

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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## US STRIKES ON VENEZUELA

### Context

- The US strikes on Venezuela have brought to the forefront concerns over violations of international law, breach of national sovereignty & reinforcing perceptions of U.S. imperialism.
  - ♦ However, data shows that the U.S. attack on Venezuela is unlikely to have any **direct impact on India's energy security**.

### Probable Reasons for US Attack on Venezuela

- **Oil Reserves:** Venezuela holds about 18% of the world's oil reserves, more than Saudi Arabia (around 16%), Russia (about 5-6%), or the United States (around 4%).
  - ♦ Venezuela alone has more crude oil reserves than the US and Russia combined.
- **Countering China's Expansion in Latin America:** China, the world's largest crude oil

importer, has emerged as the biggest buyer of Venezuelan oil.

- ♦ Venezuela is a strategic node in China's energy security and global influence, making it geopolitically sensitive for the U.S.
- **U.S. Deals:** The United States has signed trade deals with partners such as the European Union, Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom, getting commitments from them to buy U.S. petroleum products and LNG, without having sufficient crude oil or refining capacity.
- **Resurrection of the Monroe Doctrine:** The US has described the operation as consistent with the **US foreign policy known as the Monroe Doctrine**.
- **Other Stated and Unstated Motives:** Allegations of state-sponsored drug trafficking
  - ♦ Containment of socialist political ideology
  - ♦ Addressing mass migration flows towards the U.S.

### Venezuela Share in Oil Supply

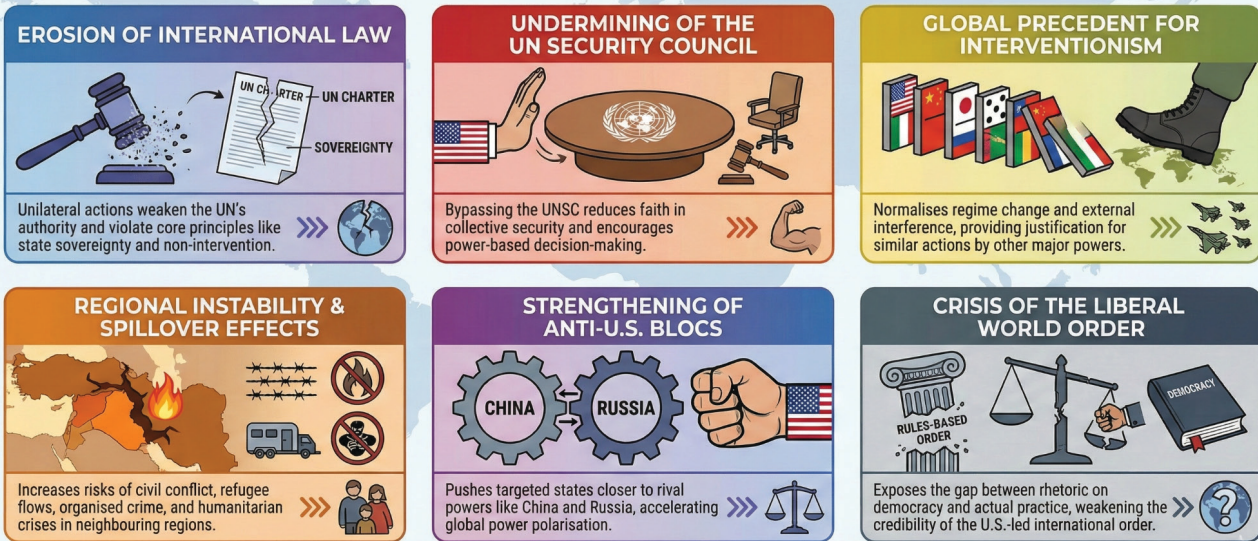
- Venezuela is a member of the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)**, a group of countries that largely dominates the global oil market.
- However, Venezuela currently produces a **relatively small amount of crude oil** compared to the other oil-producing nations.
  - ♦ Venezuela accounts for about 3.5% of OPEC's total oil exports, and about 1% of global oil supplies.
- This relatively low supply is due to the **U.S. sanctions on Venezuela and the heavy nature of Venezuelan oil**, which requires special refineries that most countries do not have. **Most of Venezuela's oil supply goes to China.**

### Monroe Doctrine

- **Background:** It was announced by US President **James Monroe in 1823** during his annual address to Congress.
  - ♦ It came at a time when many Latin American countries had gained independence from European colonial powers.
- **Core Principles**
  - ♦ **Non-Colonisation:** The American continents were no longer open to future European colonisation.
  - ♦ **Non-Intervention:** European powers should not interfere in the political affairs of the Americas.
  - ♦ **Separate Spheres of Influence:** Western Hemisphere and Europe were to remain distinct political spheres.
  - ♦ **US Assurance:** The US would not interfere in European internal affairs and would respect existing European colonies in the Americas.
- **Roosevelt Corollary:** In 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt introduced the "Roosevelt Corollary," which asserted that the United States had the right to intervene in the Americas under certain circumstances.
  - ♦ This addition claimed a US right to intervene in Latin American countries to prevent European involvement.
  - ♦ The doctrine was used to justify US interventions in Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic.



## POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF U.S. IMPERIALISM



These consequences collectively threaten global stability and the principles of international cooperation.

### Analysis of Impact on India

- **Oil Import from Venezuela:** India imported \$255.3 million worth of oil from Venezuela in the current financial year in 2025, about 0.3% of its total oil import during this period.
  - ♦ Since 2019, India has been cutting its oil imports and commercial engagements with Venezuela in response to U.S. sanctions.

In \$ billion



- **Bilateral Trade:** India's bilateral trade is now relatively small and shrinking further.
  - ♦ In 2024–25, India imported goods worth just \$364.5 million from Venezuela, of which crude oil accounted for \$255.3 million.
  - ♦ This marked a steep 81.3% decline from imports of \$1.4 billion in 2023–24.
  - ♦ India's exports to Venezuela stood at \$95.3 million, led mainly by pharmaceutical products worth \$41.4 million.
- **Impact on India:** Given the low trade volumes, existing sanctions constraints, and the large geographical distance, the current developments in Venezuela are not expected to have any meaningful impact on India's economy or energy security.
- The cell brings together **representatives from** the Central and State governments, industry associations, music rights societies, and major live event companies.
- **The objective** is to create an enabling ecosystem for large-scale concerts, festivals, sports events, and cultural performances across India.

#### India's Live Events market Growth

- The organised live events market was valued at **₹20,861 crore in 2024**.
- The sector registered a **15% growth rate**, outpacing several traditional media segments.
- Attendance at theatre events **increased by 45%**, indicating renewed public engagement with diverse cultural experiences.
- **Expansion Beyond Metros:**
  - ♦ **Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities** are emerging as important cultural and entertainment hubs.
  - ♦ **Northeastern cities** have recorded sharp growth in live entertainment footfalls, including Shillong (213%), Guwahati (188%), and Kokrajhar (143%).
  - ♦ **Visakhapatnam** recorded the highest growth at **490%**, followed by Vadodara (230%).

#### Way Ahead

- The US invasion of Venezuela comes at a time when **India is actively diversifying its crude basket**, amidst the Indo-US trade negotiations.
  - ♦ If sanctions on Venezuela are eased, Venezuelan crude could offer **additional flexibility to Indian refiners** and help ease supply concentration risk.
- In this emerging global order, **wars for raw materials and energy resources** are likely to intensify in the coming years.
- India must therefore act cautiously, protect its strategic autonomy, avoid deals that weaken sovereignty or long-term interests, and secure critical raw material and energy access without geopolitical pressure.

Source: TH

## INDIA'S EMERGING CONCERT ECONOMY

#### Context

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has established a **Live Events Development Cell (LEDC)** to facilitate the expansion of "concert economy", boosting employment and tourism in the country.

#### What is the Live Events Development Cell (LEDC)?

- The LEDC was **constituted in July 2025** under the direction of the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting.
- It **functions as a single-window facilitation mechanism** to address **regulatory, logistical, and coordination** challenges faced by the live events industry.

#### Significance of rising Concert Economy

- **Employment Generation:** A single large-format live event generates more than 15,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities, spanning **artists, technicians, logistics, security, hospitality, and local vendors**.
- **Boost to Tourism:** Live events are increasingly driving domestic tourism, with audiences travelling across cities to attend concerts, theatre, and sports events.
- **City Branding and Urban Economies:** Major concerts help brand cities as **cultural and entertainment destinations**, supporting experience-based while enhancing the cultural identity and global visibility of Indian cities.
- **Cultural Diplomacy:** International concerts and festivals enhance India's cultural soft power, projecting the country as a vibrant, youth-oriented, and culturally diverse global destination.

#### Challenges

- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Many cities lack world-class concert venues, adequate acoustics, crowd-capacity planning, parking facilities, and last-mile connectivity, limiting the scale and frequency of events.
- **Safety Concerns:** Ensuring crowd safety, emergency response, fire safety, and medical

preparedness remains a challenge, particularly during large-format events with high footfalls.

- **Environmental Sustainability:** Large-scale live events generate high waste, energy use, and carbon emissions, with limited adoption of standardised green practices.

#### Way Ahead

- **Event Management Protocols:** Introducing nationally standardised guidelines for crowd management, emergency response, insurance coverage, and safety audits to build public trust.
- **Skill Development:** Integrating event management, sound and light engineering, and live production skills into Skill India and NSDC programmes to build a professional workforce.
- **Balanced Urban Planning:** Identifying designated event zones within cities with appropriate noise, traffic, and security planning to minimise social friction.

Source: TH

## INDIA LOSES 0.4% OF ITS GDP EVERY YEAR TO NATURAL DISASTERS: REPORT

#### Context

- The Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India: Enhancing Disaster Risk Financing report 2025 was released recently.

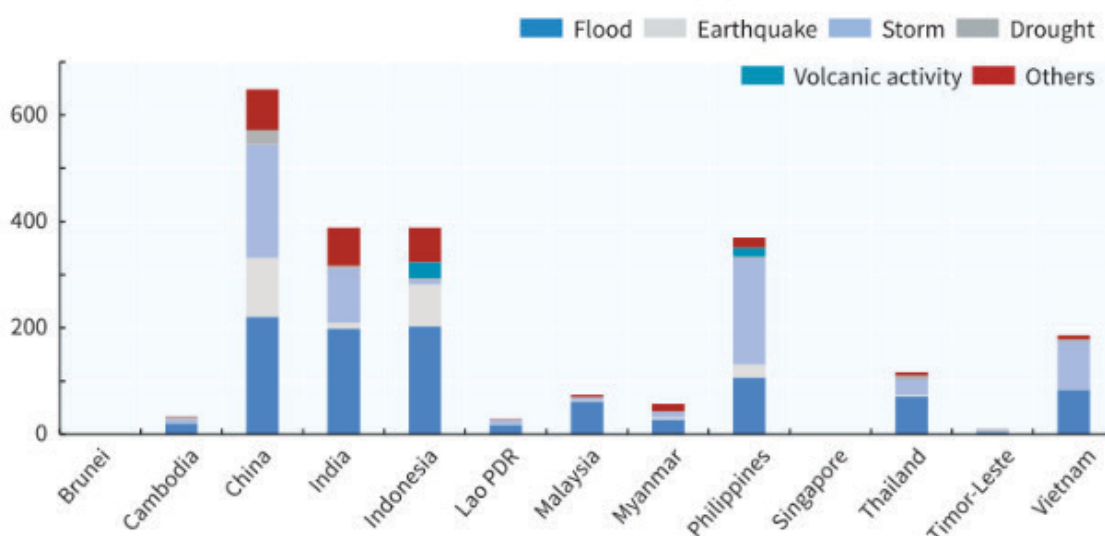
#### About

- It is a regular publication on Asia's regional economic growth and development processes.
- **Releasing Body:** Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- It focuses on the economic conditions of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries**.
- This edition of the Outlook comprises a thematic chapter focusing on enhancing disaster risk financing in Emerging Asia.

#### Major Findings

- **Growing Disasters:** Emerging Asian economies that comprise India, China, and the ASEAN11, face an escalating threat from natural disasters that are growing in both frequency and intensity.
  - ♦ Over the past decade, the region has had an average of 100 disasters annually, impacting approximately 80 million people.
- **The nature of these threats varies by geography:** while **floods and storms** are the primary drivers of risk in **India**, tropical cyclones frequently batter the Philippines and Vietnam.
  - ♦ Meanwhile, China and Indonesia have significantly higher seismic risks.

**CHART 2:** Chart shows the total occurrences of disasters in Emerging Asia by country and type, 2000-24

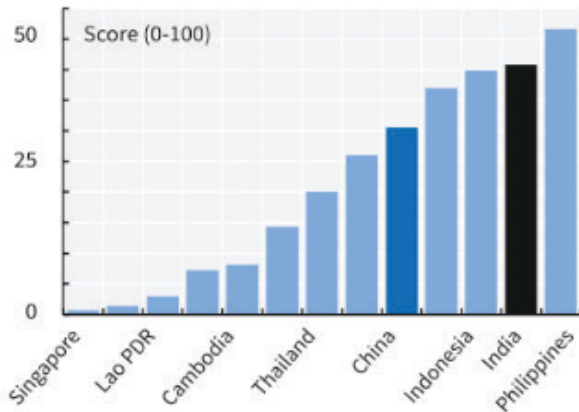


- **Loss of GDP:** From 1990 to 2024, India sustained average annual disaster related losses equivalent to 0.4% of GDP.
  - ♦ India's vulnerability is primarily hydro logical (non storm related floods and land slides).
- **World Risk Index:** Among the Asian economies, India ranks second only to the Philippines in the World Risk Index.



- ♦ The index calculates risk as the geometric mean of exposure (population burden) and vulnerability (a combination of structural susceptibility, coping capacity, and longterm adaptation).

**CHART 5:** World Risk Index, by country, 2025. The higher the score, the higher the risk



- To support the enhancement of disaster risk finance, **key policy priorities to be considered by countries in the region include:**
  - ♦ improving regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity,
  - ♦ facilitating and broadening DRF policy options,
  - ♦ enhancing disaster risk finance education, and
  - ♦ strengthening regional co-operation.

#### Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

- **Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (DRI)** refers to the **design and construction** of infrastructure systems that can **withstand, adapt to, and rapidly recover from disasters**.
- This resilience ensures **uninterrupted essential services even during calamities**.
- As urbanization and national growth accelerate, infrastructure, such as power, water, and transportation become ever more crucial.

#### International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

- CDRI is a **global partnership of National Governments**, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, academic and knowledge institutions.
- CDRI was launched by India during the **United Nations Climate Action Summit in 2019, at New York**.
- **Members:** More than 50 members.
- **Secretariat:** New Delhi.

#### Conclusion

- Building a disaster-resilient infrastructure is a complex task, requiring a blend of strategic planning, innovation, finance, and most importantly, a collective approach.
- Nations need to champion these components, ensuring they are not only prepared for future calamities but also poised for sustainable growth.

Source: TH

## INDIA'S SILK VALUE CHAIN PROJECTED TO DOUBLE BY 2030

#### Context

- Recently, the **Central Silk Board** has announced an ambitious plan to **double India's silk value chain**, currently valued at **₹55,000 crore**, to **₹1.1 lakh crore by 2030**.

#### Central Silk Board (CSB)

- It is a **statutory body** under the **Union Ministry of Textiles**, established by the **Central Silk Board Act, 1948** (later *amended as Central Silk Board (Amendment) Act, 2006*).
- It is responsible for formulating policies and implementing programs for the **development of sericulture and silk industry**.
- It undertakes and supports scientific, technological, and economic research in sericulture, and oversees the production and supply of quality silkworm seeds and cocoons.
- **Headquarter:** Bengaluru, Karnataka

#### About Silk & Sericulture

- Sericulture is the **art and science of silk production** through **rearing silkworms**, sustaining **millions of rural households** by combining **agriculture, forestry, and cottage industry elements**.
- **Historical and Cultural Legacy:**
  - ♦ India's association with silk dates back over **5,000 years**, referenced in ancient texts like the Atharva Veda and Mahabharata.
  - ♦ Its strategic position along the **historic Silk Route** established it as a **hub of silk trade, craftsmanship, and cultural exchange**.
  - ♦ Indian silks, especially **Kanchipuram, Banarasi, Patola, Muga, and Eri** symbolize aesthetic refinement and traditional heritage.
- **Types of Silk Produced in India:** **Mulberry Silk** (70% of India's total output); **Tasar (Tussar) Silk** (Derived from wild silkworms); **Eri Silk** (aka

‘Ahimsa Silk’); and **Muga Silk** (A *Geographical Indication (GI)* product).

- As per the **NITI Aayog’s Eleventh Five-Year Plan**, sericulture aligns with sustainable livelihood generation due to:
  - Low initial investment and short gestation periods.
  - High employment potential (11 man-days per kg of raw silk).
  - Significant contributions to rural women’s empowerment and self-employment.

### Major Silk Producing Regions

- South India (Mulberry):** Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh;; Karnataka alone contributes ~35% of India’s total silk.
- Eastern India (Tasar):** Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal; Tribal-based production; extensive forest-based rearing.
- North-East India (Muga, Eri):** Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur; Traditional sericulture; home to rare Muga silkworm.
- Northern India (Mulberry):** Jammu & Kashmir; Produces fine mulberry silk for carpets and garments.

### Current Production and Employment Significance

- India currently produces **41,121 metric tonnes of raw silk**, with over **70% being mulberry silk**, and the remainder comprising **Eri, Tasar, and Muga silk**.
  - The **production outlook for 2030** is projected at **54,000 metric tonnes**.
- India is today the **second-largest producer of silk globally**, accounting for nearly **25% of global silk output, next only to China**.
- Over **6 million people**, primarily small farmers, women, and tribal communities, are engaged in the silk sector.
  - It provides year-round employment, especially in rainfed and semi-arid regions.

### Challenges in the Sericulture Sector

- Climate Sensitivity:** Silkworm rearing is weather-dependent; droughts and temperature fluctuations affect cocoon yields.
- Market Volatility:** Price instability affects small rearers.
- Technological Gaps:** Need for improved silkworm seed quality, mechanization, and reeling efficiency.
- Competition from Synthetic Fibres:** Shifts in consumer preferences toward cheaper materials.

### Government Initiatives and Policy Framework

- Silk Samagra 2 Scheme (2021–2026):** A 2,161 crore initiative promoting seed production, weaving technology, and export.
- North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS):** Strengthens Muga and Eri silk clusters.
- Sericulture Cluster Development Programme (SCDP):** Enhances infrastructure in Karnataka, Jharkhand, and Assam.
- Silk Samagra:** A comprehensive scheme to strengthen the entire silk value chain—from farm to fabric.
- SAMARTH:** A skill development initiative to train youth and women in sericulture and silk processing.

Source: TH

## INDIA’S SEAFOOD EXPORT GETS BOOST

### In News

- India’s marine products exports increased by 16% in terms of value and 12% in volume during the first seven months (April-October) of FY 2025-26 as compared to the corresponding period last fiscal.

### India’s Position in Global Seafood Trade

- According to the data, India’s seafood exports increased to \$4.87 billion in April-October 2025 from \$4.19 billion during the same period of 2024.
- The increase was driven by successful market diversification, with sharp export growth to countries such as Vietnam, Belgium, Malaysia, Germany, and China.
  - Although exports to the US declined by 4% in value and 11% in volume, it remains India’s top destination.
- India is the second-largest producer of fish and aquaculture globally, and one of the world’s leading shrimp producers.

### Key Reasons Behind the Export Boost

- Rising Global Demand:** Increasing preference for protein-rich and low-fat diets globally.
  - Strong demand from markets like the USA, European Union, Japan, China, and Southeast Asia. Shrimp continues to be the largest contributor to India’s seafood exports.

- **Diversification of Export Markets:** Reduced over-dependence on a single market.
  - ♦ Expansion into West Asia, Africa, Latin America, and East Asia.
- **Government Policy Support:** Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for Infrastructure development (harbours, cold chains, processing units), promotion of sustainable aquaculture etc.
- **Improved Quality & Traceability:** Adoption of international food safety and quality standards.
  - ♦ Better traceability systems to meet importing countries' regulations.
  - ♦ Compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) norms.
- **Growth in Aquaculture:** Expansion of shrimp farming, especially in coastal states.
  - ♦ Shift from capture fisheries to culture fisheries, reducing pressure on marine resources.

#### Importance

- Seafood exports are a major source of foreign exchange earnings, supporting India's trade balance.
- The sector provides livelihoods to millions of fishers and coastal communities, second only to agriculture in employment.
- Fisheries contribute to nutritional security, offering affordable protein to millions.
- The industry is central to India's Blue Economy vision, linking sustainability with growth.

#### Challenges

- Very less seafood undergoes processing and value addition, limiting profitability.
- High tariffs in the US and stringent quality standards in Europe pose hurdles.
- Overfishing, habitat degradation, and climate change threaten marine ecosystems.
- Cold chain, logistics, and modern processing facilities remain inadequate.
- Fragmented policies and lack of uniform standards hinder efficiency.

#### Conclusion and Way Forward

- India's seafood industry has grown rapidly and gained global recognition, but its future depends on sustainability, innovation, value addition, improved infrastructure, market diversification, and eco-friendly practices to build a resilient and responsible seafood economy.

Source :IE

## NEWS IN SHORT

### SOMNATH SWABHIMAN PARV

#### Context

- PM Modi commemorated **1,000 years** since the first attack on the **Somnath Temple in 1026 AD**, describing the iconic shrine as a timeless symbol of India's civilisational resilience and unbreakable spirit.

#### About Somnath Temple

- Somnath is revered as the **first of the twelve Jyotirlings of Lord Shiva**, as mentioned in the **Dwadasha Jyotirling Stotram**.
- The temple is located at **Prabhas Patan on the western coast of Gujarat**, a region historically associated with maritime trade, cultural exchange, and prosperity.
- The shrine was first attacked in **January 1026** by **Mahmud of Ghazni**, marking the beginning of a series of invasions aimed at destroying symbols of Indian civilization.
  - ♦ **Despite repeated devastation**, the temple was rebuilt multiple times.

#### Restoration of the Temple

- **Ahilyabai Holkar** played a crucial role in restoring the temple in the 18th century, demonstrating the role of indigenous rulers in cultural revival.
- After Independence, **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** envisioned the reconstruction of Somnath.
- The present structure was completed and inaugurated on **May 11th 1951**, by **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**, reflecting the constitutional ethos of cultural freedom.
  - ♦ **K.M. Munshi** was instrumental in the reconstruction of the temple.
- **Swami Vivekananda** viewed Somnath as a symbol of India's national spirit that regenerates despite adversity.

Source: DD News

### WORLD BRAILLE DAY

#### Context

- World Braille Day is observed annually on **January 4**, marking the birth anniversary of **Louis Braille**.

#### About

- The day, celebrated since **2019**, is observed to **raise awareness** of the importance of Braille as a **means of communication** in the full realization of the human rights of blind and partially sighted people.



- Braille is essential in the context of freedom of expression and opinion, as well as social inclusion, as reflected in **article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.
- According to the 2011 Census, there are 50,32,463 persons with visual impairment in India.

#### Initiatives for the Empowerment of Visually Impaired Persons

- **Braille Development Unit:** It is an important constituent of the Department of Special Education and Research.
  - ♦ It contributed to the development of **Braille Codes in different Indian languages**. In addition to the current publications, the institute is in the process of developing a 'Manual on Bharti Braille'.
- **Braille Production:** India has developed a robust Braille printing ecosystem through; the **Central Braille Press established in 1951**, the **Regional Braille Press established in 2008** at Chennai and **25 other Braille Presses** established by the Government.
  - ♦ With the combined efforts of these Braille Presses, the Braille literature is published in **14 languages**.

Source: PIB

## HUMAN RABIES TO BE DECLARED NOTIFIABLE DISEASE IN DELHI

### Context

- The Delhi government is set to declare human rabies a notifiable disease in the National Capital Territory of Delhi under the Epidemic Diseases Act.

### What Is a Notifiable Disease?

- A notifiable disease is one that **must be legally reported** to public health authorities upon diagnosis or suspicion.
- Mandatory reporting enables **real-time surveillance, early detection, rapid response, and evidence-based planning**.

### Rabies and Its Risks

- Rabies is a **viral infection** transmitted through the **saliva of infected animals** such as **dogs, cats, bats, and monkeys**.
- It typically spreads through **bites, scratches, or saliva entering open wounds**.
- **Symptoms** may include fever, headache, and nausea; hallucinations and fear of water (hydrophobia).

- **Post-exposure vaccination**, given promptly after a potential exposure, is the **most reliable way** to prevent infection.
- According to **India's National Rabies Control Program**, 6,644 suspected human rabies cases and deaths were reported between 2012 and 2022.
  - ♦ However, the **WHO** estimates a far higher toll, at around **18,000–20,000 deaths annually**, with up to **two-thirds of victims under age 15**. India alone accounts for **36%** of global rabies deaths.
- The issue of rabies is particularly serious because it is almost 100% fatal once symptoms appear.

Source: BS

## NANOBOTS IN CANCER THERAPY

### In News

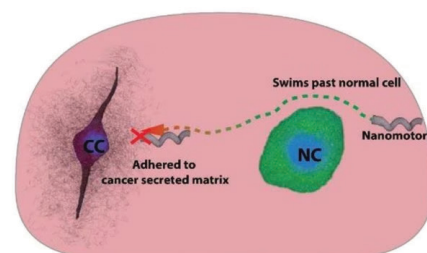
- Professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore Dr. Ambarish Ghosh has developed magnetic nanorobots that can deliver drugs deep into tumors, enabling targeted, minimally invasive cancer therapy with fewer side effects and faster recovery.

### Nanobots

- They are tiny robots designed for specific tasks, such as targeted drug delivery.
- They allow drugs to reach precise disease-affected areas, making treatment more effective and reducing side effects compared to conventional methods.

### Applications in Drug delivery

- Magnetic nanorobots mimic bacterial movement with a helix-shaped tail and magnet, allowing them to swim through tissues and deliver drugs precisely to cancer cells without harming healthy tissue.
- They can generate localized heat to destroy tumors, act as drugs themselves, and serve as MRI beacons.
- Effective against ovarian and breast cancer and certain bacteria, they also show potential in dental treatments like root canals and tooth remineralization.



Source : IE

## INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S LARGEST RICE PRODUCER

### In News

- India has become the world's largest producer of rice, surpassing China.
  - India's rice production has reached 150.18 million tonnes, compared to China's 145.28 million tonnes.

### Rice

- It is the most important food crop of India.
- It is predominantly a Kharif or summer crop.
- Geographical conditions**
  - Temperature:** Rice requires hot and humid conditions. The temperature should be fairly high i.e. 24°C mean monthly temperature with average temperature of 22°C to 32°C.
  - Rainfall** ranging between 150-300 cm is suitable for its growth in areas of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh where rainfall is less than 100 cm, rice is cultivated with the help of irrigation.
  - Soil:** Rice is grown in varied soil conditions but deep clayey and loamy soil provides the ideal conditions.

### Importance

- It is the staple food crop of a majority of the people in India.
- It plays a significant role in the national food and livelihood security system
- It helps earn significant foreign exchange as it is exported to other countries

### Current Status

- ICAR has developed India's first genome-edited rice varieties – DRR Rice 100 (Kamla) and Pusa DST Rice 1. These varieties have the potential to bring about revolutionary changes in terms of higher production, climate adaptability, and water conservation.

Source :Air

## BATTERY PACK AADHAAR NUMBER (BPAN)

### In News

- The Union Government has proposed a **Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN) system** to create a **unified digital identity for battery packs**, especially electric vehicle (EV) batteries, to ensure their **traceability across the entire lifecycle**.

### What is BPAN?

- Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN) is a **21-character unique identification number** proposed for every battery pack introduced in the Indian market.
- It works like a **digital Aadhaar for batteries**, allowing authorities to track batteries from manufacturing to recycling or disposal.
- The focus is **primarily on EV batteries**, which form the bulk of India's lithium-ion battery demand.
- This will promote efficient recycling, second-life use, and safe disposal of batteries.

### Key Features of BPAN

- Mandatory Unique ID:** Every battery producer or importer must assign a BPAN to batteries sold or used internally.
- Lifecycle Data Capture:** Covers sourcing of raw materials, manufacturing, usage, performance, repurposing, recycling, and final disposal.
- Dynamic Updating:** Any major structural or ownership change in the battery requires issuance of a new BPAN.
- Visible & Durable Marking:** BPAN must be marked on the battery pack at a location that cannot be easily destroyed or degraded.

Source: TH

