

**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**

**Rotary**  
Club of  
**ORGAN DONATION  
INTERNATIONAL**



**LET'S  
INSPIRE !**

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# NEW STEP

Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Organ Donation International

**UNITE FOR GOOD** Rotary Club of **ORGAN DONATION INTERNATIONAL** **LET'S INSPIRE !**

**ROTARY CLUB OF ORGAN DONATION INTERNATIONAL**

**ROTARY'S ROLE IN TRANSFORMING ORGAN DONATION**

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**Rtn Ruby Agarwal** Inspire Secretary | **Rtn PHF Dr Rohan Monis** Club Medical Director

**Time & Date: 8 PM on Sunday 26th April 2026**

Watch live on <https://www.youtube.com/@gyan8932>

**DON'T LET YOUR LAST  
WISH GO UNHEARD  
DONATE ORGANS**

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## FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF MANAGING EDITOR



**Dear Fellow Rotarians and Esteemed Members,**

In India, our opt-in system for organ donation presents a unique and deeply complex challenge — one that even a living will cannot fully resolve. I have endeavoured to critically examine this legal and ethical landscape, and to chart a constructive way forward. The absence of a presumed-consent framework means that every opportunity to save a life depends entirely on prior, voluntary registration and, crucially, on timely family consent. Strengthening both pillars of this equation must remain our collective mission.

Our Club members continue to distinguish themselves through selfless and impactful work. I extend my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to our new member Rtn Shreyansh Jain for facilitating the successful retrieval of the eye corneas of late Shri S C Jain at Ghaziabad. This single act of compassion will restore sight — and with it, hope — to those who had known only darkness. It is precisely such quiet heroism that embodies the spirit of Rotary.

This issue carries a truly moving poem by our President-Elect, Rtn Hemalatha Bhandari — “The Gift of Life, Rotary’s Global Gear Shift, Igniting Hope”. Written with rare sensitivity and purpose, the poem is a testament to the power of words in service of a cause that transcends borders. I am confident you will find it as inspiring as I did.

In keeping with the summer spirit, our beloved “Healthy Food – Healthy Organs” segment features a delightful seasonal creation by our Inspire Secretary, Rtn Ruby Agarwal — a wholesome and mouth-watering Healthy Mango Rabdi. As the king of fruits graces our tables in abundance, I invite you to try this nourishing recipe and savour the season with both joy and good health.

Finally, this issue’s “Interesting Facts About Our Members” spotlight offers a warm glimpse into the remarkable individual who makes our Rotary family so special. These stories remind us that behind every great cause stand even greater people.

Yours in Rotary,

**IPP Rtn Lal Goel**

Chief Managing Editor

Founder & Charter President

# DON'T LET YOUR LAST WISH GO UNHEARD.

Is a Living Will Enough to Ensure  
Organ Donation in India?

No, because  
**FAMILY CONSENT**  
is ultimately required.

Your living will, donor card, or pledge  
is important, but **only your family**  
**has the final say.**  
Talk to them today.

A GIFT THAT LIVES ON...



**SEVA**

Give Selflessly. Give Life.



**SARBAT DA BHALA**

Welfare of All Humanity.



**NISHKAM KARAM**

Give Without Expectation.

Register Today. Discuss with Family.  
Intent Saves. Action Transforms.

Rotary  
Club of



**ORGAN DONATION  
INTERNATIONAL**

RID 3141

Share Your Wish  Pledge to Donate  Register Online

Consult **NOTTO**  Learn More at: [notto.mohfw.gov.in](http://notto.mohfw.gov.in)

**ROTARIAN LAL GOEL**

Founder & Charter President

Rotary Club of Organ Donation International

Chairman, Organ Donation India Foundation & GYAN



## IS A LIVING WILL EFFECTIVE FOR ORGAN DONATION IN INDIA?



**By Rotarian Lal Goel**

**Founder & Charter President**

**Rotary Club of Organ Donation International**

**Chairman, Organ Donation India Foundation & GYAN**

### Introduction

As organ donation awareness rises across India, many citizens take a conscious step forward — pledging their organs, signing donor cards, or even drafting a living will.

But an uncomfortable truth remains largely absent from public discourse: does this guarantee that their organs will actually be donated?

Under India's current legal and practical framework, the answer is no — not by itself.

And this gap is something every advocate, hospital, and policymaker must confront honestly.

### What Is a Living Will?

A living will, or Advance Medical Directive, is a legal document through which a person records their wishes regarding medical treatment and end-of-life care if they become incapable of communicating.

It may include:

- Refusal of life-sustaining treatment
- Preference for natural death with dignity
- Intent to donate organs after death

At its core, a living will protects autonomy, reduces family burden, and guides doctors during critical moments.

## Legal Recognition in India

The Supreme Court, in the landmark case *Common Cause v. Union of India*, recognised living wills as legally valid.

The judgment affirmed that:

- The right to die with dignity is part of Article 21 of the Constitution
- Individuals can create advance directives
- These must be signed before witnesses and clearly documented

In 2023, the Court simplified procedures, making it easier to implement such directives, especially in decisions related to withdrawal of life support.

However — and this is crucial — organ donation was not given automatic enforceability through these directives.

### The Central Limitation: Family Consent Prevails

Here lies the defining reality of organ donation in India:

A living will or donor pledge does not guarantee organ donation.

India follows an explicit consent system, not presumed consent.

This means:

- The next of kin must approve the donation
- Without family consent, no organ retrieval takes place
- Hospitals will not proceed in the face of objection

Even if a person has documented their wish, the final decision rests with the family at a highly emotional moment.

## What Does the Law Actually Say?

The governing legislation, the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), allows individuals to authorise organ donation during their lifetime.

It provides that:

- A person can record their consent in writing before death
- Doctors must check for such prior authorisation
- Families should be informed of this intent

Yet in practice, this authorisation does not override family refusal. Medical teams, understandably, rely on family agreement before proceeding.

## The Gap Between Intent and Reality

This disconnect is one of India's biggest barriers to deceased organ donation.

- Many families are unaware of the donor's wishes
- Misunderstanding of brain death leads to hesitation
- Emotional distress results in refusal or withdrawal of consent
- Lack of trained counsellors worsens outcomes

Even judicial observations in recent years have highlighted systemic gaps — from uneven implementation of transplant laws to inadequate infrastructure across states.

## What Truly Works in India

In India, the most effective “living will” is not a document — it is a conversation.

When families clearly understand a loved one's wishes:

- Consent rates increase significantly
- Doubt and guilt are reduced
- Decisions are made with clarity, not crisis

A donor card records intent.

A conversation creates conviction.

## The Way Forward

If India is serious about saving more lives through organ donation, incremental awareness is not enough — systemic change is essential:

- Public education must emphasise family discussions, not just pledges
- Hospital systems need trained transplant coordinators and grief counsellors
- Legal reform should strengthen the authority of documented consent
- National registries like NOTTO must be actively promoted and integrated into hospital workflows
- State-level infrastructure (SOTTOs) must be uniformly implemented

Without these, intent will continue to fall short of impact.

## Conclusion

A living will in India is legally recognised, ethically powerful, and deeply meaningful — but it is not a guarantee of organ donation.

Its true strength lies not in the document itself, but in:

- informed families
- responsive healthcare systems
- and a culture that honours the donor's final wish

Until India evolves toward a framework that gives binding force to individual consent, organ donation will remain dependent on a fragile moment of family decision.

And that is precisely where the movement must now focus — not just on pledging organs, but on preparing families to say “yes” when it matters most.

## ROTARIAN LAL GOEL EXPRESSES DEEP ADMIRATION AND HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO THE FAMILY OF EYE DONOR SHRI SURESH CHANDRA JAIN



**Ghaziabad, 17 April 2026:** Rotarian Lal Goel, Founder & Charter President of the Rotary Club of Organ Donation International and Chairman of the Organ Donation India Foundation & GYAN, expressed profound admiration and heartfelt gratitude to the family of Late Shri Suresh Chandra Jain for honouring his noble wish of eye donation.

Earlier this morning, Rotarian Shreyansh Jain—Member of the Rotary Club of Organ Donation International and Former President of Sri Paras Dham Digamber Jain Mandir, Vaishali, Ghaziabad—reached out to inform that a close family friend had passed away, and his last wish was to donate his eyes. Despite their immediate efforts, initial attempts to secure support from an eye care provider did not materialise.

Responding without delay, Rotarian Lal Goel coordinated with Mr Roshan from Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital - Eye Bank. Thanks to their swift intervention, the corneas were successfully retrieved—ensuring that the donor's final wish was fulfilled.

Shri Suresh Chandra Jain passed away peacefully in the early hours of 17 April 2026.

According to the family, his son Mr Sandeep Jain and daughter-in-law Ms Neeru Jain upheld his expressed wish for eye donation. In a moment of immense personal loss, their decision transformed grief into a powerful act of humanity—offering the gift of sight and a renewed future to others.

In his letter to the family, Rotarian Lal Goel wrote:

“In a moment of profound grief, you and your family demonstrated extraordinary courage and compassion by choosing to donate the eyes of your beloved father, Shri Suresh Chandra Jain. I express my deepest admiration and heartfelt gratitude for this noble act. Your decision reflects the highest spirit of humanity. Through this gift of light, Shri Jain will continue to illuminate lives, and his legacy will live on in the vision he has restored and the hope he has created.”

Concluding his message, he added:

“On behalf of our entire Rotary family—and on behalf of every life his generosity will touch—I bow my head in gratitude to you, your family, and to the sacred memory of Shri Suresh Chandra Jain.”

Rotarian Lal Goel emphasised that when families honour the final wishes of their loved ones, it can significantly bridge the gap in organ and tissue availability—bringing life, light, and hope to countless individuals.

## "The Gift of Life, Rotary's Global Gear Shift, Igniting Hope"

### **ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION**

*Rallying leaders from every shore,  
Opening hearts and a wide-open door.  
Transforming myths that once stood in the way,  
Advocates rise for a brighter new day.  
Registration drives across every land,  
Yielding a future that's carefully planned.  
Sowing the seeds of a selfless decree,*

*Reaching the rural and the corporate degree.  
Offering hope through a globalized lens,  
Linking the world where the suffering ends.  
Engaging the youth with a message of grace,*

*Investing in tools for a life-saving pace.  
NOTTO's true partner in streamlining vows,*

*Transplanting sorrow for life's better now.  
Retrieval centers and grants for the poor,  
Action groups opening a medical door.  
Nurturing empathy, deep and profound,  
Supporting families where loss can be found.  
Funding science and specialized gear,  
Overcoming the silence, the doubt, and the fear.  
Rotary's vision is clear and bold,  
Mending the stories that need to be told.  
Infrastructure built on a foundation of trust,  
Nobility found in the "gift" that is just.  
Giving a lifeline to those in despair,*

*Organizing networks with meticulous care.  
Rural or city, the message is one,  
Guiding the work until supply is never outrun.  
Ambassadors leading with service and light,  
New life emerging from the darkest of night.*

*Devoted to ethics and legal design,  
Overcoming barriers, line after line.  
Noble in spirit and focused on need,  
Altruism is planted in every small seed.  
Taboos are shattered and cultures aligned,  
International pathways are being refined.  
Offering life where the shadow once stayed,  
Now is the promise that shall not be delayed.*

*Awareness is blooming, a movement is born,  
Witness the sunrise on a brand-new morn.  
Alliance of leaders and science combined,  
Reaching for goals that were once unrefined.  
Equipping the surgeons and easing the way,  
Nobly transforming the world of today.  
Ensuring that mercy is never too late,  
Shaping the future and altering fate.  
Saving a soul—it's the ultimate trait.*



**Rtn Hemalatha  
Bhandari  
President  
Elect**

## HEALTHY FOOD - HEALTHY ORGANS



# Healthy Mango Rabdi

### Ingredients

**Milk Base:** 1 litre milk.

**Thickeners:** 1 cup finely grated low-fat paneer and 1/4 cup cashew powder

**Mango Elements:** 1 cup fresh mango puree and 1/2 cup ripe mango pieces.

**Flavoring:** 1/2 tsp elaichi (cardamom) powder and a pinch of saffron strands (soaked in 2 tbsp warm milk).

**Monk fruit Sweetener:** 4 tbsp (adjust based on mango sweetness).

**Garnish:** Mango pieces & Chopped nuts (almonds, pistachios, cashews)

### Preparation Steps

**Reduce the Milk:** Boil the milk in a heavy-bottomed pan. Once it boils, reduce heat to low-medium and simmer until it reduces by roughly half.

**Add Thickeners:** Stir in the grated paneer and cashew powder. These will instantly add body and a grainy texture to the milk and Cook for another 8–10 minutes on low heat, stirring continuously to prevent sticking..

**Sweeten and Flavor:** Add sweetner, elaichi powder, and the soaked saffron milk.

**Cool Down:** Turn off the heat once the mixture is thick. Allow it to cool completely to room temperature.

**Tip:** Never add mango puree to hot milk, as the acidity can cause the milk to curdle.

**Incorporate Mango:** Gently fold in the mango puree until well combined. Stir in some of the chopped nuts and half of the ripe mango pieces.

**Chill and Serve:** Refrigerate for at least 2–3 hours. Serve chilled in bowls, garnished with the remaining ripe mango pieces and chopped nuts



**Rtn Ruby Agarwal**  
**Inspire Secretary**





**Rtn Mithun Ashok**  
Club Member

**Name:** Mithun Ashok

**Mobile:** 9809452427

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**Profession:** Banker with State Bank of India

**Family:** married with 2 kids

**Favourite Food:** Biriyani

**Favourite Holiday Destination:** Wagamon, Kerala

**Favourite Book:** Dan Brown's entire series

**Favourite Song:** *Oru pushpan maathram enn....*  
(Malayalam)

**Favourite Quote:** Never Give Up

**Date of Birth:** 4<sup>th</sup> September

**Wedding Anniversary:** 3rd December

**Your presence on social media:**

**Why did you choose to become a member of RC Organ Donation International :** I am a two time kidney transplant recipient So I work to promote organ donation



**SCAN  
ME  
FOR  
QUICK  
PLEDGE**

**(Pledge your Organs to donate only  
after talking to your family members)**