

Express View on illicit kidney trafficking: The body shop

Over the last decade-and-a-half, several cities in India have become **hubs** for transplant surgeries of organs such as kidney, liver, heart, eyes, brain and pancreas. Close to 18,000 organ replacement operations are performed annually in the country, the highest after the US and China. The bulk of these procedures **take place** in the private sector and attract patients from other parts of the world, especially countries in India's **neighbourhood**. They are a **testament to** the growing capabilities of the country's healthcare sector. However, along with **compassionate** donors and **efficient** surgery teams, the **ecosystem** is **rife with dubious** networks of doctors, hospital administrators and organ **traffickers**, many of whose operations extend beyond India's borders. Last year, **for instance**, a UK newspaper revealed that a Myanmar-based **syndicate** had arranged paid kidney donors and got transplants performed in a **prominent** Delhi hospital by faking documents. Now, an **analysis** of police records by this newspaper **has shone a light on** an international kidney transplant **racket** centred at two **prominent** hospitals in the NCR. The investigation has revealed an illicit network **stretching** from Delhi to Dhaka that **relied on fudged** documents and questionable **tie-ups** between big hospitals and smaller health firms. The **ring** seems to have **bypassed screenings** at the international border.

India's organ transplantation law **recognises** three kinds of donations: Those by near-relatives, **altruistic** donations and **swap donations** when a near relative is medically **incompatible with** the recipient, the pair is permitted a swap transplant with another related unmatched donor-recipient pair. Foreign nationals must submit a certificate from their country's **embassy** to confirm that the donation is not **driven** by money or **coercion**. Like most illegal organ trading, the India-Bangladesh illicit market seems to have **flourished** for more than eight years by **disguising** trafficking as "altruistic donation". The newspaper's analysis shows family trees were **fabricated** and **impoverished** donors were **lured** with Rs 4-5 lakh to part with their kidneys.

Over 1.5 lakh patients in India require an organ transplant every year. Most other developing countries also have a large mismatch between needy patients and organs that can be **harvested**. Several **countries** in South and Central Asia and Africa **have** not developed transplantation capabilities. **A section** of patients from these regions **travel** to India for medical care. More **alacrity** by law **enforcement** agencies **can** help **address** part of the problem. The police have usually been **up to the mark** in **busting** illicit rings. However, as this paper's analysis shows, they do not bring this **zeal** to the criminal investigation. **Letting alleged** organ dealers **off the hook** reduces trust in the transplantation system. **In the long run**, trafficking should be seen as more than a law and order problem. There is an urgent need to increase awareness about organ donation, remove **misconceptions**, address **skews** — women **constituting** a majority of donors, and men a majority of recipients, for instance. [Practice Ex.]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Illicit** (adjective) – illegal, unlawful, forbidden, banned, unauthorized अवैध
2. **Trafficking** (noun) – dealing, trading, smuggling, commerce, transport तस्करी
3. **Hub** (noun) – center, core, focal point, nexus, heart केंद्र
4. **Take place** (verb) – occur, happen, transpire, ensue, unfold होना
5. **Neighbourhood** (noun) – vicinity, area, surroundings, locality, region पड़ोस
6. **Testament** (to) (noun) – evidence, proof, indication, demonstration, witness प्रमाण
7. **Compassionate** (adjective) – sympathetic, empathetic, kind-hearted, humane, charitable दयालु
8. **Efficient** (adjective) – effective, proficient, competent, capable, streamlined कुशल
9. **Ecosystem** (noun) – environment, system, network, structure, community पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
10. **Rife** (with) (adjective) – abundant, teeming, full, overflowing, widespread से भरपूर
11. **Dubious** (adjective) – doubtful, suspicious, questionable, uncertain, untrustworthy संदिग्ध
12. **Trafficker** (noun) – dealer, smuggler, trader, transporter, middleman तस्कर
13. **For instance** (phrase) – for example, such as, e.g., like, to illustrate उदाहरण के लिए
14. **Syndicate** (noun) – cartel, consortium, association, alliance, group गिरोह
15. **Prominent** (adjective) – notable, well-known, distinguished, eminent, renowned प्रमुख
16. **Shine a light on** (phrase) – reveal, expose, disclose, highlight, uncover प्रकाश डालना
17. **Racket** (noun) – scam, fraud, scheme, illegal business, operation अवैध कारोबार
18. **Stretch** (from) (verb) – extend, reach, span, cover, range विस्तारित करना
19. **Rely** (on) (verb) – depend, count on, trust, bank on, lean on निर्भर होना
20. **Fudged** (adjective) – falsified, altered, manipulated, tampered, distorted फर्जी
21. **Tie-up** (noun) – partnership, alliance, connection, association, collaboration साझेदारी
22. **Ring** (noun) – group, network, syndicate, gang, organization गिरोह
23. **Bypass** (verb) – avoid, circumvent, evade, skip, ignore दरकिनार करना

24. **Screening** (noun) – examination, inspection, evaluation, testing, assessment जांच
25. **Recognise** (verb) – acknowledge, identify, admit, realize, appreciate पहचानना
26. **Altruistic** (adjective) – selfless, charitable, philanthropic, generous, unselfish परोपकारी
27. **Swap donation** (noun) – a procedure that allows two families to exchange organs for transplant when a donor and recipient pair are not compatible with each other आदान-प्रदान दान
28. **Incompatible** (with) (adjective) – unsuitable, mismatched, conflicting, not matching, discordant असंगत
29. **Embassy** (noun) – consulate, high commission, diplomatic mission, legation, consular office दूतावास
30. **Drive** (verb) – motivate, propel, push, spur, encourage प्रेरित करना
31. **Coercion** (noun) – force, intimidation, pressure, compulsion, duress जोर
32. **Flourish** (verb) – thrive, prosper, grow, expand, succeed फलना-फूलना
33. **Disguise** (verb) – conceal, mask, cover, camouflage, veil छुपाना
34. **Fabricate** (verb) – invent, concoct, forge, make up, falsify गढ़ना
35. **Impoverished** (adjective) – poor, destitute, needy, underprivileged, penniless गरीब
36. **Lure** (verb) – attract, entice, tempt, draw, persuade लुभाना
37. **Harvest** (verb) – collect, gather, extract, obtain, reap प्राप्त करना
38. **Alacrity** (noun) – eagerness, willingness, readiness, enthusiasm, promptness उत्साह
39. **Enforcement** (noun) – implementation, execution, application, imposition, administration प्रवर्तन
40. **Address** (verb) – tackle, handle, deal with, confront, resolve निपटना
41. **Up to the mark** (phrase) – satisfactory, adequate, acceptable, sufficient, competent मानक पर
42. **Bust** (verb) – break up, dismantle, disrupt, shut down, raid भंडाफोड़ करना
43. **Zeal** (noun) – enthusiasm, passion, fervor, eagerness, ardor उत्साह
44. **Let** (verb) – allow, permit, enable, grant, authorize अनुमति देना
45. **Alleged** (adjective) – supposed, presumed, claimed, asserted, reported कथित

46. **Off the hook** (phrase) – released, exempted, freed, absolved, excused छूटना

47. **In the long run** (phrase) – ultimately, eventually, in the end, over time, in the future अंततः

48. **Misconception** (noun) – misunderstanding, fallacy, false belief, error, myth भ्रान्ति

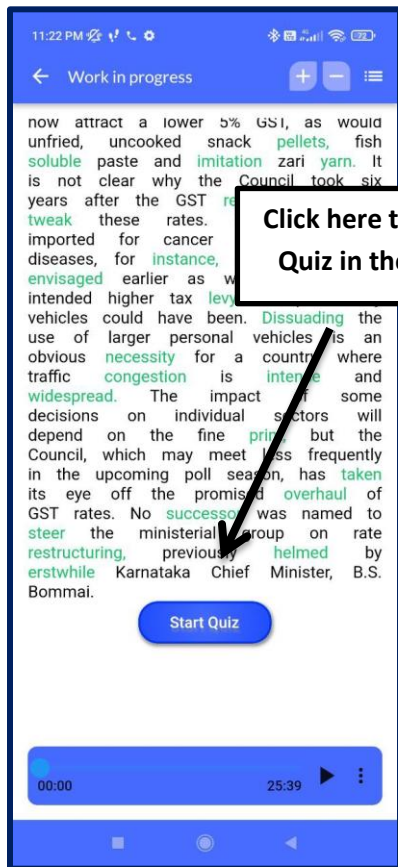
49. **Skew** (noun) – bias, distortion, slant, tilt, twist झुकाव

50. **Constitute** (verb) – form, make up, compose, comprise, establish बनाना

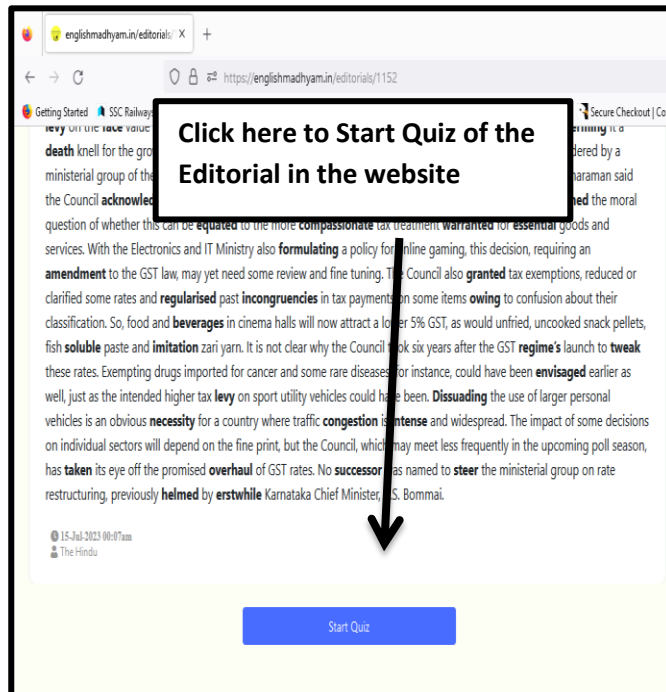
Summary of the Editorial

1. **India as a Transplant Hub:** Over the past decade, India has become a significant center for organ transplants, performing around 18,000 operations annually, second only to the US and China.
2. **Attraction for International Patients:** Many of these procedures are carried out in the private sector, attracting patients from neighboring countries due to India's growing healthcare capabilities.
3. **Illegal Networks:** Alongside legitimate donors and medical professionals, illegal organ trafficking networks have emerged, involving doctors, hospital administrators, and traffickers.
4. **Recent Scandals:** Investigations have exposed international kidney trafficking networks, including syndicates from Myanmar and Bangladesh, operating in collaboration with Indian hospitals by falsifying documents.
5. **Fake Donor Documents:** These networks disguise illegal transactions as altruistic donations by fabricating family trees and manipulating legal loopholes, allowing them to evade scrutiny.
6. **India's Organ Donation Laws:** India's transplantation law permits donations by relatives, altruistic donors, and swap donations but requires foreign nationals to prove that donations are not motivated by money or coercion.
7. **Exploitation of Poor Donors:** Impoverished individuals in India and Bangladesh are often lured into donating their kidneys for Rs 4-5 lakh, exploiting their financial vulnerabilities.
8. **Mismatch in Demand and Supply:** There is a large gap between the number of patients needing transplants and the organs available, with over 1.5 lakh patients in India alone requiring transplants each year.
9. **International Patients:** Many patients from South and Central Asia, as well as Africa, travel to India due to the lack of transplantation facilities in their own countries.
10. **Police Investigations:** Law enforcement has had success in exposing some organ trafficking rings, but investigations often lack the necessary vigor to ensure long-term accountability.
11. **Need for Systemic Changes:** The failure to thoroughly prosecute organ traffickers erodes trust in the transplantation system and emboldens illegal networks.
12. **Raising Awareness:** Increasing public awareness about organ donation and correcting misconceptions are essential steps in reducing the need for illicit transactions.
13. **Addressing Gender Skews:** Disparities in organ donation must be addressed, as women often constitute a majority of donors while men are the primary recipients.
14. **Beyond Law Enforcement:** While law enforcement plays a critical role, the issue of organ trafficking should be seen as more than just a legal problem — it requires societal and systemic reforms.
15. **Comprehensive Solutions Needed:** A multi-faceted approach is needed to combat illicit organ trade, combining stricter enforcement, better awareness, and more robust support for legal organ donation initiatives.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based



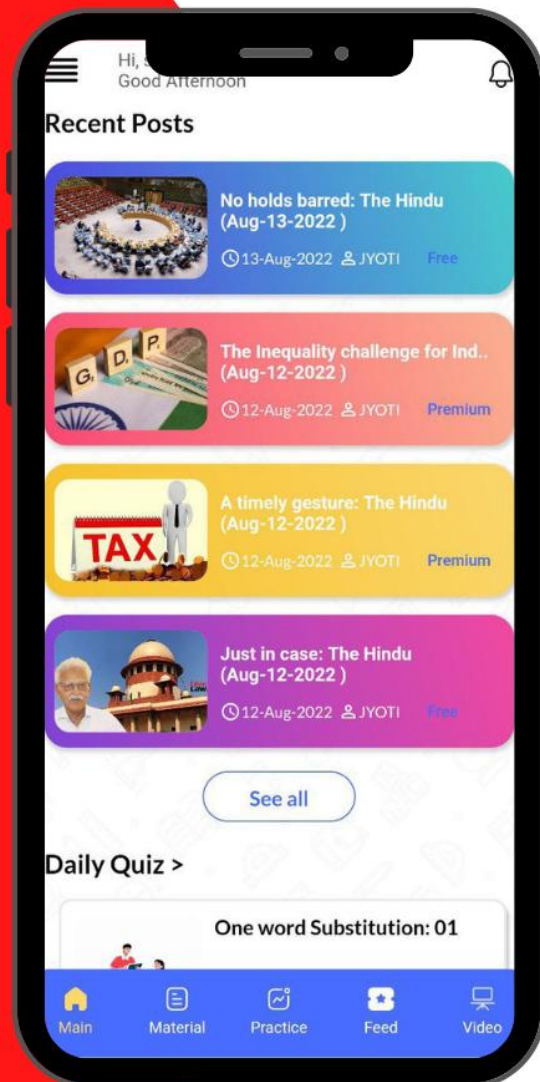
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