

Protestors at Batmaloo

Where Borders Vanish into Oblivion

MR. YLIAY BHAN

SRINAGAR: Diseases and ailments are inseparable part of human existence. So is the as free from diseases as possible. But how so ever we may try, one way or the other one disease or other is bound to find its date with us. And when it strikes, the human spirit comes down tottering from the positions of self-. pride only to be torn by the pangs of pain and misery. The people, place and possessions all loose their relevance to him or her. Alone to fight the afflictions, be they of physical or mental origin, he/she looks only for the hands of a healer, the doctor to bring him/ her back to health. In search for this healer he/she is ever ready to transcend beyond the geographical borders that separate and eneage human beings on

the basis of nationality, religion, sect and birth.

But the people of India and Pakistan after having human endeavour to lead a life raised borders between them in 1947 have had been denying their patients access to each other's health care facilities because of the narrow minded approach to the issues that are human in essence. The political class of both these countries pride on having fought bloody wars and building arsenals as deterrents to each other. All this to achieve durable peaceful co-existence with each other. Could they do so???

> What they could not achieve in decades, little Safi, suffering from progressive jaundice since he was 8months old could achieve in her couple of days stay in Delhi's Sir Ganga Ram Hospital where she underwent a

liver transplant to get over the crippling disease. Master Danyal & Baby Zakira, both suffering from major cardiac defects needed complicated corrective procedures to give them new lease of life. Hailing respectively from Fasilabad and Loralai Pakistan they were disparately in search of a good hospital where they could get themselves operated upon at reasonable and affordable cost. There search brought them to cross borders and reach Max Deviki Devi Heart & Vascular Institute. New Delhi. Here they met Dr. Anil Bhan, Director of CVTS (formerly Prof. CVTS, AIIMS) and got themselves operated. Back in Pakistan both are now leading hearty lives.

In yet another case of rare inherited defect called

Progressive Familial Intrahepatic Fibrosis in which the normal liver cells on multiplication get replaced by fibrous tissue making the functioning of the liver difficult. The only cure for this rare defect is a liver transplant, which in case of Tayyab was performed in Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi. The two and half years Tayyab hails from Pakistan. The lever tissue needed for transplantation was donated by his mother. The Parents of this Pakistani boy when asked why did they choose India as their destination, the couple replied that they had more than one reason to choose India over other countries for the surgery. One being the low cost of surgery in India and the other being the hospitals

here offering medical services of International standard. Earlier few others like little Safi, Master Danyal and baby Zakira came to our hospitals in Bombay and Bangalore and got their true lives back from the morbid existence of disease and ill health.

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The message is loud and clear if these two nations focus their energies on elevating the sufferings of their masses by allowing unhindered access to each other's health care assets, the people of both countries stand to gain immensely. We will have people trusting more, laughing loud and living full rather than crying hoarse for objectives which no way guarantee an iota of improvement in the general quality life.