

## ORGAN DONATION DAY



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**A**s the popular actor Rajesh Khanna rightly said “**Babumoshai, Zindagi Lambi honi chahiye badi nahi.**” It implies that living a long, meaningful, and compassionate life is more significant than simply living a long life. Compassion lends colour to life's canvas. Let's add some colour to the lives of patients awaiting a life-saving transplant.

An individual suffering from end-stage organ failure faces several hardships and mental agony in the hope of an organ transplantation. Their routine includes waiting, hoping, praying, contacting, and inquiring. Adding fuel to the fire, financial stress, and constant visits to the hospital, along with a long waiting list, make the situation extremely grim. To sustain life, one looks for the hope of a new lease on quality of life. If a family in their darkest hour of grief says “yes” to organ donation, they can save nine lives and enhance not only the lives of the patient but the entire family. By donating a heart, kidneys, liver, lungs, pancreas, intestine, corneas, skin, and bones, one can be a miracle for a family hoping for the gift of life.

A pledge to become an organ donor can go a long way in saving lives. You can choose to become an organ donor by carrying a donor card and informing your loved one of your wishes, or you can use your driver's License or learner's permit to make organ donation easier. Yes, you read that correctly!

Expressing one's wish to be an organ donor during the issue of important documents like ‘Driving License’ or ‘National Identity Cards’ or ‘Passport’ comes under Mandated choice. The driving License has been effectively used in countries like the USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan as an instrument to pledge organ donation. Under this method, all competent adults would be required to decide and record whether or not they wish to become organ donors upon their deaths on driver's license applications, tax returns, or identification cards. India has recently adopted this method and has included the organ donation clause in its Drivers License, however, the final consent rests with the family.

### AN INITIATIVE BY MOHAN FOUNDATION AND OTHER NGOS

**MOHAN Foundation** has carried out countless campaigns to promote this initiative. Way back in 2006-07, MOHAN Foundation initiated a drive and collected 5,000 signatures and forwarded it to the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) and on 20th September 2009 handed it over to the then Transport Commissioner at a public function. In 2010, MOHAN Foundation sent a driver's license pledge as one of the many recommendations to the Rajya Sabha standing committee that was looking at the various inclusions in the New Transplant Law (Ref: Indian Transplant Newsletter. Vol.17 Issue No.54. July 2018-October 2018)

**Gift Your Organ Foundation**, a Bangalore-based NGO was pursuing the change in the driving license format. They were using stickers on the driving license in Bangalore to denote that a person wished to donate his/her organs. The Foundation carried out an awareness drive from 2012-2015, at 9 Regional Traffic Offices (RTOs) in Bengaluru. They reached out to approximately 1.72 lakh people and had 62,000 pledge their organs on the driving license in Bangalore. They reached out to nearly 15000 people at a similar drive held in 2013 at a Mumbai RTO (Ref: <https://www.thebetterindia.com/140228/driving-Licence-application-form-organ-donation/>)

**MOHAN Foundation Jaipur Citizen Forum (MFJCF)** - In 2016-17, Bhavna Jagwani from MFJCF met and appealed to Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways for the organ donation clause to be included in the driving License. The Ministry of Health officials and the National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) also appealed to various ministries. All these efforts culminated in the clause being included in the learner's License/driving License application form and the driving License. The Rajasthan driving License has an organ donor (red heart) mentioned on it.



# DRIVE, PLEDGE



# SAVE LIVES

**Do you know what you can pledge for Organ Donation through your Driving license and proudly have the OD Red Heart on your DL? Do it today!**

### INCLUSION OF ORGAN DONATION CLAUSE IN THE DRIVERS LICENCE IN INDIA

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) Government of India has announced that applicants can opt to become organ donors while applying for a driving licence. The ministry has introduced an option in driving licence application forms to pledge to donate organs in case of death by a road accident. Now, this is not a recent change the government had first introduced this option with an amendment made to the Central Motor Vehicle (CMV) Rules 1989 in 2018. However, MoRTH

India is promoting this now as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative, to celebrate and commemorate India's 75 years of Independence, this year.

MoRTH has introduced an option in the Driving Licence application form to pledge to donate organs in case of accidental death through an amendment to CMV Rules 1989 in 2018 (Ref: <https://www.carandbike.com/news/you-can-opt-to-become-an-organ-donor-when-applying-for-driving-licence-2728438>).

So, if one is willing to opt for this while applying for a new driving licence, learner's licence, or any licence-related services, he or she simply has to choose 'Yes' on the 'Donate Organ' option in the application. And also select which organ they wish to donate. This information will come on the driving licence which will help medical personnel to identify them and take necessary action in the event of a road accident.

### STEPS TO BECOME AN ORGAN DONOR WHEN APPLYING FOR A DRIVING LICENCE

- Visit the official driving license renewal website of your particular state <https://sarathi.parivahan.gov.in/sarathi-service/stateSelection.do> address or name) Link to download the form: <https://parivahan.gov.in/parivahan/sites/default/files/DownloadForm/cmvr/FORM-2.pdf>
- Download Form 2 (Form of application for learner's license or driving license or addition of a new class of vehicle or renewal of a driving license or change of
- Under “Declaration”, I am willing to donate my organ/tissue in case of death- Tick YES/NO

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#### 6. Particulars of existing Licence (Learner's or Permanent)

Licence Number				
Class of Vehicle(s)				
Name of the Licencing Authority which issued the Licence				
Validity Period	From date		To Date	

#### 7. List of Documents attached (Please refer to the attached annexure and tick)

#### DECLARATION

I am willing to donate my organ/ tissue in case of death YES/NO  
I declare that the facts stated above and documents submitted are true and genuine to the best of my knowledge and belief. I also state that I have / have not been disqualified from holding a Driving Licence.

Date:

Signature of the Applicant

