

First Inter City Transfer between Mumbai and Delhi transports live Heart to Fortis Escorts, Okhla Road

- ***Total distance of 1178 kilometers was covered in almost Two hours and thirty minutes to transport the live heart of a 42 year old male donor***

New Delhi, June 26, 2018: An inter-city transfer between Mumbai and Delhi transported a live heart to **Fortis Escorts Heart Institute (FEHI)**, Okhla today. A heart transplant surgery is currently underway to transplant the live heart to save the life of a 53-year-old woman. The live heart was transported through a maiden inter-city transfer between Mumbai and Delhi that covered a distance of 1178 kilometers in record time of 02:30 hours. The team of doctors is led by **Dr Z S Meharwal, Director, Cardio Thoracic Vascular Surgery, FEHI.**

The 42-year-old male donor suffered serious injuries in a road accident and was declared brain dead despite best efforts at Global Hospital in Mumbai. The family members of the patient were given informed counselling about organ donation before they agreed. The live heart was then airlifted at 03:15 PM from Mumbai to reach 05:05 PM at Delhi airport. Another green corridor from the Delhi airport to FEHI at Okhla was created that covered 23 kilometers in 23 minutes.

The 53-year-old female recipient was suffering from Dilated Cardiomyopathy that required a heart transplant. She was undergoing treatment under Dr Z S Meharwal at FEHI and was put on the waiting list. There is a team of almost 40 people under the “Advanced Heart Failure” program who work on the protocol from heart retrieval to heart transplant.

Speaking on the condition of the patient, **Dr Z S Meharwal** said, *“A heart transplant is a critical surgery where timing is key. It is commendable that a live heart was retrieved and transported within such a short span of time. We remain indebted to the family of the donor who in this hour of grief and loss decided to save and enrich other’s lives. Organ donation, as a cause, is yet to take off majorly but such examples of swift coordination gives us immense confidence. There is a need to increase awareness about this noble cause of organ donation.”* The heart transplant surgery was underway when the release was issued.

Dr Kousar Ali Shah, Zonal Director, FEHI, said, *“We have come a long way since our first heart transplant at FEHI that took place in January 2015. We are humbled by the actions of the donor family. Despite their grief, they have selflessly donated their loved one’s organs, saving so many lives. We are also indebted to the support we receive from NOTTO, our clinicians and nursing staff, the police and traffic authorities – all who play an imperative role in making each transplant a reality.”*

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Publication

Only 720 Cadaveric donations (from a deceased donor) took place last year in our country which represents 0.8 person/ million individuals. In a nation of over a billion people, that's not even 1 donor in a million. In comparison, while we are at a fraction of 1%, western nations like the United States are believed to have organ donor numbers in the range of 15 to 20%. Each year, half a million Indians die while waiting for an organ transplant, because no suitable donor can be found for them. That's a life lost every minute! There is a need to spread the word that each one of us has the potential to be an organ donor, and we all have the power to save 9 lives.

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About Fortis Escorts Heart Institute

Fortis Escorts Heart Institute (FEHI), Delhi, a pioneer and centre of excellence in cardiac care, is celebrating 28 years of path-breaking work and service to the numerous heart patients, who have benefitted from treatment, at this outstanding facility. Armed with clinical expertise and cutting-edge medical technology, the hospital has set enviable benchmarks in Cardiac Bypass Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Interventional Cardiology, Non-invasive Cardiology, Pediatric Cardiology and Pediatric Cardiac Surgery. Till date, FEHI has successfully completed over 1,79,000 Coronary Angiographies, over 97,000 Cardiac Surgeries and almost 62,000 Coronary Angioplasties, in addition to several life-saving procedures. The hospital also performed India's first Trans Catheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) and Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (BVS); Asia Pacific's first Directional Atherectomy, Angioscopy, Drug Eluting Stenting, etc. Over the years, FEHI has cloned a Heart Care Network of 19 hospitals and Heart Command Centers in India and abroad. It has also launched the revolutionary e-ICU program, enabling remote and timely access to critical care. Fortis Escorts Heart Institute has won numerous awards and accolades, the most recent among them being the 'Best Cardiology Hospital' at the ICICI Lombard & CNBC TV18 India Healthcare Awards for 2012, 2013 and the No 1. Ranking in the Private Cardiac category Hospital by The Week Nielson Best Hospitals Survey, 2014 and 2015.

About Fortis Healthcare Limited:

Fortis Healthcare Limited is a leading integrated healthcare delivery service provider in India. The healthcare verticals of the company primarily comprise hospitals, diagnostics and day care specialty facilities. Currently, the company operates its healthcare delivery services in India, Dubai, Mauritius and Sri Lanka with 45 healthcare facilities (including projects under development), approximately 10,000 potential beds and over 374 diagnostic centers. For more information, please visit www.fortishealthcare.com

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