

# NEWS TODAY

## WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION RELEASES NEW GUIDELINES FOR SAFE ABORTIONS

- Objective of guidelines is to ensure that as **pregnant women move through abortion care pathway** (pre-abortion, abortion and post-abortion care), health services must ensure that **service delivery meets their needs equitably and without discrimination.**
- Key guidelines**
  - **Full decriminalization** of abortion.
  - Recommend against laws and regulations that **restrict abortion by grounds or based on gestational age limits.**
  - Providing provision of **access to quality of information** and counselling.
  - Recommend **against mandatory waiting periods** for abortion,
  - Recommend that **abortion be available on the request of the woman without the authorization** of any other individual, body or institution.
- About abortions**
  - **Around 45% of all abortions in world are unsafe, of which 97% take place in developing countries.**
  - Unsafe abortion is a **leading but preventable cause of maternal deaths and morbidities.** It can lead to **physical and mental health complications and social and financial burdens for women, communities and health systems.**
  - Lack of access to safe, timely, affordable and respectful abortion care is a **critical public health and human rights issue.**



### Steps taken by India to control unsafe abortions:

- **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act 2021** empower women by providing comprehensive abortion care to all.
- **RMNCH+A (Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health)** program under National Health Mission provides comprehensive abortion care services (CACS).
- **Guidelines on CACS and Medical Methods of Abortions (MMA)** have been provided to all States.

## MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS RELEASES GUIDELINES FOR THE SCHEME STRENGTHENING OF PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY (SPI)

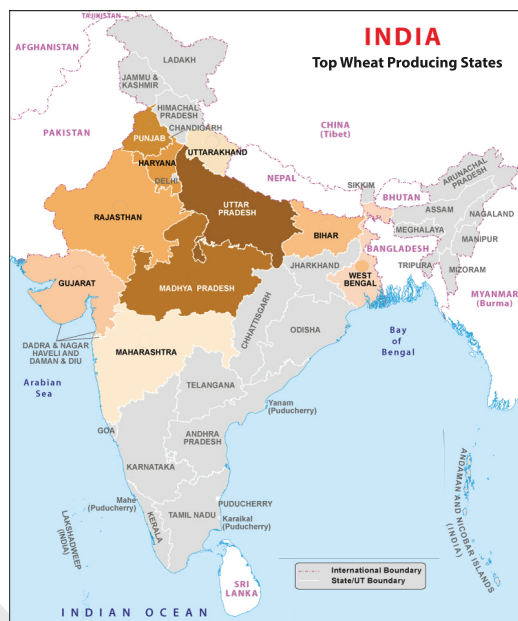
- Scheme's objective is to **strengthen the existing infrastructure facilities** to make India a global leader in the **Pharma Sector.**
  - **Financial assistance to pharma** clusters will be provided for creation of common facilities.
  - To upgrade the production facilities of SMEs and MSMEs, **interest subvention or capital subsidy on their capital loans will be provided.**
  - **Financial outlay** is Rs.500 Cr for the period from FY 21-22 to FY 25-26.
- Scheme has 3 components / sub-schemes:**

<b>Assistance to Pharmaceutical Industry for Common Facilities</b>	Strengthen the <b>existing pharmaceutical clusters' capacity</b> for their sustained growth by creating common facilities.
<b>Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme</b>	<b>Facilitate MSMEs</b> of proven track record to meet national and international regulatory standards.
<b>Pharmaceutical &amp; Medical Devices Promotion and Development Scheme</b>	Facilitate <b>growth and development of Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Sectors</b> through study/survey reports, awareness programs, creation of database, and promotion of industry.

- Pharmaceutical sector in India:**
  - Indian pharmaceutical industry is world's **3rd largest by volume** and **14th largest in terms of value.**
  - India is the **largest provider of generic drugs globally.**

# RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT: INDIA'S WHEAT EXPORTS EXPECTED TO EXCEED 10MT THIS FISCAL YEAR

- Wheat exports from India are expected to grow exponentially in the backdrop of Russia-Ukraine war as **wheat crop from India will be available from early March** as compared to other global wheat producers.
  - Russia and Ukraine together account for a **quarter** of global wheat supply.
  - So far, wheat exports from India have crossed historical high of 6.5 million tonnes achieved earlier in 2012-13 fiscal. This year, **it is expected to exceed 10mt**.
- About Wheat**
  - It is the **main cereal crop in India grown in the rabi (winter) season**.
  - India is the **world's second- largest producer (China, first largest)** of the wheat.
- Climate requirement**
  - Can be grown in **tropical and sub-tropical zones and also in temperate zone and cold tracts** of far north.
  - Requires **cool, moist weather during the major portion of the growing period** followed by dry, warm weather to enable the grain to ripen properly.
  - Optimum temperature range: **20-25 C**.
  - During heading and flowering stages, **excessively high or low temperatures and drought** are harmful to wheat.
  - Soils with a **clay loam or loam texture, good structure and moderate water holding capacity** are ideal for wheat cultivation.



As of 2021, Punjab is the leading producer of wheat followed by Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

## US WARNS RUSSIA ON USAGE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN RUSSIAN - UKRAINE WAR

- Warning was disseminated by US in the backdrop of **Russia convening an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council** whereby it **accused US and Ukraine of developing biological and chemical weapons**.

Chemical Weapons	Biological weapons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These are <b>any kind of munitions that carry toxins or chemical substances</b> that attack the body's system. It includes               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Choking agents like phosgene which attack the lungs and respiratory system;</b></li> <li><b>Blister agents</b>, like mustard gas, which burns the skin and blinds people and</li> <li><b>Nerve agents</b>, which interfere with the brain's messages to the body's muscles.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Developing, producing, acquiring, stockpiling, or retaining chemical weapons is prohibited under <b>Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)</b>.</li> <li>CWC was entered into force in 1997 and has <b>193 states-parties (including India)</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biological weapons are those which <b>disseminate disease-causing organisms or toxins to harm or kill humans, animals or plants</b>.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They <b>generally consist of two parts</b> – a weaponized agent and a delivery mechanism.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapons is <b>prohibited under Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)</b>.</li> <li>It <b>entered into force in 1975</b>. It <b>supplements the 1925 Geneva Protocol</b>, which had prohibited the use of biological weapons.</li> <li>It currently has <b>183 States Parties</b> (including India).</li> </ul>






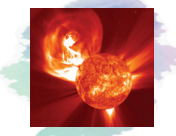
## SPACE JUNK JUST DUG BIG NEW CRATER ON MOON, ASTRONOMERS SAY




- It was the **first unintentional case of space junk hitting the moon surface** that created a new crater (around 65 feet wide) on Moon.
  - Piece of space junk was **part of Chang'e 5-T1** – a lunar mission launched by the China.
- Craters on the moon are of a more permanent nature** than those on earth. This is because:
  - Absence of atmosphere** means there is no wind system on moon, and hence no cause for erosion of existing craters.
  - Absence of tectonics prevents the moon's surface from forming new rocks**, or causing a shift in the existing surface patterns.
  - Absence of volcanism** makes it impossible for craters to be covered.
- Space debris**, also called **space junk**, artificial material that is orbiting Earth but is no longer functional.
  - This material can be as **large as discarded rocket stage or as small as a microscopic chip of paint**.
  - Space debris **orbits around the earth at 25,265 kph** in low Earth orbit.
- Risk Associated with Space Debris:** Astronaut suits/equipment are not designed to deal with it; re-entering into the earth may pose risk to life, Increase the cost of operation etc.

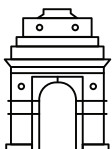
### Kessler Syndrome

- It is a phenomenon in which the **amount of junk in orbit around Earth reaches a point where it just creates more and more space debris**, causing big problems for satellites, astronauts and mission planners.

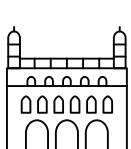
## ALSO IN NEWS

 <p><b>National Youth Parliament</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently, National Youth Parliament Festival -2022 was held.</li> <li>About the <b>National Youth Parliament</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organised under <b>Ministry of Parliamentary affairs</b>, objective is to strengthen the roots of democracy, inculcate discipline, tolerance and to <b>enable students to learn about practices and procedures of Parliament</b>.</li> <li>Programme envisages <b>Kishore Sabha</b> for the students of Class IX to Class XII and <b>Tarun Sabha</b> for the students of Under Graduate/ Post Graduate level.</li> <li>It is in <b>existence since 1966</b>, but recently to increase coverage, a web portal has been established.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>37th Foundation Day celebrations NCRB was observed.</li> <li><b>About NCRB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NCRB, part of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) was set up in 1986 to function as a <b>repository of information on crime and criminals</b> so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.</li> <li>It was <b>recommended by Tandon Committee, National Police Commission (1977-1981), and the MHA's Taskforce (1985)</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Its major publications:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crime in India</li> <li>Accidental Deaths &amp; Suicides in India</li> <li>Prison Statistics India</li> <li>Finger Prints in India</li> <li>Report on missing women and children in India</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>CAQM</b> has directed all the industrial units in National Capital Region (NCR) to shift to PNG or biomass fuels by September 2022.</li> <li>CAQM is a <b>statutory body</b> established for <b>Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas in 2020</b>.</li> <li><b>Functions of CAQM:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Coordinate actions</b> on monitoring of air quality.</li> <li><b>Planning and executing</b> plans to prevent and control air pollution in the NCR.</li> <li><b>Conduct research and development</b> through networking with technical institutions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Xenotransplantation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A person on whom <b>Xenotransplantation was done, scummed to death in 2 months</b>.</li> <li><b>About Xenotransplantation -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It involves the transplantation, implantation, or <b>infusion into a human recipient of live cells, tissues, or organs from a nonhuman animal source</b>.</li> <li><b>Pigs are increasingly being used for this, as their organs are anatomically similar to those of humans</b> and are more tuned for genetic engineering.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Concerns involved</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Medical implications</b> as sometimes even human donor organ transplantation is <b>unacceptable to body</b>.</li> <li>Issue of animal rights, and of faith and religion.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Sickle cell anaemia</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sickle cell anaemia is an <b>inherited blood disorder</b> is highly prevalent among the tribes in South Indian States.</li> <li>It <b>affects the shape of red blood cells</b>, which carry oxygen to all parts of the body.</li> <li>People with this disease have a <b>typical hemoglobin molecule called hemoglobin S</b>, which can distort red blood cells into a sickle, or crescent, shape.</li> <li><b>Liver, heart, kidneys, gallbladder, eyes, bones, and joints can suffer damage</b> from the abnormal function of the sickle cells.</li> <li><b>Stem cell or bone marrow transplants are the only cure for this disease</b>, but they involve significant risks.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian researchers have developed a simple image-processing technique to unravel the <b>dynamics of Solar Corona which can help detect CME better</b>.</li> <li>CMEs are <b>large expulsions of plasma and magnetic field</b> from the Sun's corona.</li> <li>They can <b>eject billions of tons of coronal material</b> and carry an embedded magnetic field that is stronger than the background solar wind interplanetary magnetic field strength. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When charged particles from a CME reach area near Earth, <b>they can trigger intense lights in the sky, called auroras</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

 <p><b>Sahitya Akademi Awards presented</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awards are given to <b>Indian citizens</b> for the most outstanding books of literary merit <b>published in India in the last 5 years.</b></li> <li>It covers the <b>22 languages</b> enumerated in Constitution of India, and <b>English and Rajasthani languages.</b></li> <li>The winners will be <b>honoured with an engraved copper plaque, a shawl, and prize money of Rs 1 lakh.</b></li> <li><b>Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters,</b> is the central institution for literary dialogue, publication and promotion in the country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Set up in 1954, <b>it is registered as a society under Societies Registration Act, 1860.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>GI-tagged Kashmir carpets</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First ever Geographical Indication (GI) tagged Kashmir carpets flagged off to Germany.</li> <li>Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade granted <b>GI tag to Kashmiri hand knotted carpets in 2016</b> but the registered carpets were certified from this year.</li> <li>History of Kashmiri carpet dates back to the <b>period of the famous Sufi Saint and scholar, Hazrat Mir Syed Ali Hamdani (1341- 1385 AD)</b> of Persia.</li> <li>Kashmiri carpets are <b>very similar to Iranian carpets,</b> but in Kashmiri carpets weavers <b>use a written set of codes and symbols for design patterns and colors, called Taleem.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Taleem, a coded color chart</b> indicates the number of knots to be woven in their respective colors.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Santhali Sohrai mural</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Santhali communities of Odisha and Jharkhand are <b>changing their ways of painting Sohrai murals.</b></li> <li><b>About Sohrai mural art</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; It is painted on the <b>mud wall and is a matriarchal tradition</b> handed down from mother to daughter.</li> <li>&gt; Usually either <b>monochromatic or colorful,</b> with the use of <b>natural pigments mixed in mud.</b></li> <li>&gt; The red line is drawn first as it represents the '<b>blood of the ancestors</b>', procreation, and fertility.</li> <li>&gt; It is <b>performed during marriage and harvest seasons.</b></li> <li>&gt; It is continued since 10,000-4,000 BC which was prevalent into caves' structure.</li> <li>&gt; In 2020, Jharkhand received a <b>Geographical Indication tag for its Sohrai art.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



**DELHI**



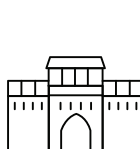
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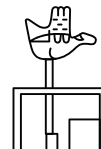
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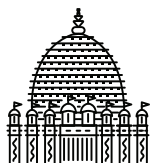
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