#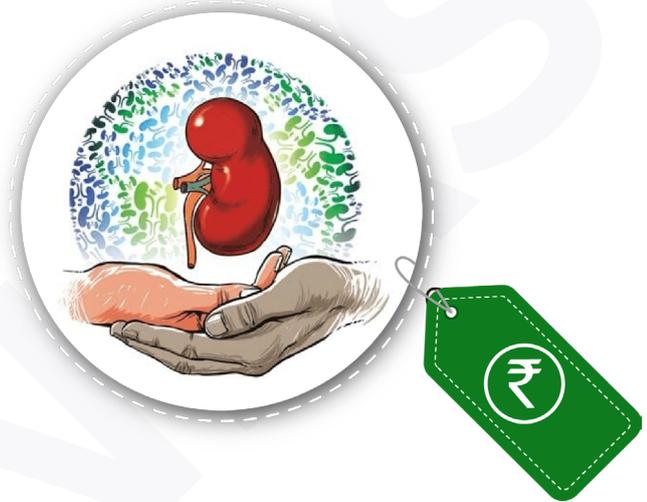# National Organ and Tissue Transplantation Organisation (NOTTO) ordered an inquiry into 'Cash-for-kidney racket' allegations

- **Organ Transplantation** is the **act of surgical removal of an organ** from one person and placing it into another person.
  - There is **a wide gap between patients and the organs** that are available in India:
    - **Ex: Only 6000 renal transplants** annually **against 1.8 lakh persons** suffering from renal failure.
  - This **high Burden** (Demand versus Supply gap) has resulted in **increase in organ trade in India.**
- **Other issues in Organ Transplantation in India**
  - **Lack of Organized systems** for **organ procurement** from **deceased donor.**
  - **Poor Awareness and attitude towards organ donation.**
  - **High Cost** (for uninsured and poor patients).
- **Primary legislation** related to organ donation and transplantation in India is **Transplantation of Human Organs Act (THOA),** 1994.
  - Government is also **implementing National Organ Transplant Programme (NOTP)** to promote organ donation and transplantation.
- Earlier this year, **government released modified National Organ Transplantation Guidelines.**
  - It allowed those above **65 years of age to receive an organ for transplantation from deceased donors.**
  - It also **removed the domicile requirement to register as an organ recipient.**

About NOTTO

- It is a **National level organization** set up under **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- It functions **as apex centre for coordination and networking** for **procurement** and **distribution** of **organs and tissues** and **registry of Organs and Tissues Donation** and **Transplantation in country.**

Lok Sabha expels an MP from the Parliament based on the ethics committee report in a cash-for-query case

- The Lok Sabha Ethics Committee found the **MP guilty of "unethical conduct" and "contempt of the House"** and recommended MP's expulsion from the House.
- **Process of removal of MP through Ethics committee:**
  - **Complaint Submission-** A complaint can be filed **against members of the House by other members** and also **outsiders** through a member along with evidence of alleged misconduct.
    - The **Speaker can also refer** to the Committee any complaint against an MP.
  - **Committee Evaluation:** It makes a prima facie inquiry before examining a complaint and makes recommendations after evaluating the complaint.
  - **Report and decision:** It presents its report to the Speaker, who asks the House if the report should be taken up for consideration.

Ethics committee		
About	**Lok Sabha**	**Rajya Sabha**
Origin	Constituted in 2000	Constituted first in Rajya Sabha in 1997
Members	15 (from Lok Sabha)	10 (from Rajya Sabha)
Time period of members	Hold office for a term not exceeding 1 year.	Hold office until a new committee is nominated
Nominated by	Speaker	Chairman

- The **decision of the House can be challenged in court.**
- **Article 101** gives only three grounds on which an MP's seat can be vacated: **Resignation, Disqualification and Continuous absence from the House for 60 days.**

India Attends 6th National Security Adviser level Meeting of Colombo Security Conclave held in Mauritius

- **Key Developments**
  - Agreed on a **Roadmap of Activities for 2024** in the face of **traditional, non-traditional** and **emerging hybrid challenges** in Indian Ocean region (IOR).
    - **Non-traditional security issues** are challenges that arise primarily out of **non-military sources,** such as climate change, infectious diseases, natural disasters, etc.
  - Announced launch of **Ocean Information Services portal.**
    - Portal aims to facilitate **exchange of oceanographic information.**
- **About Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)**
  - **Formed in 2011** as **trilateral maritime security** grouping of **India, Sri Lanka and Maldives.**
  - Later **Mauritius joined as 4th member** and **Bangladesh & Seychelles** as observer countries.
  - It has **permanent secretariat based in Colombo,** to coordinate activities and implement decisions.
  - **CSC focuses on 5 pillars :**
    - **Maritime safety** and security,
    - **Countering terrorism and radicalisation,**
    - **Combating trafficking and transnational organised crime,**
    - **Cyber security** and protection of **critical infrastructure** and
    - **Humanitarian assistance** and **disaster relief.**
- **Significance of CSC**
  - In line with vision of **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)** and **Neighbourhood First Policy.**
  - **Provides cooperative environment** and **collaborative mechanism** in maritime neighbourhood of IOR.

> **Other Regional Cooperation Mechanism in IOR**
> - **Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC).**
> - **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)** seeks to increase maritime co-operation among navies of the littoral states of IOR.
> - **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation** (BIMSTEC).
> - Indian Ocean Commission **(India is not a member but observer to it).**

A Complex Adaptive System Framework to Regulate Artificial Intelligence (AI): A Paper Released by Economic Advisory Council to PM

- **Paper provides a novel framework** to regulate AI based on **Complex Adaptive System** (a system where components interact and evolve in unpredictable ways) consisting of **five key principles:**
  - **Creating a Specialist Regulator: An expert regulatory body** with a broad mandate and the ability to respond swiftly.
  - **Ensuring Transparency:** Through **Open licensing of core algorithms** for external audits, and continuous monitoring of AI systems.
  - **Defining Clear Lines of AI Accountability:** By mandating standardized incident reporting protocols to document any system aberrations or failures.
  - **Mandating Manual 'Overrides' and 'Authorization Chokepoints':** To empower humans to intervene when AI systems behave erratically.
  - **Establishing Guardrails and Partitions:** To Implement clear boundary conditions to limit undesirable AI behaviors.
- **Need to Regulate AI:**
  - Traditional methods fall short due to **AI's non-linear, unpredictable nature.**
  - **Social Surveillance** and **Impersonation** leading to **loss of privacy** (Deepfakes).
  - **National security threats** and compromised critical infrastructure.
  - **Disrupt the democratic process,** lead to job loss, biased results etc.
- **Challenges in AI Regulation:**
  - Rapid **technological advancements; Interdisciplinary nature** of AI; **Dynamic AI** Ecosystem; Lack of **standardization; Enforcement** challenges etc.

> **About AI and Recent Measures Taken**
> - **AI is a machine's ability** to perform the **cognitive functions** we associate with **human minds,** such as perceiving, reasoning, learning, problem solving, etc.
> - **Measures Taken:**
>   - **Global:**
>   - **Bletchley Declaration:** Over **25 major countries including India** called to tackle potential risks of AI.
>   - **Hiroshima AI Process:** Effort by G7 to regulate AI.
>   - **India: National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence (2018), National AI Portal.**

Developmental and Regulatory Policy Measures Taken by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- **Enhancing Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Transaction Limit for Specified Categories:**
  - It is proposed to enhance UPI limit for payments to **hospitals and educational** institutions from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh per transaction.
  - **Transaction limit for UPI is capped at ₹1 lakh,** except a few categories like Capital Markets, Collections, Insurance etc. **where the transaction limit is ₹2 lakh.**
  - **About UPI**
    - **UPI was** launched in 2016, it is an instant payment system developed by **National Payments Corporation of India.**
    - UPI has a **2 Factor Authentication.**
    - UPI accounts for **over 40% of India's digital transactions.**
    - In recent past, **India** made **UPI Payment Deal** with **France, UAE and Sri Lanka.**
- **Setting up of Fintech Repository**
  - Repository will be operationalised by **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub in April 2024 or earlier.**
- **Regulatory Framework for Web-Aggregation of loan products (WALP)**
  - To increase **transparency** in their operations.
  - **WALP** entails **aggregation of loan offers from multiple lenders** on an electronic platform,
    - which enables **borrowers to compare and choose** the best available option to avail loan from one of the available lenders.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approves reservation norms for Jute Packaging Materials (JPM) under JPM Act, 1987

- JPM (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 **(JPM Act 1987)** provides for **compulsory use of jute packaging material in supply and distribution** of certain commodities.
- Mandatory packaging norms approved for **Jute Year 2023-24** (1st July, 2023 to 30th June, 2024) provide for **100% reservation of food-grains** and **20% of sugar** to be compulsorily packed in jute bags.
- Benefits of reservation for JPM
  - **Protect the interest of domestic production of raw jute and JPM** in India, thereby, **making India self-reliant.**
  - Provide **relief to 4 lakh workers employed in jute mills** and ancillary units.
  - **Support livelihood** of around **40 lakh farm families.**
  - **Protect environment as jute is natural, bio- degradable,** renewable and reusable fibre and hence fulfils all sustainability parameters.
- **Jute (golden fibre)** is one of major industries in India's eastern region.
  - India is world's **biggest producer of jute,** followed by Bangladesh.
- **Issues in Jute Industry:** Lack of machinery modernisation, labour shortage, rising raw material cost etc.
- **Other steps taken for Jute Industry**
  - **Jute - Improved Cultivation and Retting Exercises** support pre and post harvesting operations;
  - **Production Linked Incentive scheme** for Jute Diversified Products to increase exports;
  - **Jute Technology Mission;** etc.

> **About Jute Crop**
> - **Climate:** Humid.
> - **Temperature:** Between **24 to 38 degree Celsius.**
> - **Minimum rainfall:** 1000 mm.
> - **Soil: New grey alluvial soil** of good depth receiving silt from annual floods.
> - **Major Jute producing states: West Bengal (largest),** Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Also in News

Green Rising Initiative

- **UNICEF's Generation Unlimited,** in collaboration with India's **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change,** introduced "Green Rising" initiative at COP28.
  - **Aim** to empower youth-led climate actions and solutions.
  - It was launched at **Dubai Cares (philanthropic organization)** hosted **RewirEd Summit.**
  - RewirEd Summit at COP28 is **first ever global summit on education and climate.**
- **Earlier in 2018,** UN Secretary-General launched **Generation Unlimited.**
  - It is a global **Public-Private-Youth Partnership,** to co-create and deliver innovative solutions on global scale.

City of Lakes Project and 3i model

- At a discussion held by **C40,** Delhi's breakthroughs in fighting climate change like **City of Lakes project** and **3i model** were mentioned.
  - C40 is **a global network of nearly a hundred mayors** of **world's leading cities that are united in action to confront climate crisis.**
- Delhi's **3i model for Electric Vehicles** focuses on **Inclusion, incentivization, and Innovation.**
- **City of lakes** aims to rejuvenate water bodies in city.
  - It **creates eco-tourism opportunities** and **enhances heat resilience,** particularly during extreme weather events.
  - It led to an **increase of up to 2 meters in groundwater levels.**

Agni-1

- **Training launch 'Agni-1'** was carried out successfully from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- Agni-1 is **Short-Range Ballistic Missile** and is a **very high precision** missile system.
  - **Range capacity:** over 700 Kms.
  - It is **nuclear-capable,** road-mobile missile.
  - **First deployed in 2007.**
- Agni-1 to 5 missiles are **designed & developed by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).**

Dodo (Raphus cucullatus)

- Geneticists and conservationists have joined forces to **re-introduce the Dodo, extinct since the late 17th century.**
- **About Dodo:**
  - **Flightless birds** that were **endemic to the island of Mauritius,** which is east of Madagascar in **Indian Ocean.**
  - **Dodos are related to pigeons and** the closest living relative of the dodo is the **Nicobar pigeon.**
- **Reason for its extinction:**
  - **Deforestation, hunting,** and **destruction of their nests** by animals brought to the island by the Dutch.

Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS)

- **Eastern Ghats Nature Interpretation Centre** inaugurated along the periphery of the **Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary.**
- **About KWS**
  - **Location –**On the outskirts of **Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).**
  - **Forest - Dry evergreen forest mixed** with scrub and meadows. Terrain hilly with steep slopes.
  - **Fauna -** Mammals like **Leopard (Indicator species),** Barking Deer, Jackal, etc.
  - **Flora -** Diverse flora representing **Eastern Ghats** like Bush plum tree, Jungle berry bunches etc.

Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2024

- **India this year further improved its global CCPI ranking** by securing **7th position (last year it was 8th).**
- **About CCPI**
  - Released by **Germanwatch.**
  - CCPI is an **independent monitoring tool** for tracking the climate protection performance.
  - It assesses countries performance in four categories:
    - **GHG emissions** (40% of the overall score),
    - **Renewable energy** (20%),
    - **Energy use** (20%),
    - **Climate policy** (20%).
  - **Top three places** i.e 1-3 are **vacant in CCPI.**
  - Germanwatch also releases **The Global Climate Risk Index.**

Table Top Exercise

- **Indian Army** conducted Table-Top Exercise for **Women Officers of Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).**
- Exercise is part of ongoing efforts of **Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK),**
  - **To strengthen international cooperation** and capacity-building in peacekeeping missions, with specific focus on **empowering women in the field.**
  - **CUNPK is a premier institution of the Indian Army** to impart training in peacekeeping operations.

India-South Korea Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES)

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs has launched India-South Korea EODES.
- **EODES will facilitate implementation of** India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) **by electronic exchange of origin information between two customs administrations for goods traded under CEPA.**
  - It will provide a fresh impetus to **preferential trade between two countries.**

Places in News — 📰 Guyana (Capital: Georgetown)

- Venezuela, Guyana saw tensions over a border dispute around the **Esequibo river,** and an offshore area.
- **Political features**
  - North eastern corner of **South America.**
  - **Not landlocked.**
  - Bordered by **Atlantic Ocean (north), Suriname (east), Brazil (south), and Venezuela (west).**
- **Geographical features**
  - **Mountains:** Acaraí Mountains, Pakaraima Mountains, Kanuku Mountains.
  - **Highest point: Mount Roraima** (2,772 metres).
  - **Main rivers:** Courantyne, Berbice, Demerara, and Essequibo (all empty into Atlantic).