

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

❖ Context

➤ Recently, the **NCPCR wrote to NGOs across the country** on the practice of “raising funding, domestic as well as international, for their NGOs through advertisement while showing vulnerable minor children in deplorable conditions”.

Key Highlights

- The letter asked NGOs to **refrain from such depiction** as it amounted to a violation of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
- It also asked States to “report” similar incidents involving NGOs, take “appropriate measures to expose the false information” and “alert beneficiaries about false claims made by them”.

About NPCR

- It's a **statutory body**.
- Established by an Act of Parliament, the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- The Commission **works under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Gol.**
- **Mandate**
 - It ensures that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- As defined by the commission, a child includes a person **up to the age of 18 years**.
- It monitors the implementation of **POCSO Act**.

• Composition

- **A chairperson and six members** of which at least two should be women.
- All of them are **appointed by the Central Government for three years**.
- The maximum age to serve in commission is **65 years for Chairman and 60 years for members**.

• Powers

- The Commission, while inquiring into any matter that **falls under of CPCR Act, 2005** has all the powers of a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
- The commission can exercise the following power-
 - Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person.
 - Discovery and production of any document.
 - Receiving evidence on affidavits.
 - Requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office; and.
 - Issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.
- The Commission is authorized to forward any case to a Magistrate having jurisdiction to try the same.

Cold Unprecedented 'Bomb Cyclone' in US, Canada:

❖ Context

➤ An intense blizzard (or snowstorm) is wreaking havoc across the United States and Canada, with more than 30 people confirmed dead so far in the US, and four people dead in Canada.

Key Highlights:

- According to a report, the scope of **the storm has been nearly “unprecedented”**, stretching from the Great Lakes near Canada to the Rio Grande along the border with Mexico.
- **About 60% of the US population** faced some sort of winter weather advisory or warning, and temperatures plummeted drastically below normal in major areas of the country.
- **It is ranked as the fiercest winter storm** to hit the greater Buffalo area in New York **since a 1977**.

What is a “bomb cyclone”?

- The amount of pressure loss within the low-pressure mass must **be at least 24 millibars in 24 hours to be considered a bomb cyclone**.
- **As a result, the** gradient between the two air masses, or pressure differential, increases quickly, strengthening the winds.
- **Bombogenesis** is the name given to this process of fast intensification. Despite the fact that this type of storm is not particularly uncommon, this one is highly powerful and has high winds that are causing heavy snow or rain to fall in numerous regions.
- The area where the two **air masses meet moves northward** and eastward, conditions for bombogenesis should continue moving as well.
- A cyclonic effect **is created by the earth's rotation** and the wind's movement.
- It is anticlockwise in the Northern Hemisphere, when viewed from above.

What are the precautions being advised so far?

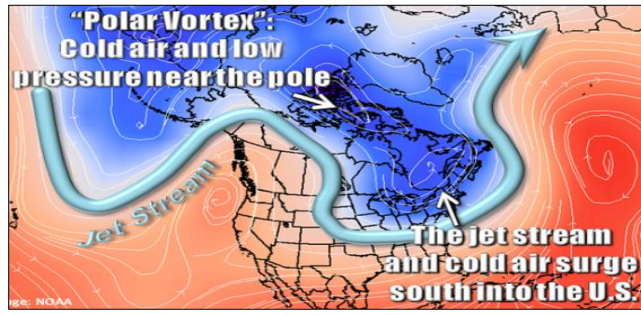
- As the **Arctic air spreads over most of the country** it will eventually warm, reducing the pressure difference.
- **So the storm will eventually dissipate.** Forecasts are indeed calling for above-average temperatures across most of the country next week.
- Those indoors have been told to maintain safety precautions, such as charging electronic devices and keeping torches ready.
- Apart from wearing the **appropriate layers of clothing**, it was also advised that those working outside keep taking breaks to avoid exertion or health issues.
- Those who will be travelling by road will need to exercise particular caution, as **visibility will be affected**.

What is the Polar Vortex?

- The polar vortex is a **large area of low pressure** and cold air surrounding both of the Earth's poles.

Face to Face Centres

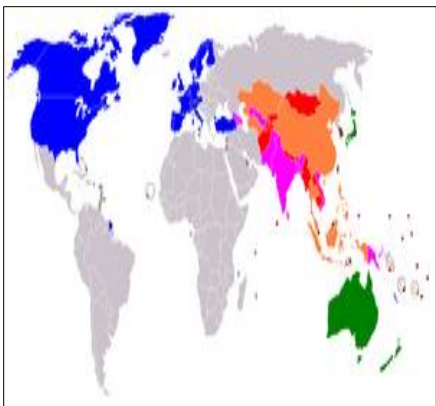
All of the elements for a bomb cyclone were present over the Great Lakes, as the meandering polar vortex collided with unusually warm air to the east.



It always exists near the poles, but weakens in summer and strengthens in winter. The term "vortex" refers to the counter-clockwise flow of air that helps keep the colder air near the Poles. Many times during winter in the northern hemisphere.

News in Between the Lines

Asian Development Bank (ADB)



❖ Context

➤ Recently, The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$125 million loan to develop climate-resilient sewage collection and treatment, and drainage and water supply systems in three cities in the state of Tamil Nadu.

❖ Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a **multilateral development finance institution**.
- It is **official United Nations Observer**.
- It was **founded in 1966** by 31 member governments to promote the social and economic progress of the Asian and Pacific region.
- It assists its members and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.
- **Membership**
 - From **31 members at its establishment in 1966**, ADB has grown to encompass **68 members**—of which **49 are from within Asia** and the Pacific and 19 outside.
 - In 1986, India began receiving assistance from the Asian Development Bank.
 - The ADB is controlled by member countries, with the U.S. and Japan having the largest stake.
- **Headquarter**
 - Manila, Philippines.
- **Top Share Holder as of 31 December 2020**
 - Japan and the United States (each 15.571%), China (6.429%), India (6.317%), Australia (5.773%).
- ADB offers its investors highest quality investment products based on its triple-A credit ratings.
 - Aaa: Moody's Investors Service.
 - AAA: Standard & Poor's Sovereign Ratings.
 - AAA: Fitch.

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) Bill, 2022



❖ Context

➤ Recently, The Karnataka Legislative Assembly passed **The Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) Bill, 2022**, which had been tabled in the monsoon session earlier this year.

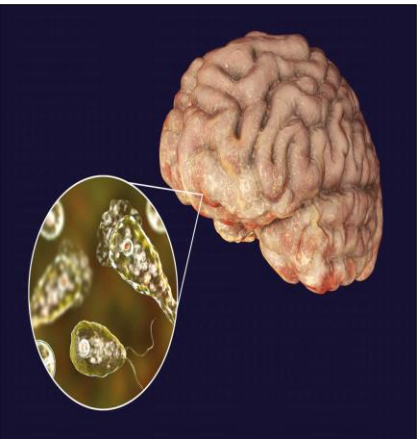
❖ Key Highlights

- **Traffic congestion** in Bengaluru, which can potentially deter investors, is a major worry for the state government.
- There have also been complaints of a lack of coordination between various transport and civic bodies, due to which public transport projects have been delayed.
- The enactment of the **Bill will ensure a Comprehensive Mobility Plan for the gridlocked city**, by adopting sustainable urban transport models.
- Integration of land use and transport planning are also key elements.
- The legislation also **provides for measures such as "congestion parking, parking regulations, special purpose lanes** etc. to regulate travel demand in the Urban Mobility Region.
- It **addresses the "overlap in responsibilities and functions"** of different institutions and departments related to transport in the city.
- Such overlap, according to the Bill, had impeded the process of planning and implementation of major transport schemes.

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Naegleria Fowleri or "Brain-eating Amoeba"



❖ Context

- Recently, South Korea reported its first case of infection from Naegleria fowleri or "brain-eating amoeba".

❖ About Naegleria Fowleri

- Naegleria is an amoeba, a **single-celled organism**, and only one of its species, called Naegleria fowleri, can infect humans.
- It was **first discovered in Australia in 1965** and is commonly found in warm freshwater bodies, such as hot springs, rivers and lakes.
- **Infecting Human Brain**
 - The amoeba enters the human body through the nose and then travels up to the brain.
 - This can usually happen when someone goes for a swim, or dive or even when they dip their head in a freshwater body.
 - Once Naegleria fowleri goes to the brain, it **destroys brain tissues and causes a dangerous infection known as primary amebic meningoencephalitis (PAM)**.
 - Scientists haven't found any evidence of the spreading of Naegleria fowleri through water vapour or aerosol droplets.
- **Symptoms**
 - First signs of PAM start showing within one to 12 days after the infection.
 - In the initial stages, they might be similar to symptoms of meningitis, which are headache, nausea and fever.
- **Treatment**
 - As the Naegleria fowleri infection is rare and progresses quickly, scientists haven't been able to identify any effective treatments yet.

National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS)



❖ Context

- Digitally capturing the attendance of workers employed under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** has been made universal by the Centre from January 1, 2023.

❖ Key Highlights

- National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) App was **launched by the Minister of Rural Development on May, 21 2021**.
- This app is **aimed at bringing more transparency** and ensure **proper monitoring** of the schemes.
- The NMMS App permits taking real time attendance of workers at Mahatma Gandhi NREGA worksites along with **geo-tagged photograph**.
- The app helps in increasing citizen oversight of the programme.
- The National Mobile Monitoring App is applicable for the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA **workers for all the States/ Union Territories**.

Dhanu Yatra



❖ Context

- Recently, The Prime Minister greeted everyone as Dhanu Yatra begins.
- The festival, which is being organised after a gap of two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will **conclude on January 6, 2023**.

❖ Key Highlights

- Dhanu Jatra or Dhanu Yatra is an **annual drama-based open air theatrical performance celebrated in Bargarh, Odisha**.
- The vibrant Dhanu Yatra is associated with the culture of Odisha.
- It **came into existence in Bargarh in 1947-48** as part of the celebration of the country's Independence and is held annually.
- The 'Dhanu Yatra' **marks the victory of good over evil**.
- The plays in the festival start with the dethroning of Emperor Ugrasen of Mathura by angry Kansa over the marriage of his sister Devaki with Vasudev.
- The festival concludes with the death of demon king Kansa and restoration of the throne to Ugrasen.
- The rule of Kansa, his death and the exploits of Lord Krishna are enacted in 14 places across the area during the open-air festival.

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Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme for Indian Railways

The scheme aims at preparation of Master Plans of the Railway stations and implementation of the Master Plan in phases to enhance the facilities

❖ Context

- **Ministry of Railways** has formulated a new policy for modernization of stations named "Amrit Bharat Station" scheme.

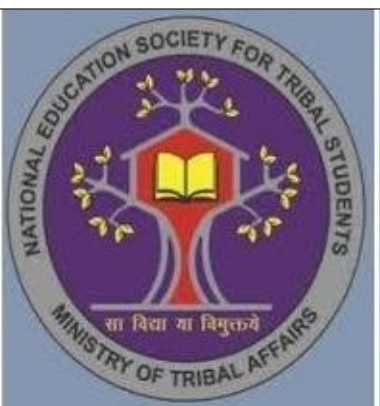
❖ Key Highlights

- Amrit Bharat Station scheme envisages **development of stations** on a continuous basis with a long term vision.
- The scheme aims at **preparation of Master Plans** of the Railway stations and implementation of the Master Plan in phases to enhance the facilities.
- Attempts shall be made to **club different grades/types of waiting halls** and provide good cafeteria/retail facilities as far as possible.
- **High level platforms** (760-840 mill meter) shall be provided at all categories of stations..
- **Amenities for Divyangjan** at stations shall be as per guidelines issued by Railway Board from time to time.

❖ Broad objectives:

- The scheme aims at preparation of Master Plans of the Railway stations and implementation of the Master Plan in phases to enhance the facilities including and beyond the **Minimum Essential Amenities (MEA)** and aiming for creation of Roof Plazas and city centres at the station in long run.
- The scheme **shall aim to meet the needs of the stakeholders**, station usage studies as far as possible based on availability of funds and inter-se priority.
- The scheme shall cater for introduction of new amenities as well as **upgradation and replacement of existing amenities**.
- This scheme will also cover the stations where **detailed techno-economic feasibility** studies have been conducted or are being conducted but the work for construction of Roof Plazas has not been taken up yet.

National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)



❖ Context

- National Education Society for Tribal Students (**NESTS**) will organize two-days' face-to-face capacity building programme for **Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS)** teachers.

❖ Key Highlights

- The two-day face-to-face training workshop is being organized on 28th & 29th December, **2022 for teachers from 54 EMRS of 6 States** namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Telangana.
- The training workshop includes a brief about early access to computer science **education for tribal and other communities** by way of exposing the students to simple computational skills all the way up to data-coding skills.
- **Amazon Future Engineer (AFE) - CSR program** aims to develop interest of students in exploring higher education and a fruitful career in computer science.
- It also provides **teachers with necessary resources & support** to create awareness about Computer Science & facilitate its learning.
- Course modules will include **Computer Science Fundamentals**, Introduction to Coding, Logical Sequencing, Learning Loops, Block Programming using open secure source platforms like code.org.
- The proposed training workshop for EMRS teachers shall serve as a stepping stone in **creating awareness about the potential of Computer Science in students of EMRS** as well as access to quality IT education in our schools.

(H9N2) Vaccine For Chickens' Developed By ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal

❖ Context

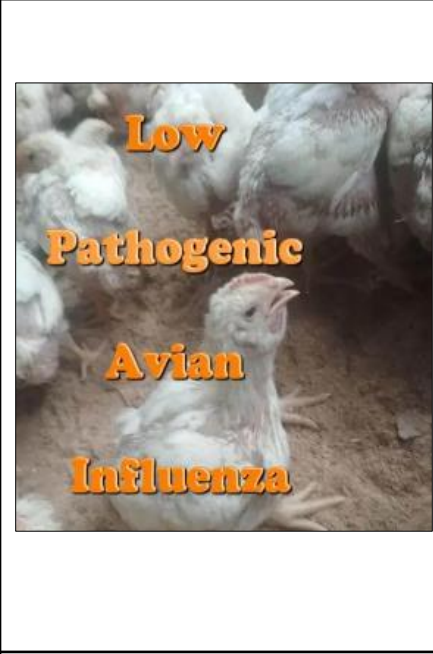
- 'Inactivated low pathogenic avian influenza (**H9N2**) vaccine for chickens', developed by the scientists of ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal was transferred to industry.

❖ Key Highlights

- The government research body **ICAR-NIHSAD** has transferred to four private companies the **first indigenous vaccine technology for the H9N2** avian influenza virus in chickens.
- The vaccine will meet the standard of the **market both in India and abroad**.
- The vaccine will contribute significantly to **increasing the income of poultry farmers** by reducing the economic loss due to the disease.

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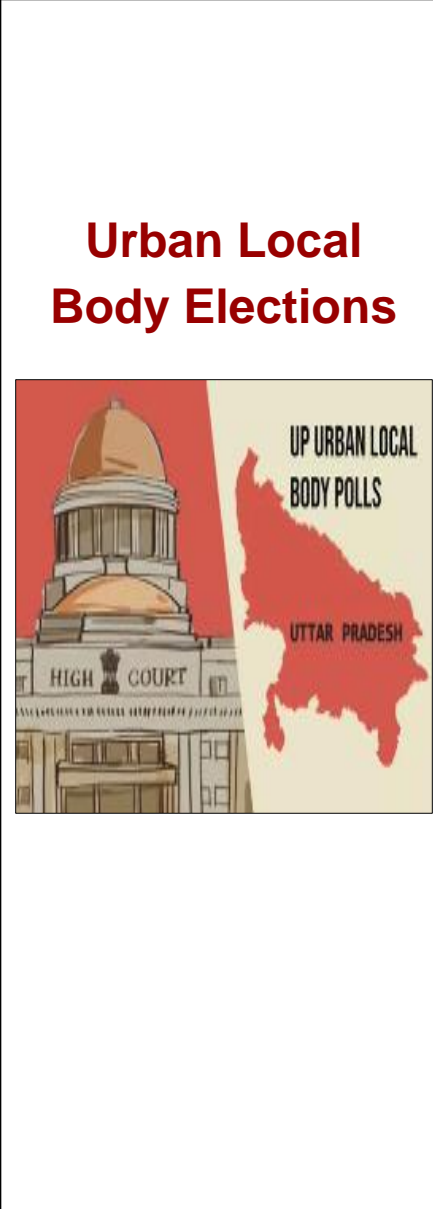




- The technology transfer was facilitated by Agrinnovate India (AgIn) in Delhi.

❖ **The H9N2 virus**

- H9N2 is a **subtype of the influenza A virus**, which causes human influenza as well as bird flu.
- The H9N2 subtype was **isolated for the first time in Wisconsin, US** in 1966 from turkey flocks.
- According to the US National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), H9N2 viruses are found worldwide in wild birds and are endemic in poultry in many areas.
- According to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, with avian influenza viruses circulating in poultry, **there is a risk for sporadic infection and small clusters of human cases** due to exposure to infected poultry or contaminated environment.
- H9N2 virus infections in humans are rare**, but likely under-reported due to typically mild symptoms of the infections. Cases of human infection have been observed in Hong Kong, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Egypt.



❖ **Context**

- The Lucknow Bench of the **Allahabad High Court** ordered that the polls should be held at the earliest and **no reservation** should be given to Other Backward Classes (**OBC**).

❖ **Key Highlights**

- Order said that until the **“Triple Test/Conditions”** mandated by the **Supreme Court** is completed in all respects by the state government, no reservation for the Backward Class of citizens shall be provided.
- The court directed officials** to “immediately notify the elections being guided by the provisions of **Article 243-U** of the Constitution of India which mandates that election to constitute a Municipality shall be completed **before the expiry of its duration”**

❖ **What is Triple Test Formula?**

- The ‘triple test’ formula was **suggested by the Supreme Court** to provide OBC reservation in urban local body (ULB) elections.
- The formula requires the states to **appoint a commission, collect quantifiable data** of the community, **and allocate reservations** to them in local bodies **without exceeding 50 percent total reservation’**.

❖ **Article 243T makes the provisions for the reservation of seats in ULBs**

- Seats are reserved for the **Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes** in every municipality.
- Not less than **one-third** of the total number of **seats reserved for women**.
- The **office of Chairpersons** in the Municipalities shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and women in such manner the **Legislature of a State may, by law, provide**.
- Nothing in the Part shall prevent the Legislature of a State from making any provision for reservation of seats in any Municipality or offices of Chairpersons in the Municipalities in favour of backward class of citizens.

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