

## Fortis Hospital, Vashi, Conducts Health Check-up Camp for Auto Rickshaw Drivers of Navi Mumbai

~ Over 200 Auto Rickshaw drivers of Chatrapati Shivaji Rickshaw Union screened for BMI, BP RBS and general consultation ~

**Navi Mumbai, February 19th, 2016:** Fortis Hospital, Vashi in association with Chatrapati Shivaji Rickshaw Union and RTO organised a Free Health Check-up Camp for the Auto rickshaw drivers of Navi Mumbai today. More than 200 rickshaw drivers got themselves screened and sought expert consultation. The doctors provided much needed consultation to help them understand ways to take better care of their health. The camp was conducted at Sector 19 at Koparkhairane.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that approximately 2.4 million people die each year from causes directly attributable to air pollution. According to an independent study by Bharati Vidyapeeth Medical College in Pune, auto rickshaw drivers, who spend 8 to 10 hours daily in traffic pollution, stand at a high risk of restrictive lung disorder. The initiative, driven by the Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union (Chatrapati Shivaji Rickshaw Union), was an attempt to address the health woes of the auto rickshaw drivers.

~ Of those screened **65%-70% suffered from hyper acidity** ~

~ Of those screened **50% suffered from back pain** due to prolonged driving hours ~

~ Of those screened **60% suffered from chronic neck pain** ~

~ Of those screened **75%-80% were tobacco chewers** and had dental issues ~

**Dr Bipin Chevale, Facility Director, Fortis Hospital, Vashi,** said: *"Auto Rickshaw drivers are required to be screened from time to time especially when their work conditions are not absolutely healthy. We are happy to partner with Chatrapati Shivaji Rickshaw Union and RTO in organising and conducting this health camp for the benefit of auto rickshaw drivers. The positive response from the Auto Rickshaw drivers evokes the fact that there is a need for such camps to be organised at regular interval."*

Commenting on the health camp, **Mr Madhukar Patil, President, Chatrapati Shivaji Rickshaw Union** said, *"We are constantly exposed to pollution, dust and adverse climatic conditions. Such health camps are important to assess our health and take preventive & corrective measures. It is important for us to stay fit so that we can have complete focus on*

*our job. We are grateful to the doctors from Fortis Hospital, Vashi and to the RTO authorities for having organised this health camp”.*

**Mr Sanjay Dhaygude, Deputy Regional Transport Officer (RTO)**, who supported the health check-up camp hosted for the Auto Rickshaw drivers, said, *“Auto rickshaw drivers perform their duties in adverse weather conditions. The health of theirs takes a toll on their physiological and psychological health. We are happy that this camp was conducted to provide health check-ups. We feel that the concern for better health should encourage them to spread the message of health to their colleagues as well. We thank Fortis Hospital, Vashi, for this initiative that helped them understand their current health standing and to take preventive and corrective measures.”*

Encouraged by the participation and enthusiasm of the Auto Rickshaw drivers and the success of the program, Fortis Hospital, Vashi, plans to conduct more such sessions at regular intervals for social stakeholders.

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