareness and advocate for the significance of organ donation through innovative and visually captivating designs. The event conducted in December 2023, received 35 submissions. These entries underwent evaluation based on various criteria, including relevance to the theme, clarity of message, creativity and originality, use of information, aesthetic quality, and overall impact and effectiveness.



# DESIGN FOR LIFE

Jury Panel



**Puja Anand**  
Professor, Dept. of Design  
Pearl Academy  
New Delhi



**Prof. Somesh Singh**  
Co-Founder Design & Marketing Mentor  
Craft Village  
New Delhi



**Sundeep Kumar**  
Travel Photographer  
New Delhi



Of the 15 million blind people in India, 1.1 million suffer from corneal blindness. And 25,000 new cases are added to this backlog annually.

#दिलDekeDekho

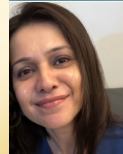
PLEDGE FOR ORGAN DONATION TODAY



**1<sup>st</sup> Prize**  
Designed by  
Anushka Kumar



SAVE A LIFE AFTER LIFE. DONATE ORGANS.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**  
Designed by  
Ami Dastoor



From wireless to selfless, consider organ donation, and gift the power of sight.



**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**  
Designed by  
Yaksha Shetty

## Children Balloon run for Organ Donation

The Rajarathinam Stadium in Chennai was adorned with a myriad of colourful balloons on December 24, 2023, on the eve of Christmas. Families, including both children and parents, convened to partake in a fun-filled morning run aimed at advocating for organ donation. The venue saw an impressive turnout of nearly 500 participants. Children, aged 3 to 15, enthusiastically ran laps around the stadium alongside their parents.



## Gift of Life - Narmada Kidney Foundation

Renowned filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra paid a visit to the Narmada Kidney Foundation to show his support for the noble cause of organ donation. At an event held in December 2023, the filmmaker actively engaged by signing the organ donation card, highlighting the significance of raising awareness and motivating individuals to make a positive impact. The event also depicted the filmmaker paying tribute to the unsung heroes who have touched numerous lives through their selfless contributions.



**To cite :** Shroff S. Awareness Events. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Oct-Dec; 22(3):p15



## Stories of Souls that Light up the World and Lives



**Mrs. Padma Shankar Rao**  
89 years

### A Helpline That Saves Lives

Affectionately known as 'Amma', Mrs. Padma Shankar Rao would have celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in December 2023. Her life was a celebration, marked by an unbridled zest for living. Alongside indulging in her favorite TV series on Hotstar, she relished the flavors of life through pizzas, burgers, samosas, and batata vadas. In her younger years, she not only mastered the art of culinary delights but also exuded a perfectionism that extended to maintaining her home, rendering it not only impeccably clean but also a haven of warmth for her beloved family. She took immense pride and joy in the remarkable achievements of her grandchildren.

Amma passed away on Nov 6, 2023.

Her son, Mr. Kirti Rao shared, "In honor of her memory and her benevolence, we felt compelled to make a meaningful contribution. We wished to donate her corneas. We reached out to MOHAN Foundation via their Helpline Number 1800 103 7100."

"A compassionate counsellor explained the donation process. Given her age, corneas were not considered for therapeutic purposes; however, we could proceed with her skin donation. In this way, Amma's legacy continues to touch lives, having been able to provide vital assistance to burn victims."

Farewell, Amma, your kindness lives on.

### SBIF - MOHAN Foundation Organ Donation Toll Free Helpline

**1800-103-7100**

English | Hindi | Telugu | Tamil | Kannada | Malayalam | Marathi | Oriya

### Second Deceased Donation in Manipur

Mr. K. Romen Kumar Singh, aged 31, worked as a driver and hailed from Kongpal Kshetri Leikai, Imphal-East, Manipur. His commitment to hard work was evident as he strived to provide for his small family. In an unexpected turn of events, Mr. Romen suffered a stroke, which led to his hospitalization. Sadly, he was declared brain dead a few days later.

His wife, who was looking after their two-month-old twin babies, was not informed about her husband's condition. Mr. Romen's siblings who were counselled for organ donation found themselves helpless amid the turmoil. The family decided to bring Mr. Romen's wife to the hospital to participate in the decision-making process regarding organ donation.

With a heavy heart, the wife expressed her willingness to proceed with organ donation, stating, "Even though I couldn't save him, at least his kidneys will be alive in someone else's body." Mr. Romen's elder brother added, "It is a heart-breaking moment to accept that he is leaving behind his wife and two-month-old babies, but we cannot do anything other than donating his organs and leave a legacy for his children."

Romen Kumar Singh will forever be remembered for his noble deed of organ donation, and his family for their selfless gesture during the darkest period of their lives.



**Mr. K. Romen Kumar Singh**  
31 years  
Donated organs (October, 2023)

**To cite :** Project Gift Hope, Gift Life. Indian Transplant Newsletter. 2023 Oct-Dec; 22(3):p16.