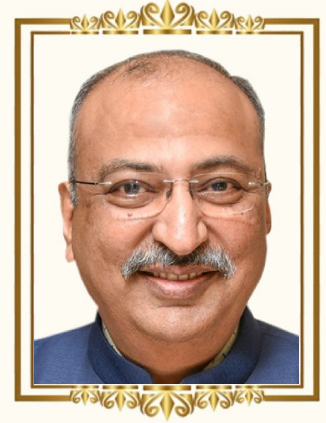




SHRI NILESH VINODCHANDRA MANDLEWALA



Shri Nilesh Vinodchandra Mandlewala, popularly known as the Organ Man of India, is widely respected as one of the most committed and influential advocates of organ donation in the country. As the Founder of Donate Life, he has played a vital role in strengthening awareness and acceptance of cadaveric organ donation in Gujarat and across India.

2. Born on 19th April, 1965, Shri Mandlewala's association with this humanitarian mission began with a deeply personal experience that shaped his life's direction. His father suffered kidney failure and required dialysis twice every week. Witnessing his father's physical discomfort and emotional struggle, he realized that thousands of families across India endure similar suffering each year because of the severe shortage of organs for transplantation. Instead of allowing personal grief to remain a private burden, he transformed it into a lifelong commitment dedicated to saving lives and supporting families facing similar crises.

3. In 2005, at a time when awareness about organ donation in India was extremely limited and surrounded by misconceptions, ignorance and fear, Shri Mandlewala initiated an organ donation awareness movement. His work began with promoting cadaveric kidney donation in 2006 and gradually expanded to include awareness regarding donation of liver, heart, lungs, pancreas, intestines, hands, bones and other tissues. His dedication and credibility earned him recognition as an important contributor to public health awareness, leading to his appointment as a Member of the State Advisory Committee for Organ and Tissue Transplantation from 2019 to 2021.

4. Shri Mandlewala's long-term vision is that by 2047, no citizen should lose life because of the non-availability of organs. To achieve this goal, he has travelled extensively across India for more than two decades to promote awareness. He has used creative and emotionally engaging methods to connect with people from diverse backgrounds. He composed the song "Angdaan Karle Re Maanav Tu Ishvar Ban Jayega" and produced the short film "KAAYA - The Mission of Life," both of which have significantly contributed to public awareness and inspired individuals to pledge their organs.

5. Shri Mandlewala has played an important role in educating society about brain death and helping families understand the significance of organ donation during emotionally challenging moments. He has personally counselled numerous grieving families and worked closely with doctors, hospitals, NGOs, and volunteers to facilitate organ donation. His efforts have helped Surat earn recognition as the "Organ Donor City," establishing it as an inspiring model for other regions in India. Despite facing social resistance, misconceptions, logistical challenges and infrastructural limitations, he has continued his mission with patience, compassion, and remarkable determination.

6. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Shri Mandlewala continued counselling families of brain-dead patients in hospitals, contributing to the donation of more than 200 organs and tissues. Overall, his initiatives have helped facilitate 1371 successful organs and tissue donations, giving new life to 1263 recipients and hope to their families. Guided by the philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," his work has benefited patients from countries including UAE, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Yemen, and Bangladesh.

7. Shri Mandlewala's has been honoured with over 70 awards including "Gujarat Garima Award"-highest civilian award of Government of Gujarat.