Mains Topics

Future of governance in post-Maoist India

Context

Recent assessments on **Left Wing Extremism (LWE)** highlight that while security operations have weakened Maoist violence, **governance failures—especially in Fifth Schedule areas—remain inadequately addressed**.

What Are Fifth Schedule Areas?

- **Purpose:** To ensure **special governance and protection** for **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** in areas with substantial tribal populations.

- **Geographical coverage:** Applies to tribal-dominated regions in **10 States** — Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh.

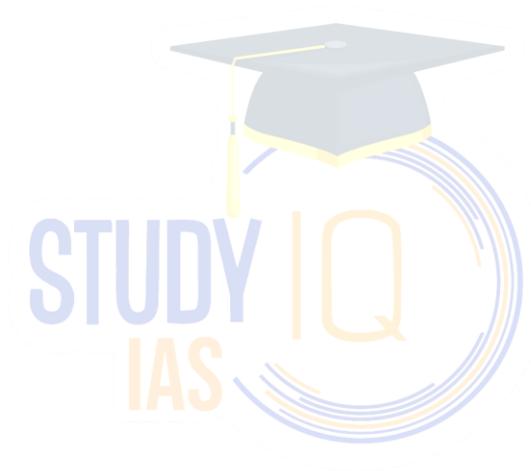### Governance Failures in Fifth Schedule Areas

- **Weak enforcement of constitutional safeguards:** Governor's discretionary powers rarely exercised.

- **Ineffective Tribal Advisory Councils (TACs):** Largely consultative, with little real influence on policy decisions.

- **Poor implementation of PESA (1996):** Gram Sabha consent often bypassed in land acquisition and mining.

- **Dilution of Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006:** Delays in recognition of individual and community forest rights.

- **Land alienation and displacement:** Large-scale dispossession due to mining, dams, and infrastructure projects.

- **Administrative alienation:** Bureaucracy, police, and revenue officials are mostly non-local, creating trust deficits.

- **Colonial governance structures:** Uniform administrative and legal systems ill-suited to tribal social realities.

- **Weak service delivery:** Inadequate access to justice, healthcare, education, policing, and welfare schemes.

- **Limited political empowerment:** Local self-governance bodies exist but lack real autonomy and finances.

- **Poor accountability:** Weak grievance redress mechanisms and limited oversight by NCST and ministries.

Way Forward

- **Strengthen constitutional governance:** Activate the Governor's special powers and make Tribal Advisory Councils effective in protecting tribal interests.

- **Ensure real self-governance:** Strictly implement **PESA** by enforcing mandatory Gram Sabha consent in land acquisition, mining, and development projects.

- **Secure land and forest rights:** Fully operationalise the **Forest Rights Act** to prevent displacement and livelihood loss of tribal communities.

- **Improve local representation:** Increase recruitment of adivasis in administration, policing, and service delivery institutions to reduce alienation.

- **Adopt people-centric development:** Shift from extractive models to livelihood-focused, culturally sensitive development with strong accountability mechanisms.
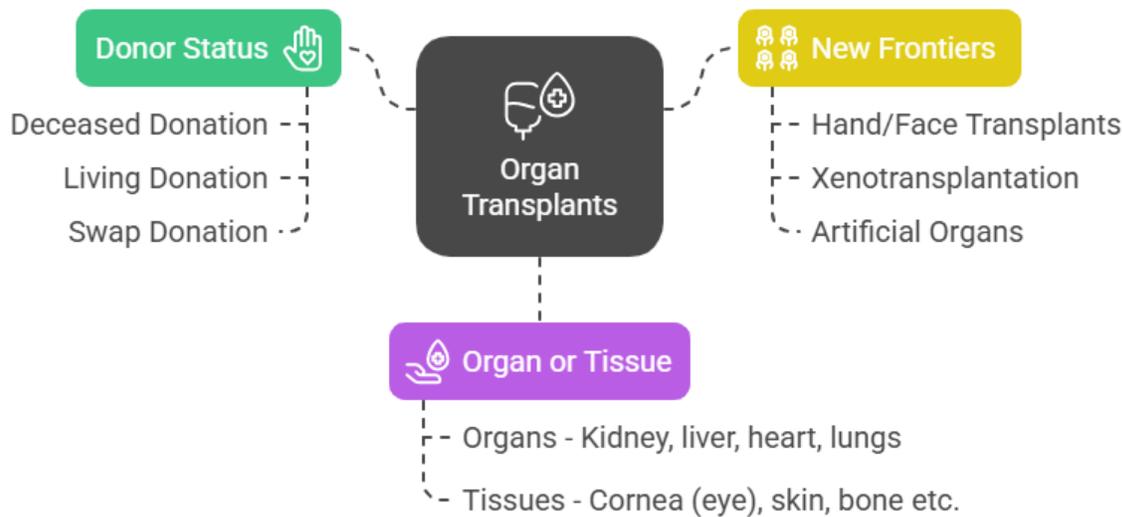
Source: The Hindu

India's Organ Transplantation Crisis

Context

Recent data from the Union Health Ministry highlights that nearly 3,000 lives were lost due to the lack of available organs. With over 82,000 patients currently on the national waitlist, the severe mismatch between organ supply and demand remains a critical public health challenge.

Organ Transplantation

Types of Organ Transplants

Donor Status
- Deceased Donation
- Living Donation
- Swap Donation

Organ Transplants

New Frontiers
- Hand/Face Transplants
- Xenotransplantation
- Artificial Organs

Organ or Tissue
- Organs - Kidney, liver, heart, lungs
- Tissues - Cornea (eye), skin, bone etc.

- India conducted **18,378 organ transplants in 2023**, placing it **third worldwide**.

- India's organ donation registry via NOTTO (National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation) shows significant growth, with over 3.30 lakh (330,000+) citizens pledging since the Aadhar-based website launch in 2023, reaching over 4.87 lakh total donors as per recent official counts.

Rules and Regulations in India

- **National Organ Transplant Programme (NOTP):** A **Central Sector Programme** under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** to promote **organ donation and transplantation** across all States and Union Territories.
  - It aims to increase awareness, improve access to transplants for patients with organ failure, and strengthen the overall organ transplant ecosystem.

- **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO):** It is the **apex national body** established under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to coordinate organ donation and transplant activities in India.

- ○ **5 Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (ROTTOs) and 14 State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (SOTTOs)** were established to strengthen the network at the regional and state levels.

- **Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994:** Regulate the **removal, storage, and transplantation** of human organs and tissues for **therapeutic purposes**.
  - ○ **2025 Amendment: Mandatory requirement of clinical specular microscopes** in corneal transplantation centres has been **removed**.

What Are the Key Challenges in Organ Transplantation In India

- **Living donor dependence:** Delhi performs the highest number of transplants, but these are **predominantly from living relatives**, reflecting a severe shortage of deceased donor organs.

- **Deaths while waiting:** Between **2020 and 2024**, **2,805 patients** died while awaiting organ transplants, with **Delhi alone accounting for 1,425 deaths**, followed by **Maharashtra (297)** and **Tamil Nadu (233)**.

- **Infrastructural gaps:** Many government hospitals lack dedicated transplant infrastructure, adequate ICUs, in-house HLA cross-matching labs, and ring-fenced OTs, causing delays in organ retrieval and transplantation.

- **Human resource shortages:** Acute lack of trained transplant specialists and intensivists in public hospitals, compounded by frequent staff transfers, absence of dedicated teams, and weak incentive structures.

- **Procedural bottlenecks:** Delays in constituting Brain-Stem Death (BSD) committees, cumbersome medico-legal processes in trauma cases, and lack of standardised, time-bound protocols for deceased donation.

- **Illicit trade:** Reports of illegal organ trade continue, often involving vulnerable populations having economic disparities and cross-border intermediaries.

- **Ethical dilemmas:** Determining genuine altruism vs coercion in unrelated donations remains complex. The term "love and affection" as a justification for donation is particularly contentious.

Way Forward

- **Strengthen deceased organ donation:** Institutionalise mandatory brain-death identification and notification in all large hospitals, expand transplant coordinators, and run sustained public awareness campaigns to reduce over-reliance on living donors.

- **Upgrade public transplant infrastructure:** Invest in dedicated transplant ICUs, ring-fenced operation theatres, in-house HLA labs, and robust green-corridor logistics to minimise delays and organ wastage.

- **Build and retain skilled manpower:** Create dedicated transplant cadres in government hospitals, ensure specialised training, stable postings, and performance-linked incentives for transplant teams.

- **Streamline procedures and governance:** Standardise and time-bind BSD certification, medico-legal clearances, and organ allocation through a uniform national protocol under NOTTO.

- **Strengthen ethical oversight and access:** Tighten monitoring to curb organ trafficking, clarify consent norms for unrelated donations, and expand financial coverage for transplants and lifelong care under public health schemes.

Source: Indian Express

Mains Topics

Petra and Ellora Caves

Context

India and Jordan signed a twinning agreement between UNESCO Heritage sites of Petra & Ellora Caves.

About Petra Caves

- **Location:** Southern Jordan, between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba.
- **Period:** Established around the 4th century BCE.
- **Builders:** Nabataeans, an Arab trading civilization.
- **Architecture:** Rock-cut architecture carved directly into rose-red sandstone cliffs.
- **Key Structures:** Al-Khazneh (Treasury), Ad-Deir (Monastery), Royal Tombs, Siq (narrow gorge).

About Ellora Caves

- **Location:** Aurangabad district, Maharashtra.
- **Period:** Excavated between the 6th and 10th centuries CE.
- **Patronage:** Rashtrakuta, Chalukya, and Kalachuri dynasties.
- **Architecture:** Rock-cut cave complexes excavated from basalt rock.
- **Religious Diversity:** Buddhist caves (Caves 1–12), Hindu caves (Caves 13–29), Jain caves (Caves 30–34).

Source: UNI India

Nitrofurans

Context

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) directed its regional offices to collect samples of eggs for testing the presence of nitrofurans residues.

About Nitrofurans

- Nitrofurans are a group of **synthetic broad-spectrum antimicrobial compounds** derived from nitrofuran, containing a nitro group attached to a furan ring.
- **Common examples:** Nitrofurantoin, Furazolidone, Furaltadone, Nitrofurazone.
- **Uses:** Nitrofurantoin is widely used for **urinary tract infections (UTIs)** in humans.
  - Earlier used in **veterinary medicine and aquaculture** to treat bacterial infections.
- It is **banned in food-producing animals** in many countries, including India, the EU, and the USA.

Source: New Indian Express

United Nations Alliance of Civilisations (UNAOC)

Context

The UN Alliance of Civilisations completes two decades of efforts to bridge global divides.

About UNAOC

- **Establishment:** Launched in **2005** by the **United Nations**, at the initiative of **Spain and Türkiye**.

- **Objective:** To **promote dialogue and cooperation among cultures, religions, and civilizations** and to counter extremism, polarization, and intolerance.
- **Rationale:** Created in the post-9/11 context to address rising **cultural mistrust, identity-based conflicts, and radicalization**.
- **Key Initiatives:**
  - **Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF):** Supports youth-led projects on peacebuilding and social inclusion.
  - **PLURAL+ Initiative:** Youth video festival on migration, diversity, and social inclusion.

Source: UN News

Ekam AI & SAMBHAV

Context

The Indian Army showcased Ekam AI and SAMBHAV as part of the Vijay Diwas.

About Ekam AI

- It is a **fully indigenous and secure artificial intelligence platform** developed for use in sensitive defence and operational environments.
- It is designed to be **reliable, secure, and independent of foreign software or external cloud systems**.
- **Purpose:** The platform enables users (including defence personnel) to **analyse information, manage documents, and support decision-making** effectively even in high-security contexts.

Project SAMBHAV

- It is a **portable satellite-based communication system** designed to provide reliable mobile connectivity in areas with limited or no network coverage.
- **Purpose:** To **establish communication rapidly** in **remote border areas**, **disaster-affected**

regions, and other connectivity-challenged locations.

Source: PIB

Cho La & Dok La Passes

Context

Chola and Dok La passes are opened for battlefield tourism under the **Bharat Rannbhoomi Darshan initiative.**

About Cho La Pass

- **Location:** Eastern Himalayas, on the **India–China (Tibet) border** in Sikkim.
- **Connectivity:** Links **Sikkim (India)** with the **Chumbi Valley (Tibet Autonomous Region of China)**.
- Site of the **1967 Cho La clashes** between Indian and Chinese forces, where India successfully repelled Chinese advances.

About Dok La Pass

- **Location:** At the **trijunction of India, Bhutan, and China**, near the **Doklam Plateau**.
- **Connectivity:** Acts as a route between **Bhutan** and **Chumbi Valley**.
- Gained prominence due to the **2017 Doklam standoff** between Indian and Chinese troops after Chinese road construction in Bhutanese territory.

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What is Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan?

- It is a **national initiative** launched to promote **battlefield tourism** across India by opening historically significant battlefields and frontier sites to citizens and visitors.

- It is developed jointly by the **Ministry of Defence**, **Ministry of Tourism**, and the **Indian Army**.

- **Inaugurated on 15 January 2025**, coinciding with the **77th Army Day.**

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Source: New Indian Express

Global Value Chain (GVC) Development Report 2025

Context

Asian Development Bank (ADB), **World Trade Organization (WTO)**, **World Economic Forum (WEF)** and partners developed Global Value Chain (GVC) Development Report 2025 titled "Rewiring *GVCs in a Changing Global Economy''* was released.

Key Findings

- **Globalisation is being reshaped, not reversed:** GVCs are adapting to technological shifts, green transition, and geopolitical realignments, demonstrating strong resilience.

- **GVC share in global trade:** GVC-linked trade accounts for **46.3% of global trade**, marginally lower than the **2022 peak of 48%**.

- **Services and digital trade surge:** Services have overtaken goods in GVC participation, contributing **over one-third of value added** in manufacturing exports.

- **India's improved GVC integration:** Driven largely by strong growth in **digital services exports**.

- **Regional concentration: Asia, Europe, and North America** dominate GVC trade, while **Latin America and Africa** remain weakly integrated.

Emerging Trends

- **Reshoring:** Major economies such as **China, the US, and the EU** are increasing domestic production to reduce reliance on foreign value addition.

- **Manufacturing diversification:** Efforts to diversify supply chains continue despite China's dominance, including its **76.9% share in global electric vehicle production**.

- **India's global position:** India ranks among the **top 10 value-adding economies**, contributing **2.8% of global domestic value added in exports (2024)**.

Source: Economic Times