



**TATHASTU**  
Institute Of Civil Services

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## 22nd August 2025



**TATHASTU**  
Institute Of Civil Services



9560300770



[www.tathastuics.com](http://www.tathastuics.com)



[support@tathastuics.com](mailto:support@tathastuics.com)

HEAD OFFICE: 53/1, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, BADA BAZAR ROAD,  
OLD RAJINDER NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110060



**22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025**

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- Lion Tailed Macaque

## 1. Simplified two-rate GST structure gets GoM's nod

### Why in News?

- GST Structure to be simplified

### Syllabus

- GS Paper 3 – Indian Economy

## Simplified two-rate GST structure gets GoM's nod

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**  
NEW DELHI

The Group of Ministers (GoM) on Rate Rationalisation, formed by the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, has decided to accept the Centre's two-rate structure proposal for GST and will be recommending this to the GST Council, the GoM chairperson and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary said on Thursday.

This is the first of two steps the proposals must pass before implementation. The second step would be for the GST Council to accept the changes.

"It was the Centre's proposal to end two slabs of GST, the 12% and 28% slabs," Mr. Choudhary told reporters. "We discussed that proposal and have supported it. We have recommended it, and now the GST Council will decide on this."

### Effective rate

After the rationalisation, the weighted average GST rate (effective rate) is expected to decline from the notional rate of 14.4% in May 2017 to 9.5% in FY26-27\*, according to the SBI Research

May 2017	14.4%
Nov. 2017	12.6%
Jan. 2018	12.2%
July 2018	11.8%
Dec. 2018	11.6%
Sept. 2019	11.6%
FY26-27	9.5%*

\* based on SBI estimates



The Centre has not announced the date of the next GST Council meeting, although it is expected to take place in early September.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Kerala Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal, a member of the GoM, said the proposal from the Union government was not discussed in detail by the GoM.

"The discussion should happen within the GST

Council, and the Council will take a final decision. The GoM has forwarded the proposal of the Centre with some observations that it should discuss the possibility of loss in revenue for the States too. We have suggested that there should be a mechanism to compensate the States," Mr. Balagopal said.

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### Key Highlights

#### Two-Rate GST Structure:

- The GoM has approved the Centre's proposal to simplify the GST structure by retaining just two slabs: 5% and 18%.
- The 12% and 28% slabs will be eliminated, with most items from the 12% slab shifting to 5%, and most from the 28% slab moving to 18%.
- 'Sin' goods such as tobacco and online real-money gaming will be taxed at a higher 40% rate.

#### Revenue Impact for States:

- Kerala's Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal highlighted concerns about potential revenue loss for States.
- The GoM has suggested a compensation mechanism for States to address these concerns.
- The final decision will be made by the GST Council, which will also need to assess the impact on revenue.
- **Prime Minister's Announcement:**
  - ♦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned the next-generation GST reforms as a "Deepavali gift" that would reduce the tax burden on the common man.
  - ♦ The reform aims to simplify the tax structure and reduce the complexity of the existing GST system.

#### Implementation Timeline:

The proposal still needs the GST Council's approval, which is expected in early September.

The proposal involves a significant restructuring of GST slabs, which could affect a wide range of goods and services.

### Prelims PYQ (2018)

#### Q. Consider the following items: [2018]

1. Cereal grains hulled
2. Chicken eggs cooked
3. Fish processed and canned
4. Newspaper containing advertising material

Which of the above items is/are exempted under GST (Goods and Services Tax)?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4





## 2. Should SC sit powerless as Governors block bills: CJI

### Why in News?

- Time limit on Governor's Bills

### Syllabus

- GS Paper 2 – Indian Polity

# Should SC sit powerless as Governors block Bills: CJI

SC is custodian of the Constitution, says CJI; Solicitor-General says the court has encroached into the terrain of law-making; he adds delays in Bills should be handled politically, not via court orders

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**

NEW DELHI

**C**hief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Thursday asked the Union government if the Supreme Court is supposed to suspend its role as the "custodian of the Constitution" and sit powerless while Governors make competent State legislatures defunct and thwart the democratic will of the people by sitting on Bills for years together.

The Chief Justice, heading a Presidential Reference Bench of five judges, referred to how the Tamil Nadu Governor had kept crucial State Bills pending for almost four years without a word explaining why.

The oral observations from the Chief Justice came in response to Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta's submissions for the Union government that the top court, through its April 8 judgment, had encroached into the terrain of law-making and slighted high Constitutional authorities like the Governors and the President by imposing time limits on them.

Suppose a constitutional functionary entrusted with certain functions refuses to discharge those functions without any valid reasons, are the hands of the constitutional courts tied? Are we powerless?

**JUSTICE B.R. GAVAI**  
Chief Justice of India



tor-General Tushar Mehta's submissions for the Union government that the top court, through its April 8 judgment, had encroached into the terrain of law-making and slighted high Constitutional authorities like the Governors and the President by imposing time limits on them.

Mr. Mehta said that inaction on the part of a Constitutional authority like the

Governor was better addressed in the political sphere. The Supreme Court was not the only problem-solver in the country. Every problem cannot be resolved through a judicial order, he said.

The Solicitor-General said the court should stick to its rule declared in the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) judgment that each organ

of governance – the legislature, executive, and judiciary – must stick to its turf.

"We do not intend to micro-manage the government. We will never interfere. But suppose, if a particular function is entrusted to the Governor, and for years together he withholds a Bill, will that also be beyond the power of judicial review of this court... When this Court has in the past set aside the very Constitutional Amendment [The Forty-second Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976], which had limited the power of judicial review as a violation of the Basic Structure, can we say this court is now powerless?" CJI Gavai asked Mr. Mehta.

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### Key Highlights

#### **CJI's Observations:**

CJI Gavai questioned whether the SC should remain passive while Governors block Bills for extended periods, undermining the democratic process.

He referred to Tamil Nadu's Governor, who delayed assent to State Bills for nearly four years, and asked if the SC should not act as the custodian of the Constitution in such situations.

#### **Solicitor-General's Argument:**

The Solicitor-General, Tushar Mehta, defended the Governor's position, arguing that time limits should not apply to Constitutional authorities like Governors and the President.

He asserted that the SC had encroached on lawmaking by imposing time limits on the Governor's actions, which he claimed could have political or democratic reasons for delay.

#### **Judicial Review of Governor's Actions:**

The CJI emphasized that if the SC could annul Constitutional Amendments in the past, it could not be powerless when it comes to judicial review of a Governor's inaction.

He raised the question of whether the SC should allow a Governor's non-action to remain beyond judicial scrutiny.

#### **Time Limits on Governor's Actions:**

The court expressed concerns about Bills being left in limbo if Governors do not act on them for extended periods.

Justice P.S. Narasimha pointed out that while a specific time limit might not be set, there should be some mechanism to ensure that the process of assenting to Bills works and does not result in a "full stop" if the Governor fails to act.

#### **Political vs Judicial Solutions:**

The Solicitor-General argued that issues like delays in assenting to Bills should be resolved politically, as Governors are not directly answerable to the people.

The CJI countered, pointing out that while elected representatives are answerable to the public, Governors, appointed by the Centre, do not have the same level of accountability.

### Prelims PYQ (2001)

Q. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists: [2001]

- A. Article 54 - 1. Election of the President of India  
B. Article 75 - 2. Appointment of the Prime Minister  
C. Article 155 - 3. Appointment of the Governor of a State  
D. Article 164 - 4. Appointment of the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers of a State  
5. Composition of Legislative Assemblies

Codes:

- (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4  
(b) A-1, B-2, C-4, D-5  
(c) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-5  
(d) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3







### 3. What has NOTTO said about organ donations to women?

#### Why in News?

- Organ donations to men and women

#### Syllabus

- GS Paper 2 – Governance & Social Justice

## What has NOTTO said about organ donations to women?

What does data say about organ donations with respect to men and women? Is there a gender disparity?

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**

#### The story so far:

**T**he 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. This is part of a 10-point advisory aimed at addressing gender disparity in organ transplants and encouraging donations.

#### Is there a gender disparity?

An article titled 'India's organ transplant paradox: women donate the most and receive the least' published in the *British Medical Journal* noted that as per data released by NOTTO, 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. The data further said that in the past five years women made 36,038

of the 56,509 living organ donations in India, yet only 17,041 were transplanted into women, while 39,447 went to men.

#### What laws oversee organ donation?

The Central Government has established NOTTO as 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 you develop facilities for organ and tissue retrieval in all trauma centres and register them as organ retrieval centres," the letter said, 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.

#### What is the status of organ donation?

Globally, the 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. Countries with higher awareness and streamlined donor systems have achieved significantly better outcomes, showing what is possible when organ donation becomes a social norm.

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. Even a small increase in organ donation rates could help thousands of patients get a second chance at life," said Sushanth Kulkarni, senior consultant urologist, laparoscopic and renal transplant surgeon at CARE Hospital, Telangana.

Doctors note that lack of awareness, cultural myths, and hesitation to discuss organ donation within families remain the biggest obstacles. But with modern transplantation techniques and effective medicines, recipients can live long and healthy lives. A single donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and enhance many more through tissue donation such as corneas and skin.

#### Are appeals made for organs?

According to information released by the Central Government, any special appeal usually results in more people agreeing to become donors. However, family appeals will not result in an organ immediately becoming available for the person on whose behalf the appeal was made. The patient will still be on the waiting list, just like everyone else, and the rules that govern the matching and allocation of donor organs to recipients still apply.

#### THE GIST

As per data released by NOTTO, 63.8% of all living organ donors from 2019 to 2023 were women.

Globally, the 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.

According to information released by the Central Government, any special appeal usually results in more people agreeing to become donors.

### Key Highlights

#### Gender Disparity in Organ Donation:

Between 2019 and 2023, 63.8% of living organ donors were women. However, 69.8% of the recipients were men.

Women made 36,038 of the 56,509 living organ donations, but only 17,041 of those went to women, while 39,447 went to men.

#### Organ Donation Laws:

The Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, governs organ donation and prohibits the buying or selling of organs.

In 2011, an amendment to the Act introduced donation of human tissues.

Hospitals must be linked to NOTTO to facilitate organ transplants.

#### Organ Donation Status:

Globally, over 1,30,000 organ transplants are performed annually, but it only meets 10% of the worldwide need.

In India, around 1.8 lakh people develop end-stage kidney disease annually, yet only about 12,000 kidney transplants take place each year.





#### 4. Kerala (Digitally Literate State)

- Class Discussion

# 'Kerala India's first fully digitally literate State'

## **The Hindu Bureau**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday declared Kerala the first fully digitally literate State in India, marking the completion of the first phase of the Digi Kerala project, a grass-roots-level intervention across all local bodies to bridge the digital divide.

Following the formal declaration, Mr. Vijayan interacted on a video call with 104-year old M.A. Abdullah Moulavi Baqavi from Asamannoor panchayat in Er-

nakulam district, one of the oldest students who were trained under the Digi Kerala project.

In the surveys carried out among 1.5 crore people from 83.46 lakh families across the State, 21.88 lakh people were identified as digitally illiterate. Out of this, 21.87 lakh people, comprising 99.98% of the participants have completed the training and successfully completed the evaluation. "Kerala has put forward yet another model worth emulating for the country," said Mr. Vijayan.







## 5. Lion Tailed Macaque

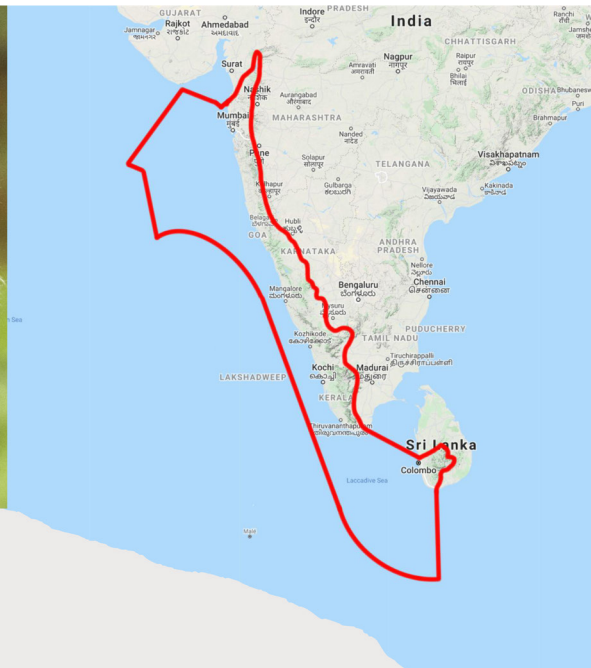
- Class Discussion

### PICTURE OF THE WEEK

#### Just monkeying around



A volunteer of the Nature Conservation Foundation helps lion-tailed macaques cross the road at Puthuthottam on the Pollachi-Valparai Road in Coimbatore district. Lion-tailed macaques were reassessed and classified as an 'endangered' species in the IUCN Red List in 2020. An estimated 2,500 mature individuals are distributed in the Western Ghats hill ranges between the Kalakkad Hills in the south and Sirsi-Honnava in the north. India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, gives lion-tailed macaques the highest conservation priority by listing the species under the Schedule-I. PERIASAMY M.



## 5. Lion Tailed Macaque







**Prelims PYQ (2012)**

**Q. Which one of the following groups of animals belongs to the category of endangered species? (2012)**

- (a) Great Indian Bustard, Musk Deer, Red Panda and Asiatic Wild Ass
- (b) Kashmir Stag, Cheetal, Blue Bull and Great Indian Bustard
- (c) Snow Leopard, Swamp Deer, Rhesus Monkey and Saras (Crane)
- (d) Lion-tailed Macaque, Blue Bull, Hanuman Langur and Cheetal

**Prelims PYQ (2024)**

**Q. Consider the following:**

1. Battery storage
2. Biomass generators
3. Fuel cells
4. Rooftop solar photovoltaic units

How many of the above are considered “Distributed Energy Resources”?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

