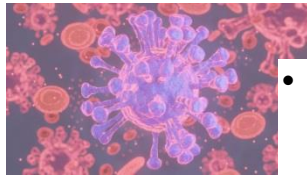


H3N2 INFLUENZA

Recently, the Health Ministry confirmed that at least two people have succumbed to the H3N2 subtype of seasonal influenza in India.



About H3N2 influenza:

- **Influenza A H3N2** is a **seasonal virus** and the occurrence of influenza infections normally peaks during season changes.
- **Symptoms-** Fever, body ache, sore throat, cough, runny/blocked nose and a few shortness of breath.
- It can spread from person to person and while anyone can get infected- older, adults and younger children are at a higher risk from H3N2.
- The **method of testing** for H3N2 is also **similar to COVID-19 testing** – RTPCR.
- There is a **vaccine for seasonal flu that also covers H3N2**.

Seasonal influenza:

- According to WHO, seasonal influenza is an **acute respiratory infection** caused by influenza viruses.
- There are **4 types of seasonal influenza viruses**, types - A, B, C and D. In which Influenza viruses **A, B, and C** can infect humans.
- Influenza A viruses are further classified into subtypes according to the combinations of **the hemagglutinin (HA) and the neuraminidase (NA), the proteins** on the surface of the virus.
- There are 18 different subtypes of HA, which are numbered H1 through H18. Similarly, there are 11 different subtypes of NA, numbered N1 through N11.



BAAL SWARAJ PORTAL

Recently Women and Child Development Minister introduced about Baal Swaraj portal in Rajya Sabha.

- It is a portal launched by NCPCR for **online tracking and digital real-time monitoring** mechanism of **children in need of care and protection**.

- The portal has two functions- **COVID care and CiSS.**
- **COVID Care** link caters to the children who have lost either or both parents due to COVID-19 or otherwise post March 2020.
- **CiSS-** to help in the rehabilitation process of **Children in Street Situations.**
- Portal also provides a platform for professionals and organizations to provide any help for children in need in the form of open shelters, counselling services, medical services, de-addiction services, education services, volunteering etc.
- It has been launched under a centrally sponsored scheme namely **Mission Vatsalya.**

Mission Vatsalya:

- Mission Vatsalya scheme (**erstwhile Integrated Child Protection Scheme**) **launched in 2009-10** for supporting the children in difficult circumstances.
- **Vision:** To secure a healthy & happy childhood for each and every child in India, ensure opportunities to enable them to discover their full potential and assist them in flourishing in all respects.
- **Components** under Mission Vatsalya include:
 - Improve functioning of statutory bodies;
 - Strengthen service delivery structures;
 - Upscale institutional care/services;
 - Encourage non-institutional community-based care;
 - emergency outreach services;
 - Training and capacity building
- **Implementing Agency:** The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
- **Nodal Ministry:** Women and Child Development Ministry.

NIPUN BHARAT



Recently, Women and Child Development Minister introduced about NIPUN BHARAT in Rajysabha.

- It has been launched as a National Mission called “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)” in 2021.

- **Aim:** To ensure that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.
- A **five-tier implementation mechanism** will be set up at the National- State- District- Block- School level in all States and UTs, under the aegis of the **centrally sponsored** scheme of **Samagra Shiksha**.
- It is one of the components of the NEP 2020.
- **Implementing agency:** The Department of School Education & Literacy, **Ministry of Education**.

TOO-BIG-TO-FAIL BANKS: WHAT ARE THEY AND WHAT MAKES INDIAN BANKS SAFE?

Why in News?

- A decade and a half after the global financial crisis 2008, Indian banks remained unaffected by the other bank failures (SVB, Signature Bank) in the US recently, despite the global interconnectedness in the financial sector.
- The article emphasises how secure Indian banks are in the age of startups and digitisation, particularly the **domestic systemically significant banks (D-SIBs)/Too-Big-To-Fail banks** that have operations abroad.

How Indian Banking Differs from Others?

- In banking, confidence is important and no amount of capital will save a bank if the trust is lost.
- During the 2008 crisis triggered by the collapse of investment bank Lehman Brothers, **domestic banks in India backed by sound regulatory practices** showed strength and resilience.
- A reason why an SVB-like failure is unlikely in India is that **domestic banks have a different balance sheet structure**.
- Unlike the US, where a large portion of bank deposits are from corporates, **household savings** constitute a major part of bank deposits in India, which cannot be withdrawn in bulk quantities.
- A **large chunk of Indian deposits is with public sector banks**, and most of the rest is with very strong private sector lenders such as HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank.

- Customers need not worry about their savings, as **the government and the regulators (SEBI, RBI) have always stepped in** when banks have faced difficulties. For example, the rescue of **Yes Bank** where a lot of liquidity support was provided.

What are D-SIBs?

- A bank is considered a D-SIB **if its failure might seriously disrupt the financial system** due to the bank's size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity, lack of substitutability and interconnectedness.
- Under the **D-SIB framework** announced by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in **2014**, the central bank was required to -
 - Disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs, and
 - Place them in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs).
- Depending on the bucket in which a D-SIB is placed, **an additional common equity requirement [Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1)] is applicable to it.**
 - **Tier 1 capital** (measured by the capital adequacy ratio (CAR)) is the core measure of a bank's financial strength from a regulator's point of view.
- It means that these banks have to **earmark additional capital and provisions** to safeguard their operations.
- RBI has classified **SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank** as D-SIBs.

TOO BIG TO FAIL		
Bucket	Banks	Additional common equity tier 1 norms as % of RWAs
5	—	1
4	—	0.8
3	SBI	0.6
2	—	0.4
1	ICICI	0.2

• Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) classified into five grades (buckets)
 • RBI to announce list every August starting this year
 • Banks will have to fulfill extra capital requirement norms (common equity tier 1 capital)
 • Banks must meet the extra norms in three years by April 1, 2019
 • Common equity tier 1 capital used comprises a bank's equity capital, retained earnings and share premium

**RWAs: Risk weighted assets*

- Similarly, the Basel - Switzerland-based **Financial Stability Board (FSB)**, an initiative of **G20** nations, has identified, in consultation with the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS), a list of G-SIBs.

- **There are 30 G-SIBs currently** (no Indian bank), including JP Morgan, Citibank, HSBC, Bank of America, Bank of China, Barclays, BNP Paribas, Deutsche Bank, and Goldman Sachs.

RESERVATION FOR WOMEN IN POLITICS

- Recently, more than 10 political parties participated in a protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi seeking early passage of the long-pending **Women's Reservation Bill**.

History of Political Reservation for Women:

- The issue of reservation for women in politics can be traced back to the Indian national movement.
- In 1931, leaders **Begum Shah Nawaz** and **Sarojini Naidu** wrote, “**To seek any form of preferential treatment would be to violate the integrity of the universal demand of Indian women for absolute equality of political status.**”
 - This was written in their letter to the British Prime Minister, on the status of women in the new Constitution by three women’s bodies.
- The issue of women’s reservation came up in Constituent Assembly debates as well, but it was rejected as being unnecessary.
 - It was assumed that a democracy would accord representation to all groups.
- However, in the following decades, it became clear that this was not to be the case.
- As a consequence, women’s reservation became a recurrent theme in policy debates.

Reservation for Women in Local Bodies:

- The **National Perspective Plan for Women** recommended in 1988 that reservation be provided to women right from the level of the panchayat to that of Parliament.
- These recommendations paved the way for the historic enactment of the **73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution** which mandate all State governments to reserve –
 - One-third of the seats for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions and
 - One-third of the offices of the chairperson at all levels of the Panchayati Raj Institutions, and in urban local bodies.
 - Within these seats, one-third are reserved for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe women.
- Many States such as Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Kerala have made legal provisions to ensure 50% reservation for women in local bodies.

What is the Women’s Reservation Bill?

- The Women’s Reservation Bill **proposes to reserve 33% of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for women.**
- It was first introduced in the Lok Sabha as the 81st Amendment Bill in September 1996.

- The Bill failed to get the approval of the House and lapsed with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.
- The Bill was reintroduced in 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003 and 200. However, the Bill failed to receive majority votes.

How many women are in Parliament?

- **Only about 14% of the members in Indian Parliament are women**, the highest so far.
- According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, **India has a fewer percentage of women in the lower House than its neighbors** such as Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh — a dismal record.

BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA PERMITS FOREIGN LAWYERS AND LAW FIRMS TO PRACTICE IN INDIA

Why in news?

- The Bar Council of India (BCI) has allowed foreign lawyers and law firms to practise law in India on a reciprocity basis.
- In this regard, the BCI had notified the Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022.
- BCI had earlier opposed the move.

What is Bar Council of India (BCI)?

- The BCI is a statutory body established under the **Advocates Act, 1961**, and it regulates legal practice and legal education in India.
- BCI regulates legal professional standards in India including directing the state bar councils, standardizing law education, and course framework at the universities and law colleges in India.
- It also conducts the All India Bar Examination to grant 'Certificate of Practice' to advocates practicing law in India.
- BCI also funds welfare schemes for economically weaker and physically handicapped advocates.

News Summary:

- Recently, the BCI notified in the official gazette the Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022.

What do the new rules allow?

- According to the Advocates Act, advocates enrolled with the Bar Council alone are entitled to practise law in India.
- All others, such as a litigant, can appear only with the permission of the court, authority or person before whom the proceedings are pending.
- **Foreign lawyers and law firms can practice in India**
 - The notification essentially allows foreign lawyers and law firms to register with BCI to **practise in India** if they are entitled to practise law in their home countries.
 - However, the foreign lawyers or foreign Law Firms have **not been permitted** to appear before any courts, tribunals or other statutory or regulatory authorities.
 - They are allowed to practise transactional work /corporate work such as joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property matters, drafting of contracts and other related matters on a reciprocal basis.
- **Same restrictions for Indian lawyers working with foreign law firms**
 - Indian lawyers working with foreign law firms will also be subject to the same restriction of engaging only in non-litigious practice.

What is the significance of recent notification of BCI?

- **Legal clarity to foreign law firms** that currently operate in a very limited way in India.
- Address concerns about **Flow of Foreign Direct Investment** and make India a hub of International Commercial Arbitration.

[RIGHT OF CHILDREN TO FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION ACT, 2009 \(RTE ACT\)](#)



The Delhi High Court recently disposed of a plea seeking direction to the Bar Council of India (BCI) to make the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act) a compulsory subject in all law schools.

About Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act):

- The Constitution (**Eighty-sixth Amendment**) Act, 2002 inserted **Article 21-A** in the Constitution of India to **provide free and compulsory education of all children** in the age group of **six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right**.
- **RTE Act** is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted on **4 August 2009** as envisaged under **Article 21-A**.
- **Main Features of the RTE Act:**
 - **Free and compulsory education** to all children of India in the **6 to 14 age group**.
 - It clarifies that ‘**compulsory education**’ means the **obligation of the appropriate government** to provide free elementary education and **ensure compulsory admission, attendance, and completion** of elementary education to every child in the six to fourteen age group.
 - **No child shall be held back, expelled, or required to pass a board examination** until the completion of elementary education.
 - It makes **provisions for a non-admitted child to be admitted to an age-appropriate class**.
 - It **specifies the duties and responsibilities of appropriate Governments, local authorities, and parents** in providing free and compulsory education and **sharing of financial and other responsibilities** between the **Central and State Governments**.
 - It lays down the **norms and standards** relating inter alia to **Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTRs), buildings and infrastructure, school-working days, and teacher-working hours**.
 - It **prohibits physical punishment and mental harassment, screening procedures** for admission of children, **capitation fee, private tuition by teachers**, and running of schools without recognition.
 - It provides for the **development of a curriculum** in consonance with the **values enshrined in the Constitution**.

WHAT IS MCMAHON LINE



A recent bipartisan Senate resolution in the United States recognizes the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and Arunachal Pradesh.

About McMahon Line:

- It is a **geographical border** between **Northeast India and Tibet**.
- It is the **boundary between China and India**, although its legal status is **disputed by the Chinese**
- It was **negotiated between Tibet and Great Britain** at the end of the **Shimla Conference in 1914**.
- It is **named after Henry McMahon**, who was the foreign secretary of British India and the **chief negotiator of the convention** at Simla.
- The length of this boundary is **890 kilometers**.
- It **runs from the eastern border of Bhutan along the crest of the Himalayas** until it reaches the **great bend in the Brahmaputra River**, where that river emerges from its Tibetan course into the Assam Valley.
- Though **India considers the McMahon Line as the legal national border**, **China rejects it**, contending that Tibet was not a sovereign state and therefore did not have the power to conclude treaties.

What is The Shimla Treaty of 1914?

- It was signed in 1914 by **delegates from India and Tibet** to establish a clear demarcation between the two countries.
- **China was not present in this treaty** since Tibet was an autonomous region at the time.
- According to the treaty the **McMahon Line is the clear boundary line between India and China**.
- The British rulers, on behalf of India, considered Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh and the southern portion of Tibet to be part of India, which the Tibetans consented to.
- As a result, **Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang region became a part of India**.

What is LAC?

- LAC is a **demarcation line that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory**.

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

- **India considers the LAC to be 3,488 km long, while the Chinese consider it to be only around 2,000 km.**
 - It is currently the **de-facto border between the two countries.**
 - The Line of Actual Control (LAC), is **divided into three sectors:**
 - **Western** (Ladakh, Kashmir),
 - **Middle** (Uttarakhand, Himachal) and
 - **Eastern** (Sikkim, Arunachal): Here, the alignment of the LAC is **along the McMahon Line.**
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