# Organ Transplantation

## Why in news?

Delhi High Court has prescribed an ideal timeline of 6-8 weeks to complete the process of transplanting organs from living donors.

## What is the issue?

- A retired IAF officer needed a kidney transplant due to kidney failure and hypertension, his application was denied in 2 hospitals.
- Delhi High Court intervened and ordered to expedite the process, but the petitioner died before getting a transplant.
- The Centre claimed that the committee followed the 2014 rules and decided within a week of receiving the documents.
- The Court prescribed a timeline of 6-8 weeks for the entire process, from submission to decision, to avoid further suffering and loss of lives.

## What are the provisions described under Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994?

*The Act serves as the primary legislation governing the processes of organ donation and organ transplantation in India.*

| Aspects | About |
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| **Aim** | Regulation of storage, removal, and transplantation of different types of human organs that can be used for therapeutic purposes. |
| **Brain death** | • The Act defines brain death as an accepted form of death.<br>• The Act also defines the process and the criteria meant to be used for the purpose of brain death certification. |
| **Donors for organ transplantation** | It can be either from a pool of organs of deceased persons donated by their relatives or from a living person who is known to the recipient |

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| **Living donations** | It is from close relatives such as parents, siblings, children, spouses, grandparents, and grandchildren. |
| **Altruistic donations** | It is from distant relatives, in-laws, or long-time friends are allowed after additional scrutiny to ensure there is no financial exchange. |
| **Authorization committee** | 2014 rules established the committee which oversees and approves organ transplant procedures involving donors and recipients who are not near relatives. |
| **Institutional support** | • National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization,<br>• Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization,<br>• State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization. |
| **Penalty** | Illegal activities will attract jail term up to 10 years and fine up to 10 crores. |

## What is the role of Authorization committee?

- The approval is crucial, especially in cases where organs are donated for reasons of affection, attachment or other special circumstances, to ensure ethical compliance and prevent illegal practices.
- **Composition-** It shall be prescribed by the Central Government from time to time and that state government and Union Territories.
- **Inquiry**- The committee is expected to conduct a thorough inquiry while reviewing applications for transplant approval.
- **Verification**- The crucial aspect of the inquiry is to verify the authenticity of the donor and recipient and ensure that the donation is not driven by commercial motives.
- **Data collection**- The committee is responsible for maintaining data on available organs and granting permissions for organ transplants.
- **Expedite evaluation**- If a recipient is in a critical condition and needs transplantation within a week, the hospital can be approached for evaluation.

## Reference

Indian Express- Complete organ transplant process



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