

In the light of recent changes in surrogacy rules, examine challenges & opportunities associated with surrogacy

The centre recently amended the Surrogacy Regulation Bill of 2022. In 2023, the Supreme Court in the Drew Muthal case upheld the use of donor gametes which has been amended now.

New rules

* The intending couple facing medical conditions certified by the District Medical Board do not require both the gametes.

* Section 7 of the rules prohibits the use of donor gametes previously.

This new rule is about to make positive changes in the area of surrogacy.

Opportunities

① Supports elder women - as the health and quality of eggs of women will go down past 35 years. The new cloning can fulfill the dreams of becoming a parent.

② Medical disorders - congenital disorders such as the MPKH syndrome patients can opt for donor gametes as they cannot produce eggs and be a child.

③ Benefits single women - widowed and divorced women can opt for surrogacy now but with their own eggs and donor sperm. This move will bring gender equality and dignity of motherhood.

Challenges

* Chances of commercial surrogacy

Presently only altruistic surrogacy is only allowed. Slighting medical conditions can increase the cases of commercial surrogacy.

* Surrogacy for single parents and LGBTQ is silent

* With increased surrogacy there are greater chances that the child inherits the surrogate's immune system.

The new amendment is a welcome step for per couples with medical conditions to have a child. A still more liberal stance would be of much appreciation.

(9:10)