

A Misplaced Resolution, Missing Pillars & Some Banter

Our man AK and his brethren never disappoint. The Aam Aadmi Party has consistently tickled the funny bones of Dilliwalahs – even though the humour (or is it buffoonery?) often is completely unintended.

However, what happened in the Delhi Assembly recently beats all their previous misadventures of AAP hollow. Imagine a party with 66 MLAs in a Legislative Assembly of 70 moves a resolution which obviously goes through and once passed the party distances itself from it. Incredible!

The resolution was to condemn the 1984 riots in Delhi and it ended up asking for the withdrawal of Bharat Ratna awarded to Rajiv Gandhi – an issue on which the State Assembly has no jurisdiction! When one of their own MLA protested – she was immediately asked to resign on grounds of indiscipline by none other than AK himself.

Next day everything changed and she was asked to stay put and the party distanced itself from the demand of posthumously defrocking Rajiv Gandhi of this august status (to all those who were born after 1984, Rajiv Gandhi is the one on whom that major hub of Delhi Metro – Rajiv Chowk is named – a significant contribution).

Delhi Metro's most ambitious route, the Pink Line, opened yet another section connecting Ma-



Delhi Metro's most ambitious route - the Pink Line.

yur Vihar to Lajpat Nagar. Interestingly despite being the capital of India and with all concerned agencies (yes, there are indeed too many of them) keen to get this 59 km route operational – they haven't been able to manage to get hold of a small stretch of land to construct 10 metro pillars to build a 255 meters viaduct at Trilokpuri. India jumping 65 ranks on the 'ease of doing business' scale notwithstanding (Trilokpuri is too obscure).

The Pink Line is to connect all the existing routes and till that happens, Rajiv Chowk's stature as the most important hub stays

unchallenged – Bharat Ratna or no Bharat Ratna!

This blogger has been ridiculing the ludicrous propensity of the folks in power for change of names of Delhi Roads. However, Race Course Road is still referred to as Race Course Road and not as Lok Kalyan Marg.

May be it has something to do with the performance of its most important resident in bringing in 'kalyan' (welfare) to people under the Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas umbrella!

The good news is that the people in power have now set their eyes on the far off islands of

Andaman & Nicobar to placate their overbearing urges to rename places (that popular Havelock Island will now be called Swaraj Dweep!). Residents of Delhi's Babur Lane and Tuglak Road can heave a sigh of relief as can the lawyers and judges who go through trials on that complex on Shershah Road – these road names may just stay on!

StateOfDelhi Suggests: Dilliwalahs try and get up early in the morning and catch the cricketing action down under. Local lads Virat Kohli, Ishant Sharma and Rishabh Pant are putting in superlative performances but that's not

just the reason why we recommend you to watch the telecast. Watch it for the typical Dilli-style banter and sledging of Rishabh Pant. Most of what he has said in the previous Tests has gone viral already.

Even the broadcaster knows that this is the stuff that attracts eyeballs so you have sessions when the commentators simply shut up and let you sample (through the stump microphone) all that Rishabh Pant is saying. Sydney Test begins 3rd January so watch this Sonnet Club lad bring it on – literally.

Courtesy: <http://stateofdelhi.in>

Many Registered Organ Donors Avoid Ticking Box For Eyes

By Sheryl Ubelacker

TORONTO: It should have been a relatively uncomplicated surgery – removing a cataract in Alvin Hallett's right eye. But somehow the surgeon accidentally struck his cornea, rendering him blind in that eye.

"I had no vision whatsoever," the 82-year-old from Burk's Falls, Ont., south of North Bay, said of the April 2017 incident. "I couldn't see to drive. My wife had to do all the driving. I couldn't see to boat on the lake. I couldn't plant my little garden. All I could do was ride my riding lawn mower and cut all my grass."

But a year later, Hallett's vision was restored with a corneal transplant, thanks to one of the 2,300 deceased Ontarians who each year donate eye tissue to give others the gift of sight.

Of those 2,300 pairs of eyes, tissue from about 1,700 are used for corneal transplants, said Christine Humphreys, director of the Eye Bank of Canada. "And also in addition to the cornea, we have over 600 other ocular surgeries take place."

How donated eye tissue is removed and stored depends on the needs of recipients, she said.

"We get the whole globes, but we also get just the corneas," Humphreys said. "We don't have to take the whole eye."

The cornea is the transparent layer covering the front of the eye, which lies over the iris and pupil. Donated corneas are stored in a refrigerated chamber, bathed in a medium containing nutrients and antibiotics, and remain viable for transplant for about 10 days.

The sclera, the white part of the eye surrounding the cornea, is used for a number of surgical procedures, including as a graft or patch in glaucoma surgery. Sclera tissue is stored at room temperature in alcohol and also has a relatively short shelf life.

The Eye Bank of Canada, which despite its name serves only Ontario, has been storing eye tissue since 1955, and is now affiliated with the non-profit community-based organization Kensington Health. Other provinces operate their own eye banks.

Humphreys said that like other tissues and organs from deceased donors, the demand for eye tissue lags supply: for instance, the average wait time for a cornea transplant in Ontario is 252 days – or more than eight months.

Of the 12.4 million residents of the province who are eligible to become donors, just over four million have registered to donate their organs and other tissues. And of those, about 400,000 elected not to tick the box for eye tissue, representing the highest exclusion rate of all organs and tissues that can be donated after death.

Humphreys admitted there are barriers to people agreeing to donate their eye tissue, often for religious or cultural reasons, but sometimes because of common misconceptions about eligibility or the process.

"One reason we hear all the time is 'I



don't see very well,' 'I've had eye surgery' or 'I'm too old' or 'I've had cancer,'" she said. "And the fact is there are very few things that can result in not being a donor," including having had a form of ocular surgery or cancer.

Some families worry that recovery of a loved one's eye tissue would delay their funeral, which for religious reasons may need to be scheduled within 24 hours of death.

"But often we can meet that need, make the donation happen more quickly," Humphreys said.

There can also be psychological barriers for some potential donors and their families, given such beliefs as the eyes being the "windows of the soul."

"Some families, they have troubles with eyes for some reason," conceded Humphreys. "Some people think (their loved one) might be disfigured."

"A lot of people don't know we can recover just the corneas, leave behind the rest of the eye if they want."

As well, funeral homes can use prosthetics to obscure the fact that eye tissue has been removed.

"Obviously, if you're looking to having a viewing or an open-casket funeral, the funeral home will work with the family to restore their normal appearance," she said, noting that there is no cost for the process to bank eye tissue and any extra fees charged by a funeral home are covered by the Eye Bank.

"A lot of people aren't comfortable talking about death and what happens to us after dying. And I think if we normalize the discussion and we start to talk about it, a lot of (the discomfort) can be overcome by education."

For Barbara Edwards, the decision to donate her father Dick Halverson's eye tissue after he had a sudden fatal heart attack almost two years ago wasn't difficult.

"We had talked about his wishes and he didn't think he could donate – he thought he could donate, but not his eyes – because he had such thick glasses," said Edwards, a hospital development co-ordinator at Trillium Gift of Life Network, Ontario's organ and tissue donation and transplantation service.

"But when we heard from Trillium that

that wasn't true, that your vision didn't affect your ability to donate, we knew right away it was yes ... because we knew what he wanted."

As it turned out, the 69-year-old wasn't registered as a donor. He had planned to sign up on his next birthday, but died before, so his family made the decision.

"It was so special for us to be able to honour his legacy and be able to give the gift of sight to others," Edwards said. "I didn't realize how much after the fact that it would help in our grieving process,

knowing that other people can be helped."

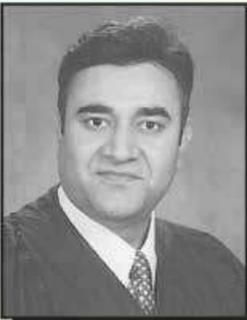
Hallett, who retired in 2000 after selling his marina on a lake near his home, said his corneal transplant and subsequent cataract operation by a Toronto surgeon earlier this year has given him back his life.

"I've got good vision, very good. I can do anything I want," he said, adding that he is so grateful to the anonymous donor that "I can't even express what I feel.."

"I was totally grounded. It was a wonderful experience for me to get my sight back." - Canadian Press

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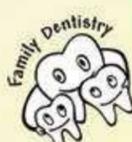
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