

## **Irregularities in Organ Transplantation**

### **Why in news?**

\n\n

Some irregularities in connection with organ transplantations have been found in the state of Tamil Nadu.

\n\n

### **How has TN been in organ transplantation?**

\n\n

\n

- Tamil Nadu is a pioneer in orderly and transparent allocation of deceased-donor organs.

\n

- It has worked consistently to eliminate commerce in kidneys procured from poor living donors.

\n

- The Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu has served as a model for other States.

\n

- The state also offers a subsidy for poor patients for a liver transplant.

\n

- Every effort must be made to ensure that it retains this high reputation.

\n

\n\n

### **What is the recent finding?**

\n\n

\n

- The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has found some irregularities in organ transplantation in TN.

\n

- Preferential allotment of hearts and lungs has been made to foreign patients.

\n

- Hearts harvested from brain-dead patients were given to foreign nationals admitted to corporate hospitals.

\n

- International patients get priority in cadaver transplants, bypassing long list of Indians.

\n

- The Directorate General of Health Services convened a meeting and framed strict guidelines for allocation of organs to foreigners.

\n

\n\n

## **What is the procedure?**

\n\n

\n

- The provisions are laid out in the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Rules.

\n

- State governments are expected to ensure that transplantations are done legally and ethically.

\n

- Citizens enrolled in the State and national waiting lists are prioritised over foreign nationals.

\n

- Organs go to the most suitable recipients on the rule-based parameters.

\n

- It is offered to domicile, citizenship, Indian origin and foreign nationality, in that order.

\n

\n\n

## **What lies ahead?**

\n\n

\n

- There must be an inquiry into how allocations for organ transplants are made in Tamil Nadu.

\n

- Any inquiry should shed light on the factors that led to the decisions.

\n

- It should importantly include whether registered citizens were overlooked.

\n

- Hospitals and professionals engaging in commerce or unethical behaviour should be addressed.

\n

- It has to cover such issues as the capacity of district-level hospitals to

perform transplants.

\n

- Arrangements to air-lift organs should also be addressed, since domestic patients are unable to afford flight facilities.

\n

- Enrolling all domestic patients through State registries should be the priority for the *NOTTO*.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu**

\n\n

\n\n

**Quick Fact**

\n\n

**NOTTO**

\n\n

\n

- The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) functions under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

\n

- It is an all-India apex body for coordination and networking for procurement and distribution of organs/tissues and transplantation.

\n

\n



**SHANKAR**  
**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*