

Governing Organ Transplantation in India

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About Organ Transplantation in India:

- The **primary legislation** governing organ transplantation in India is the **Transplantation of Human Organs Act, passed in 1994**.
- It **provides a system to regulate the removal, storage, and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purposes** and for the **prevention of commercial dealings** in human organs.
- **National Organ transplant programme:**
 - It is **implemented by the Directorate General of Health Services**, Government of India.
- **Objectives:**
 - To **organize a system of organ and Tissue procurement & distribution** for transplantation.
 - To **promote deceased organ and Tissue donation**.

- To **train the required manpower**.
- To **protect** vulnerable poor **from organ trafficking**.
- To **monitor organ and tissue transplant services** and bring about policy and programme corrections/ changes whenever needed.

National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO):

- It is a **National level organization** set up **under the Directorate General of Health Services**, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- It functions as the **apex center for coordinating all activities** and networking for the **procurement and distribution of organs and tissues** and **maintaining the registry of organs and tissue donation and transplantation** in the country.

Organ donation in India:

- Organ donation **means giving part of the body (organ) to a person with end-stage organ disease** who needs a transplant.
- In India, **organ donations are legal under the Transplantation of Human Organs Act (THOA), 1994**, which also **legalizes the concept of 'brain death'**, the permanent cessation of all brain functions.
- Organ donation **is a voluntary process** wherein you can **fill up a consent form to donate your organs** in the event of your demise.
- **Types of organ donation:**
- **Living Donor Organ Donation:**
- A person during his life **can donate one kidney, a portion of the pancreas, and a part of the liver**.
- **Living Donor is any person not less than 18 years of age** who **voluntarily authorizes the removal of any of his organ** and/or tissue, during their lifetime, as per prevalent medical practices **for therapeutic purposes**.
- The **donor can be a family member, relative, friend, neighbour, or in-law**.
- **Deceased Donor Organ Donation:**
- A **person can donate multiple organs and tissues after (brain-stem/cardiac) death**. Their organ continues to live in another person's body.
- **Deceased Donor is anyone, regardless of age**, who can become an organ and tissue donor **after their death (Brainstem/Cardiac)**. **Consent of a near relative** or a person in lawful possession of the dead body is required.

Eligibility criteria:

- There is **no age limit for organ donation**. It can be **started at as young as six weeks**. The only essential thing is the health and condition of your organs.

Q1) What is the Transplantation of Human Organs Act?

Transplantation of Human Organs Act (THOA) 1994 was enacted to provide a system of removal, storage and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purposes and for the prevention of commercial dealings in human organs. THOA is now adopted by all States except Andhra and J&K, who have their own similar laws

Source: [Now, no age bar to register for cadaver organ transplants](#)

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