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# HINDU

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DELHI

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## Heart disease awareness camps in Rajasthan villages

### Delhi-based hospital to provide free surgery to poor kids

Special Correspondent

**JAIPUR:** A Delhi-based heart speciality hospital will launch a campaign in Rajasthan, in association with a non-Government organisation, to provide consultation and free heart surgery to poor children and spread awareness about heart ailments among the people in the rural areas.

The Max Heart and Vascular Institute and the Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants' Society (CECOEDECON) propose to initiate their joint cam-

paign by holding heart disease awareness camps in the villages across the State from this coming January.

Cardiac surgeons attending the camps will identify the children needing treatment and surgery to cure heart diseases since birth with defective valves, faulty blood circulation in the heart chambers and even a hole in the heart chamber.

A CECOEDECON release issued here on Monday quoted Dr. Anil Bhan, cardiac surgeon at Max Hospital, as saying that while heart disease without treatment could be life-threatening,

awareness among the villagers about this and other congenital ailments was very low. Most of the patients from rural areas come for treatment at an advanced stage, making it difficult for doctors to cure them.

Dr. Bhan said the Max Hospital had operated on 29 children on a charity basis this year and had set the target to benefit 100 children in 2006. CECOEDECON secretary Sharad Joshi said a field hospital in Shilki Dunggari village, near here, would run community outreach programmes to deal with emergencies.