

Vadodara trust to help liver patients

Transplant Foundation Set Up In Jaslok Hospital

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Vadodara: Here is one good reason why politicians in Maharashtra should stop making shrill calls of 'Mumbai for Mumbaikars' ahead of the Assembly elections. Vadodara's Parul Education Trust has set up the Parul Liver Transplant Foundation to provide financial aid to economically backward patients undergoing liver transplant at Mumbai's

Jaslok Hospital.

The foundation will also run campaigns to create awareness on liver donation, chairman and managing trustee of the trust Dr Jayesh Patel said on Sunday. The trust runs 17 colleges in their campus on the outskirts of Vadodara and has applied for deemed university status.

Patel set up the foundation after he met four-year-old Marathi girl Avanti Thabe in Jaslok's intensive care unit last week. While Patel was undergoing a bypass surgery, Avanti had received her uncle's liver in a transplant surgery. The girl's family had already spent Rs 10 lakh on the operation and needed another Rs 3 lakh as com-

plications had cropped up.

"It was painful to see the family struggle for the additional cash," Patel, who helped the family with the money, said. Avanti's condition is stable now. "This tragic case in-



Dr Jayesh Patel
chairman of Parul
Education Trust

spired me to do something for all those who are losing their life in Gujarat and elsewhere for want of livers or due to financial reasons,"

added Patel. The foundation has been set up with an initial amount of Rs 50 lakh, which will be raised to Rs 1 crore later.

"No hospital in Gujarat does liver transplants. Our foundation will ensure Gujaratis get priority in treatment," said Patel. The foundation will be headed by Mumbai-based liver transplant expert Dr H G Desai, who belongs to Valsad.

"Jaslok Hospital authorities have also decided to deduct twice the amount that we donate for a patient's treatment, from the bill," Patel said. Through campaigns, the foundation also aims to motivate people to donate livers of relatives who have either met with accidents or are declared brain dead.