

## HEALTH BYTES

# Wish Fulfillment for children with Cancer

*Tandin from Bhutan, who has lost her mother, and does not understand any of the local languages, needed no language to express her joy when she got a gaming console. Sajal Halder- who always wanted to be a photographer took a picture of the audience with his new digital camera. Little Emon wanted to speak to his brother in Bangladesh as soon as he was gifted a new mobile phone.*

For the first time in eastern India, Make a Wish (MAW) Foundation India fulfilled the wishes of 10 sick children at the inaugural ceremony of its eastern India chapter at Cancer Centre Welfare Home & Research Institute (CCWHRI), Thakurpukur, Kolkata. This event was supported by Walt Disney India. 5% of all cancer afflicted patients are children, and 70% of them suffer from Leukaemia where 70-80% patients get cured with proper treatment. The centre is now going to start a Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, a Palliative Care building (for advanced cancer patients), and PET-CT scan & MRI as advanced Diagnostic facilities. The children who could not make it to the programme were given gifts in their wards.

One can imagine what goes through the mind of someone afflicted with cancer, especially when the patient is a child. The parents are the ones who are most distressed. Nothing can be more rewarding than to fulfill the wishes of these children, and MAW had been doing this for the last decade internationally-which includes buying them presents, taking them somewhere, enabling them to meet their heroes and also allowing them to be someone they want to be like when they grow up at least for one day.



## 10 lucky children of CCWHRI were :

- **Tithi Malik**, 11 yrs old, Hooghly : Philips 5 in 1 Music system • **Nisha Dutta**, 10 yrs, Jharkhand : Disney TV • **Sudipa Sahoo**, 9 yrs, East Midnapore : I-Pod • **Sudhangshu Gope**, 7 yrs, Jharkhand : Gift Hamper (assorted toys)

- **Eva Pal**, 5 yrs, Khulna : Disney TV • **Susmita Das**, 13 yrs, East Midnapore : Remote control Car • **Emon**, 7 yrs, Bangladesh : Mobile phone with camera • **Kazi Sajib**, 5 yrs, Bangladesh : 5 in 1 Music system • **Tandin**, 6 yrs Bhutan : Game console • **Sajal Halder**, 14 yrs : Digital Camera

## Kolkata to have the number one eye hospital



Dr. S. S. Badrinath with B. K. Birla

Eyecare has now a new name in the city. Aditya Birla Group has joined hands with Sankara Nethralaya Kolkata, officially rechristening it Aditya Birla Sankara Nethralaya. Dr S S Badrinath, Chairman Emeritus, Sankara Nethralaya, elaborating the

future plans of this initiative said, "We seek to make this the number one eye hospital in the country, possibly surpassing our counterpart in Chennai." Now, those seeking eyecare can also get Lasik treatment, the very latest technology. The lasik equipment works by correcting refractive errors, which essentially means that those who wear glasses for weak eyesight can get their vision corrected. This apart, Sankara Nethralaya is also setting up an eye hospital and research centre in Rajarhat, with a substantial initial investment of ₹30 crore (going up to ₹120 crore over the next four years).

## Surgery for Parkinsonism

*Ananta Das (52 years) was diagnosed with Parkinsonism four years back. Though put on medication, his condition steadily deteriorated over the past few years, as walking, writing and even talking became more and more difficult. Life gradually became a struggle and for the past six months he has not even been able to go to work as he is no longer able to take care of simple office tasks.*



A team led by renowned neuro and spine surgeon Dr L.N. Tripathy and Dr S Basu, in consultation with Prof. Tipu Aziz, Professor and Head of Functional Neurosurgery unit at John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, England, and Dr Dipankar Nandi, Consultant Neurosurgeon, Charing Cross Hospital and Sr. Lecturer Imperial College Healthcare NHS trust, reached the conclusion that the patient, who was not responding to medicines, would benefit greatly from surgery. Deep brain stimulation (DBS) is a surgical procedure used in the brain to treat a variety of disabling neurological symptoms - particularly the debilitating symptoms of Parkinson's disease such as tremor, rigidity, stiffness, slowed movement, and walking problems. The procedure is also used to treat essential tremor and dystonia, which cause uncontrolled involuntary neck or limb movements. Patients suffering from severe depression and chronic pain have also benefited greatly from this treatment.

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