Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) procedure

- It is a minimally invasive procedure to replace a narrowed aortic valve that fails to open properly which may be an option for those who can’t have open-heart surgery.
- It is the replacement of the aortic valve of the heart through the blood vessels (as opposed to valve replacement by open heart surgery).
- Usually, valve replacement requires an open heart procedure with a “sternotomy”, in which the chest is surgically separated (open) for the procedure.
- The TAVR procedures can be done through very small openings that leave all the chest bones in place.
- In this procedure, generally, doctors insert a catheter in the patient’s leg or chest and guide it to his/her heart.

The replacement valve is delivered via one of several access methods:

1. In the upper leg,
2. Through the wall of the heart, beneath the collar bone,
3. Through a minimally invasive surgical incision into the aorta,
4. From a temporary hole in the aorta near the belly button through a vein in the upper leg, etc.