



**OneIndiaOneLaw.org**

*presents*

# THOTA IN PRACTICE

*Transplantation of Human Organs & Tissues Act*

## 12-Session Online Curriculum

*A comprehensive self-paced learning programme for transplant professionals*

Main Speaker

**Advocate Prashant Ajmera**

*Transplantation Law & Compliance Expert*

Faculty Panel

**Subject Matter Experts**

*Transplant surgeons, coordinators, ethicists, and legal practitioners contributing to selected sessions*

### Target Audience

Transplant Coordinators • Transplant Surgeons & Physicians • Hospital Administrators •  
Legal & Compliance Teams

**Online webinar and Self-Paced Delivery • Q&A Follow-up Sessions Available**

Register for the Webinar Series:

[www.globalrmb.org/events/19336](http://www.globalrmb.org/events/19336)

## Programme Overview

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This 12-session online curriculum provides transplant professionals with a thorough, practical grounding in the Transplantation of Human Organs & Tissues Act (THOTA) and its Rules. Presented by OneIndiaOneLaw.org and led by Advocate Prashant Ajmera, each session is designed for self-paced learning and combines legal analysis, procedural guidance, and real-world case application. A live Q&A session with faculty is available approximately 15 days after each session.

<b>S01</b>	Review of THOTA Act & Rules — Main Provisions
<b>S02</b>	Live Donation: Near Relatives & Spouse
<b>S03</b>	Non-Related Donation — Legal & Procedural Framework
<b>S04</b>	Swap (Paired Exchange) Transplantation
<b>S05</b>	Evidence Requirements: Primary, Secondary & Additional
<b>S06</b>	Presenting Cases to the Authorisation Committee
<b>S07</b>	SWAP Transplant Algorithm & AAPT Forms (USA)
<b>S08</b>	Role of NOTTO / ROTTO / SOTTO
<b>S09</b>	Ethics & Deceased Donation: Brain Death & DCD
<b>S10</b>	Live Case Discussions — Part I
<b>S11</b>	Live Case Discussions — Part II
<b>S12</b>	Synthesis, Assessment & Programme Conclusion

SESSION

01

## Review of THOTA Act & Rules — Main Provisions

*This foundational session provides a comprehensive review of the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA) and its associated Rules. Learners will gain a clear understanding of the legislative framework governing organ and tissue transplantation in India.*

### Learning Objectives

- 1 Understand the historical context and legislative intent behind THOTA
- 2 Identify and interpret the key sections and provisions of the Act
- 3 Navigate the relevant Rules and subordinate legislation
- 4 Recognise the roles and responsibilities created by the Act for hospitals and professionals

### Session Topics

1. Historical background: Pre-THOTA era and the need for legislation
2. Overview of the original Act (1994) and amendments (2011)
3. Key definitions: donor, recipient, near relative, hospital, transplant coordinator
4. Regulatory authorities established under the Act
5. Offences, penalties, and enforcement provisions
6. Overview of the Rules framed under the Act

#### Suggested Activity

Annotated reading of selected sections of the Act; self-assessment quiz on key definitions and provisions.

#### Key Resources

THOTA 1994 (as amended); THOTA Rules 2014; Annotated Act summary PDF.

**Q&A Follow-Up Session:** A live Q&A session with Advocate Prashant Ajmera and subject experts will be available approximately 15 days after this session. Participants are encouraged to submit questions arising from their self-paced study for discussion.

SESSION

02

## Live Donation: Near Relatives & Spouse

*This session examines the legal provisions governing living organ donation between near relatives and between spouses. It covers the approval process, documentation requirements, and the role of the Authorisation Committee in such cases.*

### Learning Objectives

- 1 Define 'near relative' as per THOTA and understand its legal significance
- 2 Outline the process for approving live donations between near relatives
- 3 Understand the special provisions applicable to spousal donation
- 4 Identify the documentation and verification requirements for these cases

### Session Topics

1. Definition of 'near relative' under Section 2(i) of THOTA
2. Category of near relatives: parents, children, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, spouse
3. Approval pathway for near-relative donations
4. Provisions specific to husband and wife donation
5. Role of the Authorisation Committee vs. Hospital Approval
6. Common documentation: affidavits, proof of relationship, identity documents

#### Suggested Activity

Case scenarios: determine whether a proposed donor qualifies as a near relative; review sample affidavit and relationship proof documents.

#### Key Resources

THOTA Section 9; THOTA Rules — Form 10; Sample affidavit templates.

**Q&A Follow-Up Session:** A live Q&A session with Advocate Prashant Ajmera and subject experts will be available approximately 15 days after this session. Participants are encouraged to submit questions arising from their self-paced study for discussion.

SESSION

**03**

## Non-Related Donation — Legal & Procedural Framework

*Non-related living donation is one of the most closely scrutinised areas of transplantation law. This session covers the statutory requirements, the role of the Authorisation Committee, and the safeguards designed to prevent organ trafficking and exploitation.*

### Learning Objectives

- 1 Understand when and why non-related donation is permitted under THOTA
- 2 Describe the full procedural pathway for approval of non-related donations
- 3 Identify red flags and risk factors associated with non-related cases
- 4 Apply legal safeguards to protect both donors and recipients

### Session Topics

1. Legislative basis for permitting non-related donation
2. Mandatory Authorisation Committee approval process
3. Affidavit requirements and declaration of absence of commercial transaction
4. Independent assessment of donor motivation
5. Anti-trafficking safeguards: financial checks, interview protocols
6. Grounds for rejection and appeals

#### Suggested Activity

Analysis of a non-related donor case file; identify missing documents and compliance gaps.

#### Key Resources

THOTA Section 9(3); Form 11; Standard interview proforma for Authorisation Committee.

**Q&A Follow-Up Session:** A live Q&A session with Advocate Prashant Ajmera and subject experts will be available approximately 15 days after this session. Participants are encouraged to submit questions arising from their self-paced study for discussion.

SESSION

04

## Swap (Paired Exchange) Transplantation

*Swap transplantation — where two or more donor-recipient pairs exchange donors due to incompatibility — is an increasingly important strategy for expanding the living donor pool. This session covers the legal basis, approval requirements, and operational considerations for swap transplants.*

### Learning Objectives

- 1 Understand the concept and rationale of paired kidney exchange (swap transplant)
- 2 Identify the legal provisions that enable swap transplantation under THOTA
- 3 Understand the role of NOTTO and state authorities in facilitating swaps
- 4 Describe the documentation and consent requirements for swap cases

### Session Topics

1. What is a swap transplant? Bilateral and multi-way exchange
2. Legal provisions enabling swap transplantation in India
3. Consent and motivation: each donor's independent assessment
4. Role of the Authorisation Committee in paired exchange
5. NOTTO's role in coordinating multi-centre swaps
6. Simultaneous vs. non-simultaneous exchange: practical and ethical considerations

#### Suggested Activity

Work through a two-pair swap scenario: map documentation requirements and approval workflow.

#### Key Resources

THOTA Rules on paired exchange; NOTTO guidelines on swap transplants.

**Q&A Follow-Up Session:** A live Q&A session with Advocate Prashant Ajmera and subject experts will be available approximately 15 days after this session. Participants are encouraged to submit questions arising from their self-paced study for discussion.

SESSION  
**05**

## Evidence Requirements: Primary, Secondary & Additional

*A thorough understanding of the evidence framework is critical for preparing and evaluating transplant cases. This session provides a systematic guide to primary, secondary, and additional evidence required across all three categories of living donation.*

### Learning Objectives

- 1 Distinguish between primary, secondary, and additional evidence in the THOTA context
- 2 List the required documents for near-relative, spousal, and non-related cases
- 3 Understand how evidence requirements differ across donor categories
- 4 Evaluate the completeness and adequacy of a case file before submission

### Session Topics

1. Framework of evidence: what 'primary', 'secondary', and 'additional' mean
2. Primary evidence: government-issued identity, medical records, relationship proof
3. Secondary evidence: supporting affidavits, witness statements, additional IDs
4. Additional evidence: financial declarations, domicile proof, photographs
5. Evidence checklist for near relatives vs. non-related donors
6. Common deficiencies and how to address them

#### Suggested Activity

Evidence audit exercise: review a sample case file and identify deficiencies using a structured checklist.

#### Key Resources

THOTA Rules — Schedule of required documents;  
Evidence checklist template.

**Q&A Follow-Up Session:** A live Q&A session with Advocate Prashant Ajmera and subject experts will be available approximately 15 days after this session. Participants are encouraged to submit questions arising from their self-paced study for discussion.

SESSION

06

## Presenting Cases to the Authorisation Committee

*Effective presentation to the Authorisation Committee is an essential skill for transplant coordinators, surgeons, and hospital administrators. This session covers the structure, conduct, and expectations of Authorisation Committee hearings, with practical guidance on case preparation.*

### Learning Objectives

- 1 Understand the composition and mandate of the Authorisation Committee
- 2 Prepare a complete and well-organised case for presentation
- 3 Anticipate questions the Committee is likely to raise
- 4 Understand the outcome possibilities and how to respond to requests for additional information

### Session Topics

1. Composition of the Authorisation Committee: who sits on the Committee
2. Statutory timeline: notice period, hearing scheduling, decision deadlines
3. Structure of a case presentation: what to include, what to highlight
4. Presenting near-relative vs. non-related cases: differences in approach
5. The donor interview: purpose, conduct, and documentation
6. Post-hearing process: approval, conditional approval, rejection, and appeals

#### Suggested Activity

Role-play simulation: present a case to a mock Authorisation Committee; debrief on strengths and gaps.

#### Key Resources

THOTA Rules — Authorisation Committee procedure; Sample case presentation template.

**Q&A Follow-Up Session:** A live Q&A session with Advocate Prashant Ajmera and subject experts will be available approximately 15 days after this session. Participants are encouraged to submit questions arising from their self-paced study for discussion.

SESSION

07

## Learning from the US: UNOS, NKR & Paired Kidney Exchange in Practice

*The United States has the most developed and largest paired kidney exchange infrastructure in the world. This session draws on the real experience of three key US programmes — the OPTN/UNOS national KPD pilot, the National Kidney Registry (NKR), and the Alliance for Paired Kidney Donation (APKD) — to extract practical lessons applicable to India's swap transplant framework under THOTA.*  
**Speaker(s) to be decided**

### Learning Objectives

- 1 Understand how the three principal US paired exchange programmes are structured and how they differ
- 2 Describe the OPTN/UNOS KPD matching process: data entry, match runs, and the optimisation algorithm
- 3 Explain how the NKR's donor chain model and innovations have transformed paired exchange globally
- 4 Identify specific lessons from the US experience that can strengthen India's swap transplant programme under NOTTO coordination

### Session Topics

1. The US landscape: OPTN/UNOS KPD Pilot Programme, National Kidney Registry (NKR), and Alliance for Paired Kidney Donation (APKD) — what each does and how they differ
2. OPTN/UNOS KPD: how transplant centres enter donor-candidate data, what a match run is, and how the Carnegie Mellon optimisation algorithm selects the best set of exchanges
3. Two-way swaps, three-way swaps, and donor chains: definitions, how each works, and trade-offs in complexity vs. number of transplants achieved
4. The NKR chain model: how a single Good Samaritan (altruistic/non-directed) donor can trigger a chain of 5 to 30+ transplants; the role of bridge donors in extending chains across time
5. NKR innovations relevant to India: kidney shipment logistics, exploratory crossmatching, the Voucher/Advanced Donation Programme, and the Donor Shield protection framework
6. Equity and ethics in algorithmic matching: priority points for highly sensitised recipients, blood type O disadvantage, and how the US addresses fairness — with implications for India

#### Suggested Activity

Structured comparison exercise: participants map each US programme feature (chain model, match run, bridge donor, voucher programme) against the current NOTTO swap framework and identify three specific gaps India's programme should address.

#### Key Resources

OPTN/UNOS KPD Pilot overview ([optn.transplant.hrsa.gov](http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov)); National Kidney Registry programme ([kidneyregistry.com](http://kidneyregistry.com)); Alliance for Paired Kidney Donation ([paireddonation.org](http://paireddonation.org)); NOTTO swap transplant guidelines.

**Q&A Follow-Up Session:** A live Q&A session with Advocate Prashant Ajmera and subject experts will be available approximately 15 days after this session. Participants are encouraged to submit questions arising from their self-paced study for discussion.

SESSION

**08**

## Role of NOTTO / ROTTO / SOTTO

*This session explains the three-tier organisational structure — National, Regional, and State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisations — their mandates, responsibilities, and how they interact with hospitals, transplant teams, and the Authorisation Committee.*

### Learning Objectives

- 1 Describe the mandate and functions of NOTTO, ROTTO, and SOTTO
- 2 Understand the reporting relationships between the three tiers
- 3 Know when and how to engage with NOTTO/ROTTTO/SOTTO in clinical practice
- 4 Understand NOTTO's role in deceased donor organ allocation

### Session Topics

1. Legislative basis for NOTTO, ROTTO, and SOTTO under THOTA Rules
2. NOTTO's national mandate: registry, allocation, coordination, and oversight
3. ROTTO's regional coordination role: zonal allocation and inter-state sharing
4. SOTTO's state-level functions: hospital registration, monitoring, and compliance
5. Interaction with the Authorisation Committee and transplant hospitals
6. NOTTO's role in swap transplant coordination across centres

#### Suggested Activity

Mapping exercise: trace the journey of a deceased donor organ from declaration to transplant, identifying each organisation's touchpoints.

#### Key Resources

THOTA Rules — NOTTO/ROTTTO/SOTTO provisions; NOTTO operational guidelines; Ministry of Health directives.

**Q&A Follow-Up Session:** A live Q&A session with Advocate Prashant Ajmera and subject experts will be available approximately 15 days after this session. Participants are encouraged to submit questions arising from their self-paced study for discussion.

SESSION

09

## Ethics & Deceased Donation: Brain Death & DCD

*Deceased donation remains the cornerstone of transplantation worldwide. This session examines the legal determination of brain death, the emerging framework for donation after circulatory death (DCD), and the ethical principles that govern deceased donor programmes.*

### Learning Objectives

- 1 Understand the legal definition and certification process for brain death under THOTA
- 2 Describe the process for obtaining consent for deceased donation
- 3 Understand DCD (Donation after Circulatory Death) and its current status in India
- 4 Apply ethical principles to complex deceased donation scenarios

### Session Topics

1. Brain death: medical definition, diagnostic criteria, and legal framework under THOTA
2. The Brain Death Certification Committee: composition, process, and documentation
3. Informed consent for deceased donation: who can consent and how
4. Ventilator withdrawal and the DCD pathway: international experience
5. DCD in the Indian legal context: current status and future directions
6. Ethical challenges: family refusal, religion, and equity in organ allocation

#### Suggested Activity

Case discussion: navigate a brain death certification scenario; discuss a family refusal case using ethical frameworks.

#### Key Resources

THOTA — Brain death provisions; Brain Death Certification Form; ICMR guidelines on DCD.

**Q&A Follow-Up Session:** A live Q&A session with Advocate Prashant Ajmera and subject experts will be available approximately 15 days after this session. Participants are encouraged to submit questions arising from their self-paced study for discussion.

SESSION

10

## Live Case Discussions — Part I

*The first of two live case discussion sessions applies the knowledge and skills developed in Sessions 1–6 to real-world scenarios. Cases are drawn from actual transplant practice and cover near-relative, spousal, and non-related donation situations.*

### Learning Objectives

- 1 Apply THOTA provisions to realistic and complex case scenarios
- 2 Identify legal, procedural, and ethical issues in presented cases
- 3 Practise evidence assessment and case preparation skills
- 4 Develop confidence in presenting and defending case decisions

### Session Topics

1. Case 1: Near-relative donation with disputed family relationship
2. Case 2: Spousal donation — cross-religion marriage, documentation challenges
3. Case 3: Non-related donation — financial dependency concerns raised
4. Case 4: Swap transplant — one pair withdraws mid-process
5. Group analysis and structured discussion for each case
6. Debrief: key learning points and common pitfalls

#### Suggested Activity

Small group case analysis; each group presents their assessment and recommendations; facilitator-led debrief.

#### Key Resources

Anonymised case files (provided for this session); THOTA provisions reference card.

**Q&A Follow-Up Session:** A live Q&A session with Advocate Prashant Ajmera and subject experts will be available approximately 15 days after this session. Participants are encouraged to submit questions arising from their self-paced study for discussion.

SESSION

11

## Live Case Discussions — Part II

*The second case discussion session focuses on deceased donation, NOTTO/ROTTTO/SOTTO interactions, DCD scenarios, and complex multi-stakeholder situations. Learners consolidate all 12-session learning in a capstone discussion format.*

### Learning Objectives

- 1 Apply brain death certification and deceased donation knowledge to case scenarios
- 2 Navigate multi-organisation coordination challenges
- 3 Address ethical dilemmas in allocation and consent
- 4 Integrate legal, procedural, and ethical frameworks in complex cases

### Session Topics

1. Case 5: Brain death certification — family disputes the diagnosis
2. Case 6: Deceased donor organ allocation — dispute between centres
3. Case 7: DCD scenario — team disagrees on eligibility
4. Case 8: A complex non-related case that goes to appeal
5. Cross-case themes: lessons across all case discussions
6. Best practices distilled from case experience

#### Suggested Activity

Individual written case analysis followed by facilitated group discussion; peer feedback.

#### Key Resources

Anonymised case files (provided for this session); complete THOTA reference pack.

**Q&A Follow-Up Session:** A live Q&A session with Advocate Prashant Ajmera and subject experts will be available approximately 15 days after this session. Participants are encouraged to submit questions arising from their self-paced study for discussion.

SESSION

12

## Synthesis, Assessment & Programme Conclusion

*The final session brings together all learning from the programme. Participants complete a summative assessment, review key themes, and receive guidance on continuing professional development in transplantation law and practice.*

### Learning Objectives

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Demonstrate consolidated understanding of THOTA and its application   |
| 2 | Identify personal learning outcomes and areas for further development |
| 3 | Understand resources available for ongoing professional development   |
| 4 | Receive and reflect on programme-level feedback                       |

### Session Topics

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | Recap of key themes across all 12 sessions                                       |
| 2. | Common compliance gaps and how to address them in practice                       |
| 3. | Updates: recent amendments, circulars, and emerging issues                       |
| 4. | Programme summative assessment (MCQs + short answer)                             |
| 5. | Resources for continuing education: NOTTO, MOHAN Foundation, academic literature |
| 6. | Certificate of completion and next steps   |

#### Suggested Activity

Summative assessment; individual reflection on personal learning; programme evaluation survey.

#### Key Resources

Programme resource pack; NOTTO continuing education portal; recommended reading list.

**Q&A Follow-Up Session:** A live Q&A session with Advocate Prashant Ajmera and subject experts will be available approximately 15 days after this session. Participants are encouraged to submit questions arising from their self-paced study for discussion.

**The topics and content are subject to change as per organizers discretion.**

**Register for the Webinar Series:**

**[www.globalrmb.org/events/19336](http://www.globalrmb.org/events/19336)**

# Programme Legacy: Building India's Transplant Community

The conclusion of THOTA in Practice is not an end — it is a beginning. OneIndiaOneLaw.org and Advocate Prashant Ajmera envision this programme as the foundation for a lasting professional community: a team of doctors and transplant coordinators who collaborate to build the practical resources that India's transplant system needs.

## Four Pillars of the Legacy Programme

### Team Formation

Volunteers from the programme — transplant surgeons, physicians, and coordinators — will be invited to join a dedicated working group under OneIndiaOneLaw.org, facilitated by Advocate Prashant Ajmera.

### Procedural Manuals

The team will co-author plain-language procedural manuals for transplant coordinators, covering every step from initial donor assessment through to Authorisation Committee approval.

### Forms Compendium

A complete, annotated collection of all forms required under THOTA — primary, secondary, and additional — presented in a user-friendly format with guidance notes for each field.

### Case Presentation Guide

A step-by-step guide on how to prepare and present cases to the Authorisation Committee, including templates, checklists, and sample case files for near-relative, non-related, and swap cases.

## Roadmap to Publication

<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Expression of Interest</b>	Participants willing to contribute indicate their interest at the end of Session 12 via a short sign-up form.
<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Working Group Formation</b>	OneIndiaOneLaw.org and Adv. Prashant Ajmera convene the volunteer team and assign roles based on expertise.
<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Drafting &amp; Review</b>	Sub-groups draft assigned sections of the manuals and forms compendium; cross-review by legal and clinical members.
<b>Step 4</b>	<b>Pilot &amp; Feedback</b>	Draft manuals are piloted with a small group of transplant coordinators; feedback incorporated.
<b>Step 5</b>	<b>Publication &amp; Distribution</b>	Final manuals published by OneIndiaOneLaw.org and distributed to participating hospitals and NOTTO/ROTTA/SOTTO.

## Join the Team

If you are a transplant surgeon, physician, or coordinator willing to contribute your expertise to building India's first comprehensive THOTA procedural manual, please register your interest at the conclusion of Session 12.

**Led by Advocate Prashant Ajmera**  
**Supported By: OneIndiaOneLaw.org | Rotary Club of Organ Donation**

Webinar Co-ordinators:	
Rtn. Dr. Akhila Hassan, MRCPCH, CCT	Rtn. Dr. Pallavi Patri, MD Nephrologist
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