



# ORGAN RETRIEVAL CENTRES IN EACH REVENUE DISTRICT: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES -Rtn Lal Goel

## ***Executive Summary***

India faces a severe organ shortage crisis, resulting in over 500,000 deaths annually due to the unavailability of organs. Despite concerted efforts by the government and NGOs to increase awareness, the mortality rate remains high, primarily due to insufficient infrastructure and limited organ retrieval facilities.

## ***Current Scenario***

### **Infrastructure Gap**

As of December 2024, only 15% of India's 788 revenue districts have either Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centres (NTORC) or Organ Transplant Centres. This leaves approximately 650 districts without any organ retrieval facilities, creating a significant gap in organ donation infrastructure.

## ***Essential Components for Organ Harvesting***

***A functional organ retrieval system requires:***

1. Brain Death Declaration Committee
2. Certified Organ Donation Coordinators
3. Equipped Organ Retrieval Centre
4. Qualified Medical Professionals

## ***Statistical Overview***

- Potential donors: Approximately 150,000 brain-dead patients annually
- Causes: Road accidents, brain strokes, acute asthma and others
- Current reach: Only 20,000 potential donors are accessible
- Unutilized potential: 130,000 potential donors remain outside the system
- Actual donations (2023): 1,028 brain-dead donors
- Resulting transplants: Over 3,000 successful procedures



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## ***Government Support***

The Indian Government provides financial assistance to establish new facilities:

- NTORC establishment: ₹75 lakhs per centre
- Organ Transplant Centre: ₹1.5 crores per facility

## ***Path Forward***

### ***Immediate Priorities***

1. Establish at least one NTORC in each of the 650 districts currently lacking facilities
2. Continue aggressive awareness programs alongside infrastructure development
3. Strengthen coordination between existing facilities



## ***Stakeholder Collaboration***

***Success requires a coordinated effort from:***

- Government agencies
- Healthcare institutions
- Non-governmental organizations
- Community leaders and organizations
- Medical professionals

## ***Strategic Recommendations for Enhanced Organ Retrieval Infrastructure***

To optimize organ retrieval and transplantation, we propose the following:

**1. Government Hospitals/Medical Colleges as Organ Retrieval Hubs:** Ensure that all Government Hospitals/Medical Colleges have at least one Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centre (NTORC) or Organ Transplant Centre. This is crucial, as most accidental cases are initially treated at these institutions, providing a critical window for organ retrieval.

## ***Conclusion***

The establishment of organ retrieval centres across all revenue districts is crucial

for addressing India's organ shortage crisis. While awareness programs are essential, they must be accompanied by rapid infrastructure development. Immediate action from all stakeholders is necessary to prevent further loss of life due to organ unavailability.

## ***Recommendations***

- 1.** Develop a district-wise implementation timeline for new NTORCs
- 2.** Create specialized training programs for medical professionals
- 3.** Establish a national coordination network linking all retrieval centres
- 4.** Implement standardized protocols across all facilities
- 5.** Design sustainable funding models combining government support with private participation

This initiative requires urgent attention and coordinated action from all stakeholders to bridge the infrastructure gap and save thousands of lives annually through increased organ availability.

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## ***About the Author***

**Rtn Lal Goel** is a visionary leader and a driving force in Organ Donation advocacy. As Charter President of the Rotary Club of Organ Donation International and Chairman of the Organ Donation India Foundation & GYAN, he has been pivotal in raising awareness about Organ Donation across India. He serves on the National Committee for the National Campaign for Body-Organ Donation (NCBOD) and has been recognised globally for his efforts. He is the ex-officio member of the Karnataka SOTTO advisory committee. His accolades include the Rajiv Gandhi Businessman of the Year Award, Tyag Murt Mata Ramai Ambedkar Samman, Icons of India Award, World Parliament International Award and the White Coat Ceremony honour by Donate Life, USA. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Mangalore University awarded him the distinguished title of One in Millions.