

**UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS paper2- governance- Issues relating to the development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health.**

## **Organ Transplantation in India: Balancing Progress and Challenges in a Global Context**

### **Background:**

India holds the third position globally in organ transplants, with deceased donors contributing to approximately 17.8% of all transplants in 2022. The country also sees a substantial number of medical tourists, and by 2023, it is expected to account for 6% of the global Medical Value Travel (MVT) market share.

### **Positive Aspects of Organ Transplantation in India:**

1. **Spontaneous Donations:** Heartwarming instances of Indians donating organs of deceased family members altruistically.
2. **Scientific Breakthroughs:** Significant advancements in organ transplantation leading to improved success rates and treatment options.
3. **Medical Tourism Growth:** Expansion of private sector transplantation services has boosted medical tourism, providing advanced treatments to a wider range of patients.

### **Impact of Medical Tourism on Organ Transplantation in India:**

#### **Benefits:**

1. **Growth in Private Healthcare:** Expansion of the private healthcare sector enhances organ transplantation facilities, attracting medical tourists.
2. **Affordability for Foreigners:** Relative affordability compared to global standards makes India an attractive destination for patients from South Asia, Central Asia, and Africa.
3. **Revenue Generation:** Medical tourism becomes a significant income source for private hospitals in India.

#### **Concerns:**

1. **Challenges in Follow-up Care:** Post-transplant care complexities arise when patients return to their home countries.
2. **Organ Trade Scandals:** Reports of unethical organ trade involving vulnerable individuals raise concerns about collusion with medical professionals.
3. **Impact on Domestic Access:** High transplant costs create a healthcare accessibility gap for ordinary Indians.
4. **Difficulty in Regulation:** Ensuring ethical practices in organ transplants involving foreign nationals is challenging.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. **Clearer Guidelines and Oversight:** Establish transparent guidelines and oversight mechanisms to monitor ethical and voluntary organ transplants involving foreign nationals.
2. **Enhance Public Trust:** Address concerns related to organ donation scandals, encouraging more voluntary donations after death.
3. **Promote Altruistic Organ Donation:** Emphasize the importance of organ donation after death to address the shortage of organs.
4. **Accessible Healthcare:** Ensure efforts to make organ transplantation accessible and affordable for all, not just foreign patients.

As India continues to excel in organ transplantation, it must navigate the delicate balance between the benefits of medical tourism and addressing the ethical, regulatory, and accessibility challenges associated with this growing sector.

**UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS paper2- International relation-India and its neighborhood-relations.**

**Maldives' Decision to Deny India Hydrographic Surveys: Emphasizing the Need for Patience and Vigilance**

In recent developments, the government of the Maldives has opted not to renew a hydrographic survey agreement with India, which was originally established in 2019. This agreement allowed India to conduct mapping of water bodies for the purpose of promoting secure and effective maritime transportation. The decision not to renew this agreement is believed to be influenced by a variety of factors, primarily tied to local and regional politics.

**Reasons Behind Maldives' Decision Against India:**

1. **Domestic Politics:** The move aligns with President Muizzu's "India Out" campaign, reflecting a shift in domestic political sentiment within the Maldives.
2. **Influence of China:** There is a noticeable trend of the Maldives increasing engagement with China. This is exemplified by the Vice President of the Maldives attending a China-organized Indian Ocean Forum, which excluded India, and choosing to skip an India-related event.
3. **Regional Power Dynamics:** The decision reflects the broader challenge faced by India in the Indian Ocean region, where its historically dominant role is being challenged by China's growing influence. Like other nations in the region, the Maldives is strategically navigating between these major powers.
4. **Short-term Political Gains:** The decision seems to prioritize immediate political benefits for the Muizzu government over long-term mutual interests with India.

**Implications for India:**

1. **Strategic Reach Reduction:** The non-renewal of the hydrographic survey agreement reduces India's strategic reach in the Indian Ocean, impacting its ability to monitor regional waters effectively.
2. **Challenges to Regional Dominance:** With the Maldives showing a preference for China, India faces challenges to its traditional regional dominance. This is evident in the Maldives' participation in China-organized forums, excluding India.

**Recommendations for India:**

1. **Maintain Patience and Vigilance:** India should carefully consider the long-term implications of its actions in response to the Maldives' decision, exercising patience in understanding evolving dynamics.
2. **Balance Engagement and Non-Interference:** India should engage positively with the Maldives, respecting its sovereignty and avoiding actions that may be perceived as intrusive.
3. **Adapt to China's Growing Presence:** Acknowledge and strategically respond to China's increasing influence in the region. Establishing clear boundaries, especially concerning military activities in the Maldives, is crucial.
4. **Offer Support for Environmental Challenges:** In light of shared environmental challenges, such as rising sea levels, India should be ready to provide assistance and cooperation in environmental protection and disaster management, fostering mutual interests.

As geopolitical dynamics continue to evolve in the Indian Ocean, India's response will play a critical role in maintaining regional stability and securing its strategic interests.

**UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS Paper 2 International Relations – India and its neighborhood-relations.**

**India-Oman Bilateral Relations: A Time-Honoured Bond Paving the Way to Bridge the Gulf Divide**

The Sultan of Oman, **Sultan Haitham bin Tarik**, is visiting India on a state visit. This will be his first visit to India after taking over.

**Importance of Oman for India:**

1. **Historic Cooperation:** Oman's historical friendship with India, especially during the Cold War and post-Cold War era, set it apart from other Arab nations, which were more supportive of Pakistan.
2. **Geostrategic Aspect:** Oman's strategic location, with ports along the Arabian Sea and key entry points to the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Aden, holds immense importance for India.



3. **Economic Relations:** Past collaborations between Indian companies and professionals in Oman highlight the economic ties between the two nations.
4. **Large Indian Diaspora:** With a substantial Indian community of 7 lakh people, Oman is home to a vibrant and significant part of the Indian diaspora.
5. **Neutral Foreign Policy:** Oman's foreign policy of neutrality, carefully balancing relations with Western powers, GCC countries, and even neighboring Iran, makes it a crucial pillar of India's West Asia policy.
6. **Shared Values:** Both countries identify themselves as ambassadors of peace, enjoying goodwill globally.

**Highlights of India-Oman Bilateral Relations:**

1. **Strategic Relations:**
  - a. The India-Oman strategic partnership, established in 2008, is built on mutual trust and shared interests.
  - b. Key agreements on trade, defense, and security were reached during India's Prime Minister's visit to Oman in 2018.
2. **Defence and Security:**
  - a. Cooperation in ensuring maritime security in the Indian Ocean region, with Indian naval ships deployed for anti-piracy operations.
  - b. Oman's Duqm Port provides facilities to Indian naval ships, enhancing operational capabilities.
3. **Trade and Commerce:**
  - a. Bilateral trade reached \$12.4 billion during FY2022-23.
  - b. Over 6,000 India-Oman joint ventures operate in Oman.
  - c. India ranks as the 2nd largest market for Oman's crude oil exports in 2022.
4. **Space Cooperation:** A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on space sector cooperation was signed in 2018.
5. **Connectivity Projects:** Oman's pivotal role in the proposed **India-Middle-East-Europe Connectivity Corridor (IMEEC) project** supports India's broader connectivity ambitions.

**Way Forward:**

**Gateway to West Asia:** Oman's integral role in significant regional groupings such as the GCC, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the Arab League positions it as a crucial partner for India in deeper engagement and collaboration in West Asia.