

**PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Publication*

**Night Green corridor transports beating heart from Fortis Hospital, Vasant Kunj to Max Super Specialty Hospital, Saket in record time, covering a distance of 8.1 kms in just 6 minutes**

**Donor of Nepalese origin gives life to three in his death**

**New Delhi, Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016:** As the nation gears up to celebrate National Organ Donation Day this Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, a cadaveric donation at Fortis Ft Lt Rajan Dhall Hospital, Vasant Kunj today set a sterling precedence. **The Fortis Organ Retrieval and Transplant (FORT) unit** facilitated the deceased donor process which helped successfully transported the donor's heart from Fortis Ft. Lt. Rajan Dhall Hospital, Vasant Kunj in South Delhi reaching Max Super Specialty Hospital, Saket in record time, saving the life of a 20-year-old male from Bhiwani. A Night Green Corridor was created at 2.20 am today, Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 by the Delhi Police between Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj to Max Hospital, Saket covering a distance of 8.1 kms in just 6 minutes.

The donor, 41-year-old patient of Nepalese origin was brought into the emergency of Fortis Ft Lt Rajan Dhall Hospital, Vasant Kunj after a road accident by the Delhi Police late on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> 2016. The patient was non-responsive and unconscious at the time of arrival, and despite best efforts by the doctors, they could not revive the patient (a driver for a private company by profession) and he was declared brain dead on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016. Thereafter, the proposal to donate his organs for a larger cause was discussed with his family. His wife, a home maker, his brother (also a driver at the same company) and his teenage son, who is appearing for his class 10<sup>th</sup> board exams this year, consented despite their hour of profound grief. The second and final brain dead test was conducted thereafter and the hospital informed NOTTO (National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation) and the police which was pressed into action owing to the fact that it was an MLC case.

According to the NOTTO protocol and guidelines update, each hospital has to inform about their possible organ donation after which the government body decides as to which organ is to be sent to which hospital in the region based on a list of priority recipients. According to the hospital-wise rota decided by NOTTO, the heart was sent to Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket; one kidney to Fortis Hospital, Shalimar Bagh to be transplanted in a 52-year-old female recipient while the second remains with Fortis Ft Lt Rajan Dhall Hospital to be transplanted into a 46-year old female. The corneas were sent to Venu Eye Center.

**Abrar Ali Dalal, Facility Director, Fortis Ft. Lt. Rajan Dhall Hospital** said, “This is our second deceased donor transplant for this facility. We thank the donor’s family for recognizing the importance of organ donation and are deeply appreciative of them to have agreed for this magnanimous and noble act even in their hour of grief and irreparable loss. It was also the clockwork precision of all internal and external medical teams which made this dream of a cadaveric donation a reality.”

“It is extremely motivating to see a gradual shift in public perception on the issue of organ donation in our country. As per available statistics, in 2015, there were 570 donations following brain death cases in the country, resulting in transplantation of a total of 1,675 organs including 1,007 kidneys, 510 livers, 110 hearts, 37 lungs, 4 pancreas and 2 small intestines. These are not small numbers in a country where, till a decade ago, organ donation was synonymous with the donation of a kidney or part of the liver from a living donor,” explained **Dr Avnish Seth, Director, Fortis Organ Retrieval and Transplant (FORT)**, while speaking about the latest policies in place to streamline the process of Organ Donation throughout the country.

Added **Dr Shalini Bhalla, Medical Superintendent** at the hospital, “Such humble acts where a family overcomes their loss and comes forward for organ donation, forces us to think beyond, in such times of crisis.”

**Ms Geeta Thapa, the wife of the donor** shared, “I had heard about organ donation but never imagined that it would become a reality for me one day. No words can express my loss but am proud of the fact that my husband has been able to grant life to others even as he is no more. I pray for the well-being of the recipients”.

### **About FORT**

*Established in 2012, Fortis Organ Retrieval and Transplant is in the process of streamlining organ donation in Fortis Hospitals, the largest provider of private healthcare in Asia. The roles undertaken by FORT include: -*

- *24-hour referral service for organ and tissue donation*
- *Assistance with documentation and procedures related to organ and tissue donation*
- *Family counseling and support*
- *Organ pledging facility*
- *Multi-professional education*
- *Interacting with NOTTO, NATHEALTH, FII, PHD Chamber, NGOs, MNCs and schools to promote organ donation related activities at a national level.*

*The focus was to establish a robust deceased organ donation platform in 15 Fortis hospitals approved for organ transplantation across the country. Till date multiple organ retrievals have been carried out in 28 patients, resulting in transplantation of 81 organs. Also, with 77 heart transplants, Fortis Hospital at Malar, Chennai is the leader in this field in the country. During this period FORT also coordinated 102 cornea donations. Over 4000 individuals have*

already pledged to donate their organs through FORT. MOHAN foundation, initially based out of Chennai, now has operations in several states and has led the organ donation drive in the country for last two decades.

**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 330 diagnostic centres.

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