

INDIAN TRANSPLANT NEWSLETTER

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Amplifying Voices

Amplifying Voices: An International Conference on Organ Donation

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Conference inaugural ceremony

On April 3–4, 2026, “Amplifying Voices: An International Conference on Organ Donation,” was hosted by MOHAN Foundation in partnership with Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA), bringing together healthcare leaders, policymakers, NGOs, researchers, transplant coordinators, and youth advocates from India and across the Commonwealth. Supported by the Tata Trusts and the Commonwealth Tribute to Life initiative, the conference was inaugurated by Prof. Satish Deodhar, Dean (Faculty), IIMA, alongside Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation, Prof. Rajesh Chandwani (IIMA), Prof. Viswanath Pingali (IIMA), and Mrs. Lalitha Raghuram (MOHAN Foundation). The inaugural addresses collectively emphasized that organ donation is not merely a medical intervention but a social movement rooted in empathy, ethical responsibility, systemic coordination, and collective action to bridge the widening gap between organ availability and transplants.

Sessions focused on innovation, technology, and global learning were moderated by Mr. A.K. Viswanathan and led by Dr. Arun Shroff, Dr. Sunil Shroff, Ms. Pallavi Kumar, and Mr. Sundeep Kumar demonstrated how Artificial Intelligence, multilingual AI helplines, structured prompt engineering, digital storytelling, and design platforms can strengthen outreach while safeguarding data privacy.

International experts including Dr. Dale Gardiner (UK), Dr. Harun Ur Rashid (Bangladesh), Dr. Niroshan Seneviratne (Sri Lanka), and Dr. Vijayan Manogran (Malaysia) presented comparative Commonwealth data, highlighting donor-per-million rates, consent systems, specialist nurse involvement, national registries, and organ procurement units as key determinants of success. Discussions underscored that robust infrastructure, trained transplant coordinators, and a strong consent culture are critical to improving deceased donation rates.

The conference also explored creative and academic pathways for awareness generation. Sessions on performing arts, traditional arts, sports initiatives, and architectural memorials demonstrated culturally contextual strategies to engage communities. Screening of award-winning documentary ‘God, Vulture and Human’, directed by Rishiraj Agarwal and supported by Prof. Rajesh Chandwani (IIMA), illuminated the pivotal yet often unseen role of transplant coordinators and the deeply human dimensions of organ donation. Hospital-based strengthening models, including ICU coordination systems and standardised operating procedures, were presented as practical mechanisms to enhance family consent and streamline the donation process. Across discussions, ethical communication, behavioural change strategies, and transparent organ allocation emerged as central themes.

The conference also emphasized leadership development and grassroots advocacy. The immersive ‘Vision in the Dark’ experience at the Blind People's Association, fostered empathy by allowing participants to navigate environments simulating blindness.

The session on ‘Self-Development – The Golden Ladder’ by Mr. Vijay Parthasarathy highlighted personal growth, purpose-driven leadership, and inner transformation as essential qualities for sustained social impact. In ‘Engaging Volunteers and Measuring Impact,’ Mr. A.K. Viswanathan underscored the importance of structured volunteer management, accountability, and outcome-based evaluation in scaling organ donation initiatives.

The SODA (Student Organ Donation Ambassador) Club Model and Ambassador Training Programme, demonstrated how structured training, institutional partnerships, and faith-based engagement can convert awareness into measurable pledges.

The NGO and Community Voices panel reinforced the indispensable role of civil society in addressing policy barriers, administrative challenges, and public mistrust. The conference concluded with a valedictory session recognizing key contributors and reaffirming a collective commitment to building a stronger, transparent, technology-enabled, and collaborative organ donation ecosystem in India and across the Commonwealth.

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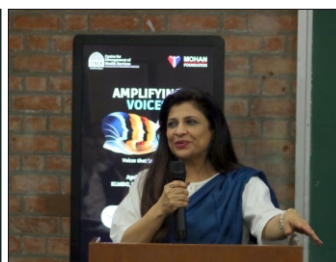
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Award-Winning Documentary ‘God, Vulture and Human’ - Rishiraj Agarwal, Director (L) & Prof. Rajesh Chandwani, Co-Producer (R) at the conference



Prof. Satish Deodhar, Dean (Faculty), IIM Ahmedabad, addressing the delegates



Ms. Shazia Ilmi, renowned politician, at the conference



Hands-on session on Using social media to promote organ donation

