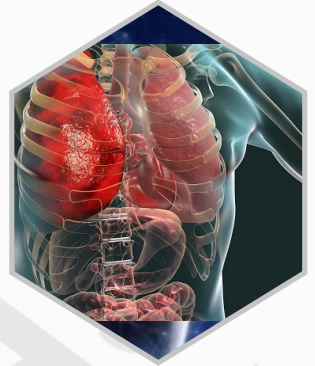


AUGUST 4TH WEEK VITALS COMPILATION

Examine the gender disparities in organ donation and transplantation. What steps have organizations like NOTTO taken to address these issues? (250 Words)

1. **Organ donation** is a **vital part of modern healthcare**, saving lives and improving quality of life for those with **organ failure**.
2. **Global health organizations**, like **NOTTO (India)**, stress the need for **equitable organ donation** and **transplantation systems**.
3. Data reveals **gender disparities** in organ donation practices, affecting **men and women differently** and requiring further attention.



NOTTO's Perspective on Organ Donation

- NOTTO is India's **apex body** for organ donation, advocating **inclusivity** and **gender neutrality** in policies
- It promotes organ donation by **both men and women**, with **no gender-based restrictions**.
- There is a notable **under-representation of women** in organ donation and transplantation in India and globally.
- **NOTTO campaigns** work to raise **public awareness**, focusing on **underrepresented groups** like women.



Gender Disparity in Organ Donation and Transplantation

- **Statistical data** shows **unequal representation** of men and women in **donor** and **recipient** categories.
- **Global studies** reveal that **men** are often **overrepresented** as both **donors** and **recipients**.
- In **India**, **female organ donors** are significantly fewer than **male counterparts**, influenced by **cultural norms**, **societal expectations**, and **low awareness** among women.
- Research indicates **women** are more likely to **donate kidneys** to **family members**, yet are **less likely** to be **living donors** compared to men.
- **Societal expectations** often limit women's roles to **caregivers**, reducing their participation as **decision-makers** in healthcare.
- **Men** have higher chances of receiving **organ transplants** (especially **kidneys**), while **women** remain **underrepresented** as recipients, particularly in regions with **cultural biases** affecting **healthcare access**.



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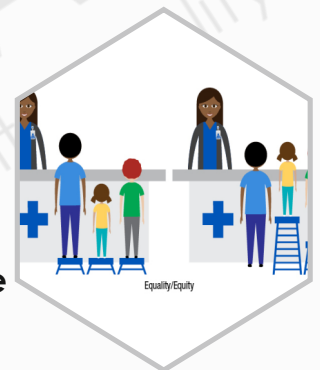
Contributing Factors to Gender Disparity

- In many societies, **traditional gender norms** and **family role expectations** discourage women from participating in **organ donation decisions**, reducing their involvement in the process.
- Limited **knowledge** about the **legal framework**, **procedures**, and **importance** of organ donation among women often leads to lower participation rates.
- Conditions such as **anemia**, **nutritional deficiencies**, and **reproductive health challenges** can make women **medically ineligible** to donate organs.
- **Financial constraints** and **limited healthcare access** in certain regions prevent women from engaging in organ donation or receiving related medical services, widening the **gender gap**.



Conclusion

- **NOTTO** and similar bodies advocate **gender-neutral organ donation policies**, but **gender disparities** persist in the **donation process**.
- Addressing the issue demands a **multi-pronged approach**: **raising awareness**, **removing societal barriers**, and ensuring **equitable healthcare access** for men and women.
- Achieving these goals will foster a **more inclusive** and **effective organ donation system** that serves **all individuals** regardless of **gender**.



Discuss the 130th Constitutional Amendment Bill seeks to enhance ethical standards in governance by mandating the removal of Minister & the scope of misuse under prolonged judicial custody. (250 Words)

- The **Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025**, introduced in the **Lok Sabha** proposes a major shift in India's constitutional framework.
- It seeks to enforce **automatic removal** of the **Prime Minister (PM)**, **Chief Ministers (CMs)**, and other Ministers who remain in **judicial custody** for **30 consecutive days** on charges punishable by a **minimum of five years' imprisonment—even before conviction**.
- While aimed at strengthening **constitutional morality** and **public trust**, the Bill has triggered intense debate over its **necessity**, **scope**, and **potential misuse**.



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Key Provisions

- **Amendments to Articles 75, 164, and 239AA:** Covering Union, State, and Delhi's executive structures.
- **Grounds for Removal:**
 - If a Minister is **arrested and detained for 30 consecutive days**, they are removed on the **31st day**.
 - For PM/CM, failure to resign after such custody leads to **automatic cessation of office**.



Rationale Behind the Bill

- **Constitutional Morality:** Prevents individuals facing **grave criminal charges** from holding executive power.
- **Good Governance:** Avoids **misuse of office** during custody.
- **Closing a Constitutional Gap:** Current law disqualifies convicted legislators but does not mandate **pre-conviction removal** of Ministers.



Arguments in Favour

- **Promoting Governance Hygiene:** Ensures **ethical standards** in public office.
- **Parity with Civil Servants:** Bureaucrats are **suspended upon arrest**; Ministers should meet similar standards.
- **Global Alignment:** Many democracies require **ministerial resignation** upon serious indictment.

Concerns and Risks of Misuse

- **Violation of Natural Justice:** Automatic removal **without conviction** goes against the principle of **"innocent until proven guilty"**.
- **Threat to Federalism:** States ruled by **opposition parties** may become vulnerable to **central intervention**, especially through agencies like the ED, CBI, etc.
- **Politicisation of Investigations:** Arrests could be **orchestrated for political gain**, particularly during elections or times of instability.
- **Separation of Powers:** The amendment allows the **executive to act on arrest**, undermining the **role of the judiciary** in determining guilt.
- **Democratic Backsliding:** Elected leaders being ousted **without trial** could erode **democratic legitimacy** and **empower unelected officials**.



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Opposition Viewpoints

- **Opposition leaders and legal experts** have criticized the Bill as a “**draconian**” measure and have warned against its use to **silence dissent**.
- Critics have labeled it a “**Hitlerian tool**” that could **destabilize opposition-led states** under the guise of ethical governance.



Comparative Perspective

- Globally, **removal upon arrest** is rare; most democracies act **post-conviction**. In India, the **Representation of the People Act, 1951** disqualifies convicted legislators for offences with ≥ 2 years' imprisonment, but **only after judicial determination**.

Way Forward

- **Judicial Oversight**: Mandatory court approval before removal to balance **governance needs** with **individual rights**.
- **Address Criminalisation of Politics**: Bar candidates with **serious charges** from contesting, as recommended by the **Election Commission**.
- **Strengthen Investigative Independence**: Reduce political influence over agencies like the **CBI** and **ED**.



Critically examine the restructuring of GST and the challenges associated while ensuring the sustainability of the GST system?(250 Words)

- The **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**, introduced in 2017, was envisioned as a “**One Nation, One Tax**” framework to replace a complex web of indirect taxes.
- Over time, however, its **multi-slab structure**—with rates of 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28% plus special rates—created **classification disputes**, compliance burdens, and pricing ambiguities.
- To address these challenges, the **Government of India** has been working on simplifying the GST structure to make it more **efficient, transparent, and business-friendly**.



Rationalisation of GST Rate Slabs

The **GST Council**, in its recent meetings, has proposed reducing the number of tax slabs to **two main rates**: a **lower rate** for essential items and a **higher rate** for non-essential or luxury goods. The two preferred **rate slabs** suggested by the government are:

1. **12%** – This would apply to most goods and services, covering a wide range of essential and non-essential items.

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- **2. 28%** – This would primarily cover luxury items and non-essential goods that are priced higher, like automobiles, consumer durables, and high-end electronics.

This approach aims to reduce the **compliance burden** for businesses and tax authorities, simplify classification of goods and services, and increase the ease of doing business in India.

Benefits to Consumers

1. A simpler tax structure will bring **fewer rate fluctuations**, enabling businesses to forecast costs better and potentially reduce prices in the long term.
2. Clearer and more consistent rates improve **cost planning** for businesses, creating a more stable pricing environment for consumers.
3. **Removal of multiple slabs** and adoption of a unified rate will make GST easier to understand, reducing consumer confusion and building **trust** in the tax system.
4. Simplification will encourage **quicker and easier adherence** to tax rules by businesses, lowering administrative burdens.
5. Reduced complexity and better compliance can help curb **tax evasion**, leading to **improved long-term revenues** for the government and strengthening the economy.

Impact on Government Revenue

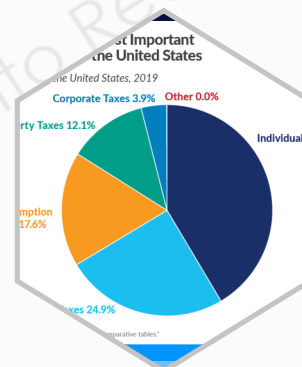
- Simplifying GST with fewer slabs may reduce income for Union and State governments, especially if luxury goods drop from **28% to 12%** tax.
- Removal of exemptions and slab reduction could increase rates on some currently low-taxed goods, affecting their pricing and demand.
- The Council plans to offset any revenue shortfall through strategic measures rather than reversing rate changes.
- These include **improving compliance, expanding the tax base, and tightening enforcement** to plug revenue leakages.
- Technology-driven tax processes and anti-evasion measures are expected to keep **overall collections stable** and sustainable over time

Measures

- To offset potential revenue losses from rate simplification, the government plans to focus on the **broadening of the tax base** and increasing **compliance levels**.
- The introduction of **better technology**, like the **GST Network (GSTN)**, allows for real-time tracking of transactions, making it easier to spot evasion and ensure that all transactions are captured in the tax system.
- Furthermore, the government could **revise the compensation mechanisms** for States if their revenue is adversely affected by the rate changes.
- The **GST Compensation Cess** is already in place, and adjustments to this cess might help address any shortfalls in the short term.



INCOME TAX AUTHORITY



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The imposition of U.S. tariffs has exposed the gender-specific vulnerabilities of India's labour market. In this context, discuss the need for empowering women as economic agents to build a resilient Indian economy. (250 Words)

- Global trade policies often have **uneven domestic impacts**, and the recent **U.S. tariff imposition** on Indian exports is a case in point.
- It not only affects the macroeconomic indicators but also **deepens existing gender disparities**.
- The **disproportionate impact** of such economic shocks on **Indian women**, especially those in **labour-intensive sectors**.



Women in Labour-Intensive Sectors

1. High Female Employment in Export-Driven Industries

- A significant number of women work in sectors like **textiles, garments, handicrafts, and leather goods**.
- These industries are **highly sensitive to global market fluctuations**, including demand shifts and trade policies.
- Female labour forms the **core workforce** in these sectors, especially in **rural and semi-urban regions**.



2. Informal and Precarious Job Conditions

- Most jobs held by women in these sectors are **informal**, meaning they lack formal contracts or legal protections.
- Wages are typically **low**, and workers often **lack access to social security**, health benefits, or job stability.
- This informality makes women **especially vulnerable** to exploitation and sudden unemployment.

3. Impact of Trade Restrictions and Economic Shocks

- These industries are **export-oriented**, so any **external pressure**—like tariffs, trade bans, or global recessions—can drastically reduce demand.
- When exports decline, **women are disproportionately affected**, often being the **first to lose their jobs**.
- The lack of safety nets means job losses can lead to **severe economic hardship** for female workers and their families.



4. Limited Alternatives and Skill Mobility

- Many women in these sectors are **low-skilled**, with limited opportunities to transition into other forms of employment.
- The concentration of female labour in these few industries creates a **dependency trap**, where economic downturns in one sector ripple across entire communities.

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- Without targeted support or retraining programs, these women face **long-term unemployment and poverty risks**.

Policy Mapping

- India's **female labour force participation rate** remains one of the **lowest globally**, despite improvements in **education and health indicators**.
- Social norms, lack of **affordable childcare**, and **inadequate workplace safety** continue to hinder women's sustained economic participation.
- Moreover, women are **overrepresented in informal employment**, which makes them more vulnerable during **economic downturns** or **external shocks**.



Empowering Women as Economic Agents

To build a **resilient and inclusive economy**, women must be seen as **economic stakeholders**, not just dependents. This requires:

- **Gender-sensitive trade and labour policies**
- Expanding **skill development** for high-growth sectors
- Increasing **access to credit** for women entrepreneurs
- Formalizing informal work and ensuring **labour rights**
- Strengthening **social infrastructure** like childcare, transport, and health

Thus, **Empowering women** is not just a matter of justice but a **strategic economic imperative**, for India to achieve **sustainable and equitable growth**.

