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After fast, Sadbhavana organ donation gives life to three

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: After the chief minister's Sadbhavana fast, there was communal harmony on display in real life as a Jain businessman donated his organs and gave life to three people including a 38-year-old Muslim mechanic, Abdul Hafiz, from Rajasthan.

"I have been coming to Gujarat since the past four years and have received maximum love and affection from the people of this state. Barring the exception of communal riots, the two communities live in maximum harmony. I am eternally grateful for receiving the highest gift — the gift of life from a gentleman of Gujarat," said Hafiz who is looking forward to uniting with his eight-year-old daughter, once the doctors declare him fit to go home.

Hafiz is one of the recipients of five organs donated by 68-year-old businessman Mahendra Shah.

On Sep-

'Abhay Daan' can change lives

Mehul, who met the recipients of his father's organs for the first time, said he was touched. "We are Jains and this type of donation is called 'Abhay Daan' in our community. A few months back, my aunt who lived in Mumbai also donated her vital organ to needy patient before her death. I was motivated and even my mother Kokila completely supported the decision," said Mehul. Dr Nikhil Lala of Sterling Hospital said: "Only three percent of the kidney failure patients receive an organ. This situation can change if people decide to donate organs if their relative is brain dead. Cadaver donation can make a huge difference to the cause of organ failure patients in the state."

September 12, Shah suffered a minor stroke and fell off the staircase in his house in Maninagar. He was declared brain dead, and following the advice of local neurosurgeon Y C Shah, the senior citizen's son Mehul decided to donate his father's two kidneys, eyes and a liver.

Hafiz, who was on dialysis since the past three years and in need of an organ since none of his family members was a blood match, is one of the recipients. On September 13, three transplant operations were carried out simultaneously by liver transplant surgeon Dr Hitesh Chavda and Dr A S Soin, and kidney transplant surgeon Dr Ketan Shukla. A team of 18 doctors and 25 paramedical staff were in-charge of the multiple organ transplants.

The other kidney was given to Mumbai-based 44-year-old Heena Doshi. The liver was transplanted in Ludhiyana-based home maker Rajni Sehgal, 48, who had suffered from liver cirrhosis since past 12 years.