National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Health*

Why in News?

The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) recently issued a direction stating that women patients and relatives of deceased donors will receive priority in organ allocation.

- **Survey findings –** Recently a survey denoted that women donate the most and receive the least with, 63.8% of all living organ donors from 2019 to 2023 were women.
- Yet men received the most donated organs, accounting for 69.8% of the recipients.
- **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) –** It is the apex government body to ***oversee organ donations.***
- Each hospital of the country which engages in transplant activity, whether in retrieval or transplant, must link with the NOTTO.
- Organ transplantation and donation is covered under the ***Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994***, which has allowed organ donation by live and brain-stem dead donors.
- In 2011, an amendment to the Act also brought in donation of human tissues.
- As per the Act, buying/selling of organs in any way is punishable and has a significant financial as well as judicial penalty.
- In its recent advisory, the NOTTO has asked State governments to create permanent posts for transplant coordinators at hospitals that perform organ transplantation or retrieval.
- It is advised that state governments have to develop facilities for organ and tissue retrieval in all trauma centres and register them as organ retrieval centres.
- Organ retrieval centres while calling for training emergency responders and ambulance staff to identify potential deceased donors early,

particularly among victims of road traffic accidents and stroke patients.

- **Global status of organ donation -** World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that over 1,30,000 solid organ transplants are performed each year.
    - But this meets only about 10% of the worldwide need.

An organ donor can be anyone whose healthy organs are transplanted to a patient in urgent need. These organs, donated after brain or cardiac death, can be preserved and transplanted to save multiple lives.

- Every year, over 1.8 lakh Indians develop end-stage kidney disease, yet only about 12,000 kidney transplants take place across the country.
- **Challenges -** Lack of awareness, cultural myths, and hesitation to discuss organ donation within families remain the biggest obstacles.
- **Way ahead -** Countries with higher awareness and streamlined donor systems have achieved significantly better outcomes, showing what is possible when organ donation becomes a social norm.
- With modern transplantation techniques and effective medicines, recipients can live long and healthy lives.

A single donor can save up to 8 lives through organ donation and enhance many more through tissue donation such as corneas and skin.

Reference

The Hindu | National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)

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