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## Anmol's example leads to jump in organ donation

Durgesh Nandan Jha | TNN

**New Delhi:** The Junejas of Geeta Colony in east Delhi tragically lost their son, Anmol, 21, in a road accident early last month. But their brave decision to donate all his organs as the body lay in brain-dead state – an act that gave the gift of life to 30 people – has now inspired many others to follow the example.

### ► Transplant Centre, P 6

AIIMS has reported a three-fold increase in the number of such donations in the month after Anmol's story first appeared in TOI. The hospital has received 20 donations, three of whom were brain-dead patients who had offered all retrievable organs including the heart, liver and kidneys.

Arti Vij, Chief of the Organ Retrieval Banking Organization at AIIMS, said these donations would ultimately help save or improve the quality of life of at least 70 patients. "About a dozen organs have already been transplanted including a heart transplant conducted at AIIMS," she said.

## Woman is AIIMS's first whole body donor

Durgesh Nandan Jha | TNN

**New Delhi:** A 37-year-old woman from Uttarakhand who suffered irreversible brain damage in a haemorrhagic attack has become the first whole body donor at All India Institute of Medical Sciences this year. While her heart, liver and two kidneys have been used for transplant into needy patients, other organs like the cornea and bones are preserved for future use, Arti Vij, chief of the Organ Retrieval and Banking Organisation at the institute, said.

She added, "Chandrakanta Rawat was admitted to AIIMS on January 2. She was declared brain dead by a team of doctors two days later. Her husband gave the consent for retrieval of the organs."

Vij said while the deceased's heart & two kidneys were used for transplant at the institute itself, the liver was used for transplant at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences in Vasant Kunj.

TOI spoke to the deceased's husband Balbir Singh Rawat. He said Chandrakanta had desired to donate here organs in the eventuality of her death five days before she suffered the stroke. "In hind-sight, it looks as if she had a pre-moition about what was going to happen. We were sitting on the verandah discussing about our children's future when she suddenly said that if any one of us dies their organs should be donated. I had to fulfill her last wish," he said.

Rawat, who teaches at a primary school in Pauri Garhwal district in Uttarakhand, pledged his organs

after donating his wife's. "Once dead, the organs are of no use to the deceased. If retrieved on time, it can give a gift of life to many others. This belief also helped me take the decision," he said.

Dr. Deepak Agrawal, a senior neurosurgeon at AIIMS trauma centre, said the family's decision to donate the organs is praiseworthy and reflects a positive change in society's mindset towards organ donation. "We come across many families who are not ready to even listen to us about the possibility of donating the organs in case of brain death of a relative. Mostly people cite religious belief as ground for declining the plea," Agrawal said.

The ORBO chief said a patient can be declared brain dead only by a team of four experts. "After that the family has to give consent following which harvesting of organs and transplants can be carried," Vij said.



**Chandrakanta Rawat**  
Multi-Organ Donor



**Balbir Singh Rawat**