



## National Organ Transplantation Guidelines

**Prelims:** National Organ Transplantation Guidelines, National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization, Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994.

**Mains:** Need for Promoting Organ Donations.

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has modified **National Organ Transplantation Guidelines**, allowing those above 65 years of age to receive an organ for transplantation from deceased donors.

- In India, **Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994** provides **various regulations for the removal of human organs and its storage**. It also regulates the transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purposes and for the prevention of commercial dealings in human organs.

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## The tweaks in policy

According to officials familiar with the matter, the guidelines are likely to undergo following changes:

### UPPER LIMIT CHANGED:

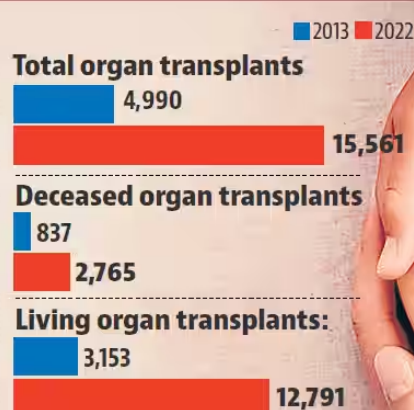
The Centre has removed the upper age limit as life expectancy has increased, and a 65-year-old is no longer considered a very old patient.

### NO DOMICILE REQUIREMENT:

A citizen can now register for organ donation in any state; previous requirement of registering in the state of domicile has been removed

### NO REGISTRATION FEES:

The Centre has asked state governments to stop taking fees to register a patient for organ transplants



Since health is a state subject, the Centre has begun consultation with states to bring them on board with the changes



### What are the Highlights of the New Guidelines?

- **Removed Age Cap:**
  - The upper **age limit has been removed** as people are now living longer.
  - Earlier, according to the **NOTTO (National Organ and Tissue Transplant**

**Organization)** guidelines, an end-stage organ failure patient above 65 years of age was prohibited from registering to receive the organ.

- **No Domicile Requirement:**
  - The ministry has removed the **domicile requirement to register as an organ recipient** in a particular state under a **'One Nation, One Policy'** move.
  - Now a **needy patient can register to receive an organ in any state** of his or her choice and will also be able to get the surgery done there.
- **No Fees for Registration:**
  - There will be **no registration fee that states used to charge for this purpose**, the Centre has asked states that used to charge for such registration to not do so.
  - Among the states that sought money for registration were Gujarat, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Kerala.
    - Certain states asked for anything **between Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000 to register a patient** on the organ recipient waitlist.

## Note

- NOTTO is set up under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, located in New Delhi.
- National Network division of NOTTO functions as apex centre for all India activities for procurement, distribution and registry of organs and tissues donation and transplantation in the country.

## What is the Purpose of New Guidelines?

- The Centre is planning to make changes in the rules of **Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act 2011** towards creating a national policy for transplantation.
- Currently, different states have different rules; the Union government is considering changes to the rules so that there is a **standard criterion followed in all states across the country**.
- However, **Health being a state subject**, the rules formed by the central government will not be binding on the states.
- The steps are aimed at **better and more equitable access to organs and also to promote cadaver donations**, which currently form a minuscule fraction of all organ transplants carried out in India.

## What is the Scenario of Organ Transplantation in India?

- India conducts **the third highest number of transplants** in the world.
- Organs from deceased donors **accounted for nearly 17.8% of all transplants in 2022**.
- The total number of deceased organ transplants climbed from **837 in 2013 to 2,765 in 2022**.
- The total number of organ transplants - with organs from both deceased and living donors - **increased from 4,990 in 2013 to 15,561 in 2022**.
- Every year, an **estimated 1.5-2 lakh people need a kidney transplant**.
  - Only **around 10,000** got one in 2022. Of the 80,000 people who required a liver transplant, less than 3,000 got one in 2022.
  - And, of the 10,000 who needed a heart transplant, only 250 got it in 2022.

## Way Forward

- Promoting Organ donations is an important initiative **that can save lives and benefit society as a whole**.
- By increasing awareness, educating the public, and improving the donation process, we can **make organ and tissue donation more accessible** and increase the number of potential donors.
- For increasing accessibility of donated organs to weaker sections, **the public hospitals need to increase the infrastructural capacity** to carry out transplantation and provide affordable

proper treatment to the poor.

- It is suggested that cross-subsidization will increase accessibility to the weaker section. For every 3 or 4 transplants, the private hospitals should carry out free of cost transplantation to the section of the population that donates a majority of organs.

**Source: HT**

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