

City Mayor donates body parts

...to 'motivate' friends, family
to follow suit

TEENA THACKER

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DELHI Mayor Arti Mehra wants to be etched in the city's mind even after she is gone, and how. Mehra has donated her whole body, and says she never had second thoughts about the decision.

"When I decided to donate my whole body, I just felt great about it, she said.

Mehra said she arrived at the decision at a function she attended as a chief guest – it was organized by the NGO Dadhichi Deh Dan, attached with the Organ Retrieval Banking Organization (ORBO) at the AIIMS. Impressed with the concept, the Mayor filled up the donor form promptly.

"I had always thought about eye donation but never knew that other parts of the body can also be so useful to others," Mehra said. "And now that I have donated my own, I am encouraging my family members and friends to come forward for this noble cause."

Mehra said by August-end she plans to motivate 100 or 150 family members, relatives and friends to sign up for the donation.

Mehra said she was curious about body donation even as a student at Senior Model School in Chandigarh. "I remember we had two real skeletons in the laboratory, and I would keep thinking about people who had donated their



Mayor Arti Mehra

Organ/tissue donated most

Heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, kidneys, eyes, heart valves, skin, bones, bone marrow, connective tissues, middle ear, blood vessels.

bodies.

"The interest (in body parts donation) continued as I was regular at blood donation camps in college days – I felt content after donating my whole body."

while organ donation was limited to eyes or particular body parts, experts say the concept of donating one's whole body is catching up now. "Awareness on organ donation has led to an increase in whole body donation over the years." ORBO in-charge Dr. Aarti Vij said.

Mehra now wants to take the issue forward and proposes to link up municipal hospitals with AIIMS. The organisation at present acts as the nodal centre for encouraging organ donations, fair and equitable distribution and optimum utilisation of human organs for the country.

"There is a need to generate awareness – not many know that a set of eyes can help three persons," Mehra said.