

ADDRESS BY THIRU CH.VIDAYSAGAR RAO, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT THE ORGAN DONATION DAY AT DURBAR HALL, RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI ON 13/08/2017 AT 10.30 AM

Dr.C.Vijaya Baskar, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr.J.Radhakrishnan IAS., Principal Secretary to Govt., Health and Family Welfare Dept., Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Mohammed Rela, Director & Head, Institute of Liver Diseases & Transplantation, Global Hospitals, Dr.Jagdish Prasad, Director General of Health Services, Govt. of India, Dr.Vimal Bhandari, Director, National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO), Govt. of India, Dr.P.Balaji, Member Secretary, Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN), Tmt Celina Parimala, JAO, TRANSTAN, Eminent Transplant Surgeons, Doctors, Centre and State Govt. officials, Families of the Donors, distinguished invitees, Friends from Media.

Ladies and Gentlemen

An organ transplant can make an enormous difference to a patient and to the lives of those around them. Some of you have benefited from organ donations. We all have a duty to show our gratitude to the Organ donor families who in their hour of grief have come forward with a magnanimous heart to give a new lease of life to many by donating the organs of their beloved ones.

I feel privileged to honour the families of organ donors and felicitate the experts in the field of organ Transplantation. It is a fact to be proud of that Tamil Nadu continues to be the leader in deceased donor transplants and has set a model for other States to emulate.

Organs can be donated by all. The present annual requirement and availability of commonly transplanted organs show a huge gap between demand and supply. In our country on an annual basis, the number of patients needing kidney transplantation is around 2,00,000 while the kidneys available for transplantation is only 6,000. The demand for Liver and Heart is also high in comparison to their availability.

In India, a large number of people die due to road accidents. According to Transport Research Wing, in the year 2014 to 2015 the total number of road accidents have increased from about 4,89,000 to more than 5,01,000 and the total number of persons killed in road accidents has increased from about 1,39,000 to more than 1,46,000 in 2015.

There is scope for lot of organ harvesting. The transplantations of heart, liver, kidneys, intestines, lungs and pancreas are done to those who are ailing and in need of an organ.

The NGOs and the Members of Medical Fraternity should join hands under the Umbrella of TRANSTAN to sensitize the people and to be facilitator for organ harvesting and donation. I appeal to the people to shed away the myths and the superstitions on organ donation.

The National Organ Transplant Programme (NOTP) of Government of India aims to promote organ donation across the country and it maintains a National Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplant Registry. Its initiative to establish a 24x7 call centre with a toll free helpline number is laudable. I am confident that conducting awareness programmes on Organ Donation will highlight the enormous benefits of organ transplantation for patients and of the need to donate organs. The neighbours, relatives and friends should console families who are in the grief and help them realize/understand/ appreciate that their loved ones can give the gift of life to nearly 3 to 4 persons by organs donation.

Today we see lakhs of rupees required for organ transplantation. It is high time a concerted and joint effort is made to bring organ transplantation within the reach of common man. I am pleased to learn that this year more Govt. hospitals have joined the deceased donor programme and about 78 hospitals have enrolled so far in this programme.

I am happy to learn that Govt. of Tamil Nadu is committed and making all efforts to reduce the waitlist of patients who are in need of organ transplants by motivating more and more brain dead patients' families for organ donation. Its initiatives to streamline the availability of organs to patients by pre-registration and by preventing and curbing involvement of middle men in organ donation are commendable.

'Green Corridor' has been helping a lot for smooth transportation of organs. Equally we need to develop good infrastructure to preserve the harvested organs. Traffic police and the medical professionals have been doing extraordinarily well to safely and quickly transport organs in time. Sometimes, organs are available only in other cities, in which case they are airlifted and I am told that there are two air ambulances available in Tamil Nadu. It is a matter of pride that Chennai is one of the leading cities in performing heart transplant surgeries and has successfully saved many lives through Green Corridor.

I congratulate Govt. of Tamil Nadu for being ranked as the highest performing State in the Country in organ transplantation and for being selected for the Best performance Award in Organ Transplantation for the past two years.

I wish TRANSTAN all success in its mission to spearhead and conduct organ donation awareness campaigns to motivate people for organ donation.

My Greetings to you all.

Jai Hind. Jai Tamil Nadu.
