

# NEWS TODAY

## GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

- Russian troops have been **accused of violating Geneva conventions** in ongoing war.
- Geneva Conventions are a set of four treaties** (formalised in 1949) and **three additional protocols**, the first two of which were formalised in 1977 and the third in 2005, which codify widely accepted **ethical and legal international standards for humanitarian treatment of those impacted by any ongoing war**.
  - Geneva Conventions have been **ratified by 196 states, including all UN member states**.
  - Three Protocols have been ratified by 174, 169 and 79 states respectively.

Geneva Convention	What it Covers?
<b>First</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protects <b>wounded and sick soldiers</b> on land during war.</li> <li>Also <b>extends to medical and religious personnel</b>, medical units, and medical transport.</li> </ul>
<b>Second</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Protects wounded, sick and shipwrecked military personnel</b> at sea during war.</li> <li>Also <b>extends to hospital ships and medical transports</b> by sea.</li> </ul>
<b>Third</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applies to <b>prisoners of war</b>, including a wide range of general protections such as humane treatment, maintenance and equality across prisoners etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Fourth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Protects civilians</b>, including those in occupied territory.</li> </ul>
<b>Three Additional Protocols</b>	
<b>Protocol I and II</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They <b>strengthen the protection of victims of international</b> (Protocol I) <b>and non-international</b> (Protocol II) <b>armed conflicts</b> and place limits on the way wars are fought.</li> </ul>
<b>Protocol III</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Created an additional emblem, the Red Crystal</b>, which has the same international status as the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems.</li> </ul>

## DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS (DOP) RELEASED APPROACH PAPER FOR DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE MEDICAL DEVICES, 2022

- Draft policy aims to **facilitate growth of medical device sector** (popularly called as MedTech Sector) to meet the objectives of **accessibility, affordability, safety and quality**, while ensuring focus on self-sustainability and innovation.
  - Sector is expected to grow from the **present 11 Bn USD to 50 Bn USD by 2025**.
- Salient features of the draft policy**
  - Regulatory streamlining** to optimize regulatory processes and multiplicity of agencies for enhanced ease of doing business, along with harmonization with global standards.
  - Building Competitiveness through fiscal and financial support** for stimulating development of local manufacturing ecosystem.
  - Quality Standards and Safety of the Devices**
  - Infrastructure Development** to provide best-in-class physical foundation, including medical devices parks, to improve cost competitiveness.
  - Facilitating R&D and Innovation** with a focus on enhanced collaboration, global partnerships, and joint ventures among key stakeholders.
  - Human Resource Development** to ensure relevant curriculum at higher education level, creation of future-ready HR across the innovation value chain.

### Medical Device sector in India

- It is a **multi-product sector**, with the following broad classifications: **Electronics Equipment; Implants; Consumables and Disposables; IVD (In Vitro Diagnostic) reagents; and Surgical Instruments**.
- Among **top 20 global medical devices market** and **4<sup>th</sup> largest medical devices market in Asia**.
- Share in global medical device market** is estimated to be 1.5%.

## CENSUS NEW RULES NOTIFIED

- Union government has amended **Census Rules, 1990**, to include **"electronic form"** and **"self-enumeration"** in the schedule of questions to be asked during census enumeration.
  - It will allow **online self-enumeration in the upcoming Census and National Population Register (NPR)**.
    - NPR is a **Register of usual residents of the country**. Its objective is to create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country.
  - Section 8 of Census Act, 1948**, gives powers to the enumerator to ask questions regarding the Census and makes it obligatory for respondents to answer, with certain exceptions.
- Also, **"print media, electronic media, social media"**, have been added to the list of modes for ensuring wide publicity for the exercise. Earlier list only included radio, audio-visuals and posters.
- Earlier, first phase of Census 2021, and NPR exercise scheduled to be held in 2020 was **postponed indefinitely due to Covid-19**.
- Population Census is process of collecting, compiling, analyzing, disseminating **demographic, economic and social data** pertaining, at a specific time, **of all persons in a country or a part of a country**.
  - Conducted by: **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner under Ministry of Home Affairs**.

### CENSUS HISTORY

- A systematic and modern population census, in its present form was **conducted non synchronously between 1865 and 1872** in different parts of the country.
- This effort culminating in 1872 has been popularly labeled as the **first population census of India**.
- However, the **first synchronous census in India was held in 1881**. Since then, censuses have been undertaken uninterruptedly once every ten years.

## SAMPLE REGISTRATION SYSTEM (SRS) BULLETIN ON MATERNAL MORTALITY IN INDIA (2017-19) RELEASED

- SRS bulletin is brought out by **office of Registrar General of India**, Ministry of Home Affairs.
  - It initiated the **scheme of sample registration of births and deaths in India** popularly known as SRS in 1964-65 on a pilot basis and on full scale from 1969-70.

### Key Highlights

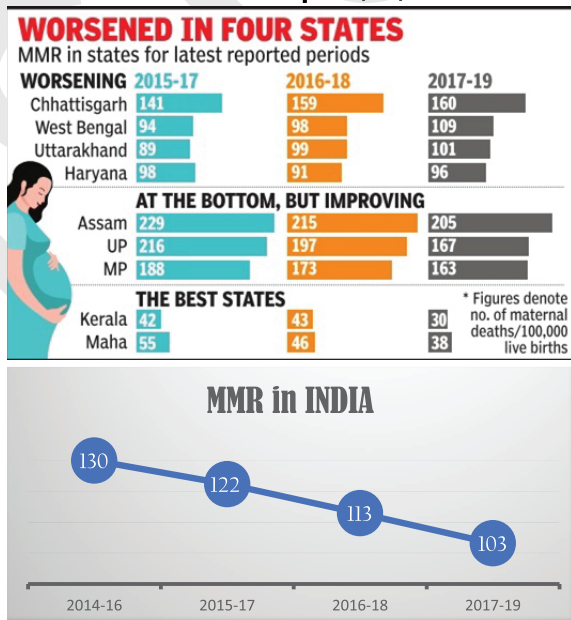
- Kerala** tops with **lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 30**. **National MMR is 103**.
  - MMR is derived as proportion of **maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births**.

- Populous states like **UP, Rajasthan and Bihar** showed huge improvement.
- Assam, UP and Madhya Pradesh** continue to be the states with high MMR.

- India is **set to achieve SDG of bringing MMR to 70 well** before target year of 2030.

### Steps taken to Accelerate Pace of Reduction for MMR

- Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram**, where every pregnant woman is entitled to free delivery, including caesarean section in public health institutions.
- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan** to provide antenatal care.
- '**LaQshya - Labor room Quality improvement Initiative**'.
- Reproductive, Maternal, New Born Child Health and Adolescent (RMNCH+A) services**.
- Over 10 lakhs **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs)** have been engaged.



## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REPORT ON UNIFIED DISTRICT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR EDUCATION PLUS (UDISE+) 2020-21

- UDISE, integrating DISE for elementary and secondary education, was **one of the largest Management Information Systems on School Education**. It was initiated in 2012-13.
- UDISE+ is an updated version** (developed in 2018-19) of UDISE to overcome **problems associated with the previous practice of manually filling data** in paper format and feeding it **onto computers**.

- Under UDISE+ **entire system is online with real-time data collection**.

### Key Findings

- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** which measure general level of participation has improved in 2020-21 (25.38 Crore) at all levels of school education compared to 2019-20 (25.10 Crore).
- Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR)** stood at 26 for primary, 19 for upper primary, 18 for secondary and 26 for higher secondary, showing an improvement since 2018-19.
- Over 12.2 crore girls are enrolled** in primary to higher secondary showing an increase of 11.8 lakh girls compared to 2019-20.
- Impact of COVID-19 pandemic:** 39.7 lakh students of government aided, private school students shifted to Government schools during 2020-21.
- School infrastructure:** Percentage of schools with functional girl's toilet facility, drinking water, hand wash facilities, internet facility etc has increased in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20.


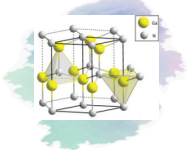


# DRAFT NOTIFICATION ISSUED FOR REGISTRATION AND FUNCTIONS OF VEHICLE SCRAPPING FACILITY (VSF)

- Issued by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, it amends the **Motor Vehicles (Registration and Functions of Vehicle Scrapping Facility) Rules 2021**, which lay down procedure for establishment of Registered VSF.
- Key highlights of amendments**
  - > All **applications for vehicle scrapping** shall be submitted digitally.
  - > **Necessary checks to be done from Vahan database** before submission of application by owner including surrender of hire-purchase, no criminal record against the vehicle etc.
- Last year, government launched **Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernisation Program** (Vehicle Scrapping Policy) aimed at **creating an ecosystem for phasing out old unsafe, polluting vehicles** and replacing them with newer safe and fuel-efficient vehicles.
- Intended benefits of Vehicle Scrappage Policy**
  - > **Reduce pollution:** There are about 50 lakh light motor vehicles which are over 20 years old in India, which are major cause of vehicular pollution in our country.
  - > **Safety:** These vehicles feature old technology and this means they compromise on safety as well.
  - > **Promote circular economy** by recycling materials like steel, plastic and copper. These materials will be reused and as a result will reduce costs.

## ALSO IN NEWS

 <p><b>International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Justice of India laid the <b>foundation stone for construction of new building of IAMC in Hyderabad.</b></li> <li>It is <b>India's first IAMC for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).</b></li> <li>ADR refers to <b>any method of resolving disputes without litigation.</b> The most famous ADR methods include- mediation, arbitration, conciliation, negotiation, and transaction.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A seminar on 25 years of TRAI Act was held recently.</li> <li><b>About TRAI Act</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Entry of private sector</b> in telecommunication sector <b>necessitated an independent regulatory body.</b></li> <li>&gt; <b>Act established TRAI</b> which was also <b>empowered to adjudicate upon disputes</b> among Service Providers or between the Service Providers and a group of Consumers.</li> <li>&gt; In 2000, act was <b>amended and TDSAT (Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal) was set up</b> to adjudicate disputes and dispose of appeals.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Extraordinarily active patent filing activity seen during the Pandemic</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Findings are part of a <b>report by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).</b></li> <li><b>Major findings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; In the first 21 months of pandemic, <b>close to 5,300 patent applications related to COVID were filed.</b></li> <li>&gt; <b>Top four applicants are:</b> China, U.S., Russian Federation, and U.K.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Germany, India, and Republic of Korea are jointly 5th</b> in the ranking.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Highest numbers</b> of patent filings were <b>related to conventional vaccine technologies</b> and repurposed drugs, followed by more-novel vaccine technologies like mRNA.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) new provision for testing un-hallmarked jewellery</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It will <b>allow consumers to get purity of their unhallmarked gold jewellery tested</b> at any of the BIS recognized Assaying and Hallmarking Centres (AHCs). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; AHC shall <b>undertake the testing of gold jewellery and issue</b> the test report.</li> <li>&gt; Every item of jewellery will be issued a <b>Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) number</b> (six-digit Alphanumeric code) at the moment of hallmarking.</li> </ul> </li> <li>BIS is <b>National Standard Body of India</b> established under BIS Act 2016 for the <b>harmonious development of the activities of standardization</b>, marking and quality certification of goods.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the Challenge <b>under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; AMRUT 2.0 was launched <b>with aim of making the cities 'water secure'</b> and 'self-sustainable' through circular economy of water.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Under this, <b>Government will select 100 start-ups across the country</b> to empower sustainable economic growth and generate employment opportunities <b>in the water or used water sector.</b></li> </ul>



 <p><b>Vigil mission</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formerly known as "Lagrange mission", It is a <b>European Space Agency's (ESA) mission to monitor Sun.</b></li> <li>• It <b>will give advance warning of oncoming solar storms</b> and therefore more time to protect spacecraft in orbit, infrastructure on the ground and explorers.</li> <li>• It will be launched in the mid-2020s and will be placed in the <b>5th Lagrange point orbit.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lagrange points are <b>positions in space where objects sent there tend to stay put</b> as gravitational forces of a two body system (like Sun and Earth) equal the force required for a small object to move with them.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Gallium Nitride (GaN)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union Minister visited <b>Gallium Nitride Ecosystem Enabling Centre and Incubator facility</b> Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bengaluru. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The facility has been jointly set up by <b>Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and IISc Bengaluru.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• GaN is a <b>very hard, mechanically stable</b> semiconductor.</li> <li>• With <b>higher breakdown strength, faster switching speed, higher thermal conductivity</b> and lower on-resistance, power devices based on GaN <b>significantly outperform silicon-based devices.</b></li> <li>• It is <b>used in production of semiconductor power devices</b> and light-emitting diodes (LEDs).</li> <li>• It is expected to play a <b>key role in enabling e-vehicles and wireless communication.</b></li> </ul>
 <p><b>Halari Donkey</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying</b> called for a roadmap for conservation of Halari breed of Donkey.</li> <li>• <b>About Halari Donkey</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Native to <b>Saurashtra region of Gujarat.</b></li> <li>➤ Currently it is in a <b>threatened state</b> and requires immediate steps towards conservation to <b>reverse the declining trend in the population</b> (Numbers declined <b>from 1200 in 2015 to 439</b> in 2021-22 in its native tract).</li> <li>➤ <b>Challenges in conservation:</b> Unavailability of Halari Donkey male for breeding, disincentives to rearers with no avenues for streamlining the livelihoods (based on donkey milk).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PM dedicated a building of RRU to the nation</b> and delivered its first Convocation address.</li> <li>• RRU, which is <b>an Institution of National Importance</b>, was set up by upgrading the Raksha Shakti University which was established by Government of Gujarat in 2010.</li> <li>• RRU was set up <b>to meet the need for high quality trained manpower in various wings of policing, criminal justice</b> and correctional administration.</li> <li>• RRU <b>offers academic programs from diploma to doctorate level</b> in various areas of policing and internal security such as police science and management, criminal law and justice, cyber psychology etc.</li> </ul>



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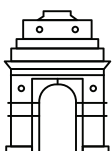
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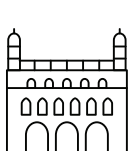
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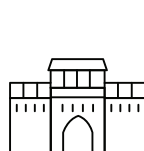
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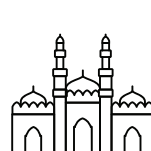
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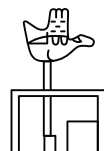
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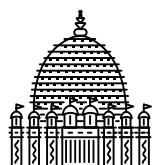
PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI