

**Mumbai**  
**3rd Nov, 2017**

### **15 transplants on 15th anniversary: Asian Heart Institute**

India's renowned Asian Heart Institute today commemorated its 15th anniversary.

Expressing his gratitude to patients and citizens alike, Dr. Ramakanta Panda, Padma Bhushan and world's leading cardiac surgeon offered that the hospital would perform 15 heavily subsidised heart transplants, to commemorate the occasion.

Heart transplant has celebrated over 2 decades in India, yet it is yet to gain the required momentum. The transplantation of Human Organs Bill received the President's assent on 7 July 1994. Thereafter, a group of surgeons led by P. Venugopal successfully performed India's first heart transplant at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on 3 August the same year.

Dr. Panda, VC & MD of Asian Heart Institute said " *There is no doubt that organ donation is arguably the biggest gift one can give others world even as one departs from the world. As we celebrate our 15th anniversary we would like to reiterate that organ donation is a priority for Asian Heart Institute for 2017-18, along with our anti-cut practice campaign. We are keen to push forward our organ transplant program and subsidise costs for genuine patients who cannot afford.*"

As a thumb rule, a heart transplant can cost upwards of 20 lac for each heart recipient, making it difficult for patients from economically weak backgrounds to afford the same. This, despite the organ coming for free! The hospitalisation, stabilisation costs are immense.

In September 2017, Asian Heart Institute performed its first heart transplant by giving a fresh lease of life to a 39-year-old security guard from Mumbai who had been waiting for nearly two years to undergo the transplant. The unfortunate demise of a teenager from interior Maharashtra gave him a second chance. As with all transplants, this was a classic example of teamwork with tons of contributions. The air ambulance assisted in ensuring the heart arrived to Mumbai in a short time. The traffic police created a green corridor which facilitated the transfer of the heart from the airport to the Bandra hospital in 11 minutes.

At the hospital, the transplant was performed by cardiac surgeons- Dr Pradyot Rath, Dr Sunil Vanzara and Dr Chetan Gaokar duly assisted by cardiologist Dr Santosh Kumar Dora anaesthetist Dr Swati Shah and renowned intensivist Dr Vijay D'Silva.

Dr. Vijay D'Silva adds, " *We hope we are able to reach out to many deserving patients soon, and offer them the gift of life.*"

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