



World Organ Donation Day

Why in News?

World Organ Donation Day is observed annually on **13th August** to raise awareness about the life-saving impact of [organ donation](#).

Key Points

- **About:** World Organ Donation Day honors the selfless **contributions of organ donors** and their families, highlighting the urgent need for more public participation.
- **Purpose:** World Organ Donation Day aims to **raise awareness about organ donation**, highlight the critical shortage of organs for transplantation, encourage pledging as organ donors, and pay tribute to donors and their families for enabling life-saving transplants.
- **Theme for 2025:** This year, the theme is "**Answering The Call**," as set by the **Organ Donation and Transplant Alliance**.
 - It recognizes the significant work of healthcare professionals in the field while encouraging greater public involvement in organ donation.
- **Current Statistics:** Over 103,993 people are waiting for organ transplants worldwide, according to the **United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS)**.
- **History of Organ Donation:** The world's first successful organ transplant took place in 1954 when **Ronald Lee Herrick** donated a kidney to his twin brother.
 - The pioneering surgeon, **Dr. Joseph Murray**, received the **Nobel Prize** in Physiology or Medicine in 1990 for his groundbreaking work in organ transplantation.
- **National Organ Day in India:** Initially observed on 27th November since 2010, **National Organ Day in India** was moved to 3rd August in 2023 to commemorate the first successful **deceased-donor heart transplant in India**, which occurred in 1994.

National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO)

- The [NOTTO](#), under the Ministry of Health, was set up as per the **Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act, 2011**.
 - Its National Network division serves as the **apex centre for coordination**, procurement, distribution, and maintenance of the registry of organ and tissue donation and transplantation in India.
 - **5 Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (ROTTOS)** and 14 State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (SOTTOs) were established to strengthen the network at the regional and state levels.