



Infrastructure deficiencies, low funds affecting organ transplants - report

Published On: 23-06-2025

Context

- The **organ transplantation programme in India has been crippled** by multiple issues, especially **insufficient funds, shortage of specialised doctors, and procedural delays**, a report released by the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry dated June 19 revealed.
- Explaining the bottlenecks and other issues faced by state-owned institutions, the report said only **13,476 kidney transplants were performed**, both in government and private hospitals, against the **recommended one lakh cases last year**.
- In many trauma centres, **beds were unavailable for potential donors** due to high patient volume.

Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (THOT) Act, 1994, and Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Rules, 2014 (THOT Rules)

- The **law governs the transplantation of human organs and tissues in India, including the donation of organs after death**.
- It **lays down regulations** governing healthcare providers and hospitals, and **stipulates penalties** for violations.

Allowed Organ Donors

- In **most cases**, the Act allows donations from **deceased / living close relatives such as parents, siblings, children, spouses, grandparents, and grandchildren**.
- Living donations from close relatives involving Indians or foreigners **must be accompanied by documents establishing their identities, family trees, and pictures** that prove the **donor-recipient relationship**.
- Altruistic donations from **distant relatives and in-laws** are allowed **after additional scrutiny to ensure there is no financial exchange**.

Donations from Unrelated Persons:

- Donations from unrelated persons such as **friends** require **documents and photographic evidence to prove their long-term association or friendship with the recipient**.
- These are **examined by an external committee** to prevent illegal dealings.

Fines and Punishments:

- Offering to **pay for organs** or **supplying** them for payment; **initiating, negotiating, or advertising** such arrangements; **looking for persons to supply organs**; and abetting in preparing false documents can attract a **jail term up to 10 years and a fine up to Rs 1 crore.**

Formation of NOTTO:

- **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO)** is a National level organization set up under Directorate General of Health Services, **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- This has been mandated as per the **Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act 2011.**
- National Network division of NOTTO would function as apex centre for All India activities of **coordination and networking for procurement and distribution of Organs and Tissues** and registry of Organs and Tissues Donation and Transplantation in the country