

## Prelim Bits 18-03-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### H3N2 Virus

*India is witnessing H3N2 subtype of seasonal influenza and has lost 2 people this year.*

- Seasonal influenza or the 'flu' is a respiratory infection caused by the Influenza viruses.
- There are 3 types of Influenza viruses that infect humans: A, B, and C
- The influenza A virus is divided into subtypes based on 2 proteins found on the surface of the virus: hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N).
- There are 18 H-subtypes and 11 N-subtypes.
- More than 130 influenza A subtype combinations have been identified in nature so far, but many more subtypes are possible.
- H1N1 virus (a.k.a. Swine flu) is an influenza A subtype.

*Virus reassortment is a process by which influenza viruses swap genetic information, making different subtypes.*

- The H3N2 is an Influenza A subtype which appears to cause more hospitalisations than other influenza subtypes in India.
- **Symptoms** - It has classic flu symptoms like fever, cough, body ache, breathlessness, wheezing and pneumonia.
- **Risk** - Children below 5 years of age, people who are above 65 years of age, pregnant people, and people with certain long-term health conditions are at higher risk.
- **Diagnosis** - Nasal swab and pharyngeal swab sample collected and diagnosed through RT PCR laboratory testing.
- **Cure** - WHO recommended Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) is used and made available free of cost through public health systems in India.
- The sale of *oseltamivir* in India is allowed under Schedule H1 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

### References

1. [The Hindu - H3N2 virus: symptoms, prevention, and cure](#)
2. [TOI - How to differentiate between H3N2 virus and H1N1 infection](#)

### herSTART

*The newly created platform 'herSTART' aimed at supporting women-led start-ups was recently inaugurated by the President of India.*

- 'herSTART' is an initiative of the Gujarat University Start-up and Entrepreneurship Council (GUSEC).
- The platform has been introduced to promote women start-ups and to encourage women entrepreneurs.
- The platform includes a digital platform to provide resources and training modules free of cost to aspiring women entrepreneurs.
- It also provides a digital community for them, and a digital publication to spread their success stories.
- It also includes an accelerator which provides the following facilities to women entrepreneurs.



## References

1. [PIB - herSTART' platform was inaugurated recently](#)
2. [PIB - President of India launches 'HERSTART' platform](#)
3. [herSTART](#)

## Mission Sahbhagita

*The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched Mission Sahbhagita, on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.*

- Mission Sahbhagita was launched by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in 2022.
- It enables a society ownership approach for participatory conservation and wise use of Wetlands.
- '**Save Wetlands Campaign**' was launched as part of this Mission on the occasion of World Wetlands Day 2023 at Goa.
- World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on **2<sup>nd</sup> of February**, the date of the adoption of the Ramsar Convention in 1971.

*As on 14 August 2022 (75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day), India has 75 Ramsar Sites.*

## MoEF&CC and Wetlands

- The Ministry has constituted wetlands authorities in States/UTs through Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017.
- The State authority is responsible for notification, conservation and management of wetlands in that State.
- National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) is a centrally sponsored scheme for conservation and management of identified wetlands (includes lakes) in the country.
- Under the NPCA scheme, MoEF&CC has sanctioned central assistance for conservation of 165 wetlands across the country, including 42 Ramsar sites.
- Ministry has launched “Wetlands of India Portal” (indianwetlands.in), a publicly available information and knowledge platform for wetlands.

## References

1. [PIB - Mission Sahbhagita: For wise use of wetlands](#)
2. [The Indian Wire - Mission Sahbhagita for Wetland conservation](#)
3. [Vikaspedia - World Wetlands Day](#)

## Lakhpati Didi Initiative

*The Ministry of Rural Development has signed a MoU with the Ministry of Ayush to collaborate in making Lakhpati Didis from the SHGs.*

*Lakhpati Didis are women with **annual earnings of Rs. 1 lakh** and more.*

- The Ministry of Rural Development launched Lakhpati Didi initiative on creating Lakhpati SHG women.
- The initiative aims to enable rural SHG women to earn at least Rs.1 lakh per annum.
- The Ministry provides livelihood support to 25 million rural SHG women in the next 2 years.
- Earlier, Uttarakhand government launched ‘Lakhpati Didi Yojana’ to make 1.25 lakh women from self-help group 'Lakhpati' by 2025.

*There are 86,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in India which include 9 crore women.*

- **MoU** - Ministry of Rural Development signs MoU with Ministry of Ayush for skilling of rural youth and empowering women.
- The collaboration will impart training to rural poor youth and women for Ayush healthcare system under DDU-GKY.
- The training is given priority to SHG women to realize an annual income of INR 1 lakh.
- **Training** - The collaboration will train rural poor youth under NSQF compliant courses like Panchakarma Technician, Cupping Therapy Assistant, etc., under DDU-GKY.

**Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana  
(DDU-GKY)**

- DDU-GKY is one of the flagship poverty alleviation programs under National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).
- DDU-GKY was launched on 25th September 2014 by Ministry of Rural Development.
- The scheme is aimed at skilling the poorest of the poor youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from Rural India.
- The NRLM mission has made successful strides through the *Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana*, bringing focus on the role of women as farmers.

## References

1. [PIB - Skilling to make Lakhpati Didis from SHGs](#)
2. [MoRD - SHG women on the path of becoming Lakhpatis](#)

## Foreign lawyers in India

*The Bar Council of India (BCI) has allowed foreign lawyers and law firms to practise in India and notified in the official gazette.*

- The Bar Council of India (BCI) notified the Rules for 'Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022'.
- The foreign lawyers and firms can now set up offices in India and practice transactional and corporate work on a reciprocal basis.
- **Earlier** - BCI was opposed to allowing foreign law firms in India.
- In 2018, the [Supreme Court upheld previous HC judgments](#) disallowing foreign law firms and lawyers in India.

*Reciprocal laws are statutes of one state that give rights and privileges to the citizens of another state if it extends similar privileges to the citizens of the former.*

- **Rules** - A foreign lawyer or law firm is not entitled to practice law in India without registering with the BCI.
- Foreign lawyers and law firms are entitled to register with BCI to practise in India if they are entitled to practise law in their home countries.
- Foreign lawyers will only be allowed to advice on international laws.
- They will not be permitted to appear before any Indian courts and tribunals and cannot practise Indian law.
- Indian lawyers working with foreign law firms will also be subject to the same restriction.
- The reciprocity rule will not be applicable if a foreign lawyer or law firm works on a 'fly in and fly out' basis.

## Bar Council of India

- The Bar Council of India (BCI) is a statutory body established under the ***Advocates Act, 1961***.
- It regulates legal practice and legal education in India.
- 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.

## References

1. [IE - Foreign lawyers can practise in India but not appear in court](#)
2. [Business Standard - BCI allows foreign lawyers to practice in India](#)

