

Soon, organ donation will be a click away: Portal, app launched

ZTCC Turns 18, Charts Way For Faster Process

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Organ donation is set for a digital makeover with the Zonal Transplant Coordination Centre (ZTCC) unveiling its new website and an app on Saturday. ZTCC oversees distribution of organs donated by cadaveric (deceased) donors at 30 hospitals registered for transplants in Mumbai.

Distribution of organs is one of the **Hospital** most tedious proces- **1997** ses in the cadaveric **Dr** donation process.

The hospital with a potential brain-dead patient has to first contact the ZTCC, which then uses a computer-based network to draw up a list of potential recipients across the city. “The coordination takes 48 hours or more, and transplant coordinators in various hospitals and the ZTCC practically work round-the-clock to make every donation happen,” said ZTCC general secretary Dr Surendra Mathur.

The digitization drive, which was inaugurated by state health minister Dr Deepak Sawant on the occasion of ZTCC’s 18th foundation day on Saturday, will make the process smoother and faster. Every patient’s registration with the ZTCC will be online, so that their contact details are available quickly during the last-minute distribution process.

On Saturday, 42 families were felicitated for donating their brain-dead loved one’s organs in 2017-2018. While 67-year-old Sushma Karnik’s husband said that his wife had throughout her career as a teacher donated uniforms and books for poor tribal students. “She continued her donation till the end. And I am happy that she is still here among us due to her donated organs,” he said.

Nita Thygarajan donated her 72-year-old husband’s liver and corneas on August 3, 2017, after he was declared brain dead after suffering a stroke. “We had discussed organ donation and when doctors told me that he was brain dead, we wanted to donate all of his organs. As his heart was damaged in the revival process, we could only donate his liver,” she said.

Vaishnavi Kalam hadn’t heard about organ donation before her 61-year-old mother Ajita Phokar collapsed and fell in the bathroom of their Dockyard Road home. “It was strange to hear about it, but we decided to go ahead because it would help people,” she added.

ZTCC president Dr Gustad Daver highlighted how organ donation rates had improved over last 18 years in Mumbai. NOTTO chief Dr Vimal Bhandari noted that the ZTCC had emerged as a model agency that had carried out distribution of organs in a honest and trustworthy manner.

Health minister Dr Sawant said the ZTCC should ensure the concept of organ donation is popularized. “People still don’t know where or how they could donate organs,” he said.

86 HEARTS DISTRIBUTED & TRANSPLANTED TILL NOW

WHAT IS ZTCC | It is a not-for-profit, government organization started to promote organ donation on March 31, 2000



> The body ensures fair and transparent distribution (using a computer-based program) of cadaveric organs. Points such as time spent on the waiting list, the severity of the diseases, among others, are all factored in

> 30 hospitals in the city are registered with ZTCC for transplants

First cadaveric kidney transplant carried out at Sion Hospital on March 29, 1997, by a team led by atsala Trivedi, the founding chief of ZTCC

> The organ distribution body was set up in response to the Human

Organ Transplantation Act, which was passed in 1994 in India and it was adopted by Maharashtra in 1995



18th Foundation Day Event

> Families of 34 donors felicitated at the event

> A website and an app unveiled by state health

minister Sawant



> Vimal Bhandari, director of national organ & tissue transplant organization, said, "ZTCC (Mumbai) has an impeccable record. We have learnt from processes.

While there have been negative reports about the process elsewhere, there is no slur on ZTCC Mumbai"

■ ORGANS DISTRIBUTED & TRANSPLANTED UNTIL NOW

■ ZTCC's WAITING LIST

Heart	Kidney	Liver	Lungs
86	632	267	4
28	3,171	330	10