

Publication	THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
Edition	Online
Date	Mar 18, 2015

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Heart-Lungs Transplants on Top

A scientific officer at Kalpakkam, 39-year-old Deivanayaki , cannot stop talking when she is given the mic to describe her ordeal before December 14, 2014, and the personal care and hospitality of Apollo Hospitals after.

There is a reason for her chirpiness. In 2003, she discovered that she had a major lung problem and from being active and healthy, she began to regularly gasp for breath, even if she spoke for a minute. Her relatives were shocked and they frequented many a hospital to confirm if the diagnosis was correct. But now, after a complex heart and lung transplant at Apollo hospitals, her happiness knows no bounds. “My daughter asks me if



I can talk to her for hours together or play with her,” she beams.

Apollo Hospitals' Chairman Prathap C Reddy with recipients of the heart-lung transplant | K ANNAMALAI

In the last 18 months, Apollo hospitals has performed six such complex surgeries each of which require specialists like pulmonologists, cardio-thoracists, anesthesiologists and transplant experts at work for more than 7-8 hours. Five of them have been successful; the survival rate is higher than global standards, costing 2.5 percent of what it would cost in USA. “This is also 9 percent of all such surgeries done across the world. We are delivering similar, if not superior, results at a fraction of the international cost,” said Dr Sunder T, who is a cardiothoracic and transplant surgeon at Apollo.

Prathap C Reddy, chairman of the Apollo group, said that India is ready to become the global healthcare destination. “We have outstanding facilities and a committed team,” he said. The doctors also stressed on early referral in cases of end-stage heart of lung diseases. Despite an improving transplant scenario in the city, the awareness about timing of referral is still low. The timing of referral plays a crucial role in the end stage diseases giving consultants ample time to rectify the problem before it reaches the end stages where there is a dire need for heart and double lung transplant.

The hospital has also successfully operated on 67-year old-Hanifa, who is the second oldest patient in the world to get a heart and lung transplant. “Today is my first birthday of a second life,” he beamed.