

₹35L raised to facilitate 100 heart surgeries for children in need

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A jovial evening of banter between Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and Nikhil Kamath, founder-CEO of online stockbroking firm Zerodha, Wednesday culminated in a noble gesture that saw good-hearted citizens donate Rs 35 lakh towards the heart surgeries of 100 children.

Tharoor and Kamath stood testimony to the philanthropic event when the sum was handed over to NGO Needy Heart Foundation. Rotary Bangalore Midtown GenNext has supported various healthcare causes since its inception in 2020. This year, the Rotarians decided to do their bit for children suffering from heart ailments and fund their surgeries.

Speaking about the initiative, Taher Qureshi Merchant, chairman of Rotary Bangalore Midtown GenNext, said, "We started with a few life-saving surgeries and today, we look at supporting 100 paediatric surgeries and are



FRUITFUL: MP Shashi Tharoor and entrepreneur Nikhil Kamath during an interactive session at a Rotary Bangalore Midtown GenNext event

hopeful of helping thousands of children lead healthy and dignified lives." Merchant referred to the fundraiser as an intellectually stimulating event supporting a benevolent cause.

The interaction between the politician and the entrepreneur enthralled the audience, especially when Tharoor shared with Kamath his experiences from working in international relations, mainly refugee crises. Tharoor jovially termed his entry into Indian politics an "ignorant move", stating he had left the country for higher studies at the age of 19 when India's legal age for voting was 21. "With no experience in politics and without even having voted in elections once, here I was entering politics. I've won thrice and I'm ready to take a crack at it for the fourth time if my party gives me the chance," said the MP from Thiruvananthapuram.

The evening ended with Tharoor and Kamath handing over the 'Gift of Life' souvenir, which included a cheque for Rs 35 lakh, to OP Khanna, chairman of Needy Heart Foundation. The foundation is managed by a group of citizens of Bengaluru and some cardiac doctors.