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## Current Affairs - 02 August 2025

### LIVER CIRRHOSIS

#### Liver Cirrhosis



- Cirrhosis is **advanced scarring of the liver** caused by many diseases and conditions.
- At this stage, a significant amount of healthy liver tissue has **turned to scar tissue**. Scarring comes from long-term inflammation in liver
- It is accompanied by **distortion of both blood and lymphatic vessels** in the liver and intestine.
- **Causes:** Some of the common causative factors include **alcohol, NASH (Non-alcoholic Steato-Hepatitis) and hepatitis B and C viral infections**.
- Cirrhosis often has no symptoms until liver damage is serious. When **symptoms do happen, they may include:** extreme tiredness, easily bleeding or bruising, loss of appetite, swelling in the legs, feet or ankles, called edema etc.
- **Treatment of liver cirrhosis:** Cirrhosis can be treated if diagnosed early. Both hepatitis B and C can be Abstinence from alcohol can also improve liver disease to some extent **controlled or cured** with medication.

### INDO-BURMA RAMSAR REGIONAL INITIATIVE (IBRRI)



#### Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative

- It was jointly developed by the Ramsar National Focal Points (NFPs) **Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam**, and IUCN's Asia Regional Office.
- It is **supported by IUCN's BRIDGE** (Building River Dialogue and Governance) project.
- It aims to support the coordinated implementation of the objectives of the **Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention**.



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- To ensure oversight and transparency in the management of the IBRRI, the initiative has established a governance structure with representatives from both government and non-governmental organisations:
- **Steering Committee:** It includes representatives from Ramsar Administrative Authorities from the five countries.
- **Secretariat:** It is **hosted by the IUCN** Asia Regional Office in Bangkok.
- **Stakeholder Committee** provides technical and strategic guidance as a platform for inclusive, transparent and multi-stakeholder engagement in IBRRI activities.
- The IBRRI officially **launched its Strategic Plan 2025–2030** during a side event at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention.
  - The Plan sets out a collaborative, transboundary framework to halt and reverse the loss of wetlands across its Member States.

### HUMAN OUTER PLANET EXPLORATION



- HOPE is an **analogue site**, closely mimicking the **geological and environmental conditions** found on the Moon and Mars.
- It is developed by Bengaluru-based space tech company Protoplanet, along **with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, has developed the analogue station.
- It is developed with the aim of conducting “**critical research for future crewed interplanetary journeys**”.
- The **site at Tso Kar**, located at an **altitude of over 14,500 feet**, was chosen because of its terrain and environment, which closely mimics conditions on the Moon and Mars
  - An **analogue research station** is a site with conditions closest to a planet or planetary body with regard to the topography, environment, etc.
  - These stations usually act as **testing grounds for relevant technologies**, help advance technology readiness levels (TRL) and engineering integration, and



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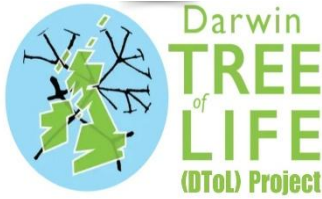
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facilitate human studies, crew training and research around geological, geomorphological, habitability, and life detection.

- Currently, there are **33 analogue research stations** in the world. Some of the prominent ones are the **BIOS-3 in Russia**, **HERA at the US' Johnson Space Centre**, **SHEE in Europe**, and the **Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS)** in the US' Utah.
- **Significance to India:** The station marks a significant step **towards India's human space exploration ambitions**, helping scientists and researchers understand the physiological and psychological aspects of long-duration space travel.

### DARWIN TREE OF LIFE (DTOL) PROJECT



- It aims to **sequence the genomes** of 70,000 species of **eukaryotic organisms** in **Britain and Ireland**.

• It is one of several initiatives across the globe working towards the ultimate goal of **sequencing all complex life on Earth**, in a venture known as the **Earth BioGenome Project**.

- It will carefully collect representatives of each species, use **advanced DNA sequencing technologies** to generate high quality genome sequences.
- It also uses **cutting edge computational tools** to understand how the DNA sequence translates into the diversity of life.
- It is a collaborative project between ten biodiversity, genomics and analysis partners.

### What are Eukaryotes?

- Eukaryotic cells are **found in multi-cellular organisms** such as protists, plants, animals, and fungi. They are more complex as compared to prokaryotic cells.
- These are any **cell or organism that possesses a clearly defined nucleus**.
- The eukaryotic cell has a **nuclear membrane** that surrounds the nucleus, in which the well-defined chromosomes are located.



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- Eukaryotic cells also **contain organelles**, including mitochondria (cellular energy exchangers), a Golgi apparatus.
- **Reproduction:** Eukaryotes can reproduce asexually through mitosis and sexually through meiosis and gamete fusion.

### HEALTH OF INDIA'S ECONOMY

- Contrary to U.S. President Donald Trump's claim of India being a "dead economy," data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over the past 30 years presents a starkly different picture.
- From 1995 to 2025, India's GDP has grown nearly 12 times, ranking it among the fastest-growing major economies, second only to China.
- In comparison, the U.S. economy has grown fourfold, while key allies like the United Kingdom and Germany have expanded by less than three times and less than two times, respectively.
- Notably, Japan's GDP in 2025 is lower than its 1995 level, reflecting economic stagnation.
- The data underscores that India and even Russia, despite facing challenges, have exhibited robust economic growth, debunking the narrative of them being "dead" economies.

### **India Among Few Economies Growing Faster Than the U.S.**

- When comparing economic growth relative to the U.S., only three countries—China, India, and Russia—have expanded their share of the global economy over the past 30 years.
- India, which was less than 5% the size of the U.S. economy in 1995, has grown to nearly 14% by 2025.
- In contrast, America's traditional allies and trade partners, including the United Kingdom, Germany, and Japan, have all seen their economies shrink in size relative to the U.S.



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- This highlights India's impressive economic ascent, defying claims of being a "dead" economy.

### India's Economic Growth Masks Deep-Rooted Structural Challenges

- While India is far from being a "dead" economy, its robust GDP growth conceals several persistent structural issues.
  - Since 2011-12, **India's growth rate has slowed**, failing to replicate the 8-9% surge seen before the 2008 global financial crisis, with recent years hovering around 6%.
  - Unlike China's rapid expansion, **India's GDP has grown at a much slower pace**.
  - In global trade, **India holds a modest 1.8% share in goods exports** and 4.5% in services.
  - The **economy remains protectionist in sectors like agriculture**, which is plagued by distress and subsistence-level farming due to the failure of manufacturing to absorb surplus rural labour.
  - **Manufacturing growth** has lagged behind agriculture since 2019-20.
  - Additionally, **economic growth has been highly unequal**, with 24% of the population still below the poverty line and alarming rises in income inequality.
  - **Human development indicators**, particularly in health, education, and employment quality, remain poor.
  - **High-skilled unemployment and low female workforce participation** further highlight deep-rooted socio-economic challenges that need urgent attention.
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### DIGITAL FIRMS RAISE ALARM OVER MOBILE NUMBER VALIDATION RULES IN INDIA

- India's digital economy may soon face new compliance burdens due to a draft rule under the **Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Amendment Rules, 2025**.
- Proposed by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), the new framework mandates **mobile number validation** to ensure subscribers are legitimate users.



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- While intended to strengthen cyber security, the rule has sparked serious concerns among tech companies about its **legal scope, cost implications, and regulatory overreach**.

### Industry Concerns on Jurisdiction and Regulatory Overreach

- The **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)**, representing global players like Google, Apple, and Amazon, has called the move a case of **legislative overreach**.
- In its submission to the DoT, IAMAI argued that the draft rules extend telecom-style regulation to entities that neither provide telecom services nor control telecom infrastructure.
- The association warned that this expansion of regulatory authority could have **widespread consequences for digital service providers**, especially in sectors such as:
  - Fintech and digital payments
  - Mobility and e-commerce platforms
  - OTT content providers and social media
  - Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
- IAMAI emphasised that such rules were **not envisioned under the Telecommunications Act, 2023**, making their extension to unrelated sectors legally questionable.

### Financial Burden and Operational Disruption

- Although Rs 3 per mobile verification may seem nominal, IAMAI warned that it would add up quickly for platforms handling **millions of users**.
- For startups and MSMEs, these recurring costs could **reshape business models** or compel platforms to pass the burden onto consumers via price hikes or service restrictions.
- CUTS International, a policy think tank, echoed these concerns.
- It noted in its regulatory impact assessment that the **net benefit of the draft rules could be negative**, especially when alternative cybersecurity initiatives are already underway.



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- CUTS advised the government to **focus on streamlining existing cyber safety frameworks** rather than introducing fragmented and potentially burdensome mechanisms.

### Potential for Mandatory Enforcement in Specific Sectors

- While the DoT has hinted that the validation framework may **remain optional for private entities**, the **draft language leaves room for later mandatory adoption**.
- Experts pointed out that the vagueness around implementation adds to business uncertainty.
- Legal analysts questioned whether the DoT even had the authority to mandate such rules across non-telecom sectors, suggesting that the proposal may **violate the separation of regulatory domains**.

### The Broader Debate on Digital Regulation in India

- This controversy comes amid a larger push by the Indian government to tighten digital security through legislation.
- Recent moves like - The **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**; The **Digital India Act (in draft stage)**; Expanded roles for **CERT-In and the MeitY** - reflect an assertive approach to securing India's growing digital landscape.
- However, concerns about **regulatory overlap, business costs, and innovation slowdowns** are increasingly surfacing.
- As India aims to be a global digital innovation hub, the challenge lies in **balancing national security objectives with ease of doing business**, especially for small tech enterprises and startups.

### WHAT IS THE BLUEBIRD SATELLITE?



- It is an advanced **American communications satellite**.
- It was developed by the **S.-based AST SpaceMobile**.
- The Bluebird satellite boasts **revolutionary technology** that will enable individuals to make calls using smartphones from space.



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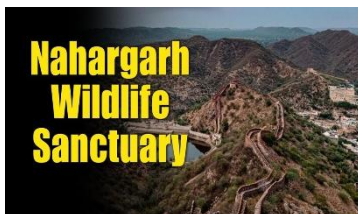


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- With an innovative **antenna spanning 64 square meters** and a weight of approximately 6,000 kilograms, the satellite will **operate in low Earth orbit**, facilitating **direct satellite-to-smartphone connections**.
- This capability will **allow users to make calls and access broadband internet from space** without relying on traditional ground-based towers.
- The BlueBird satellites' beams are designed to support a **capacity of up to 40 MHz**, enabling peak data transmission **speeds of up to 120 Mbps**.
- After launch, the BlueBird satellites are planned to offer **non-continuous cellular broadband service across the United States** and in select markets globally.

### NAHARGARH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY (NWS)



- It is located just 20 kilometres from **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
- It encompasses a large area of 720 hectares and is situated **under the Aravalli range**.
- The sanctuary is named after **Nahargarh Fort**, a historic fort **built in the 18th century by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, the founder of Jaipur**.
- **Nahargarh Biological Park**, a part of the Nahargarh sanctuary, is **famous for the lion safaris**.
- **Flora:** The vegetation comprises **dry deciduous forests, scrublands, and grasslands**.
- **Fauna:**
  - Common species include **leopards, wild boars, deer, lions**, tigers, sloth bears, and several small mammals.
  - It's a **haven for bird watchers**, with a variety of species, including **peacocks, owls, and eagles**.
  - In addition to mammals and birds, the sanctuary is home to **reptiles like Indian rock pythons, monitor lizards**, and amphibians like frogs and toads.



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### WHAT IS MITHUN?



- The Mithun, or **gayal** (*Bos frontalis*), is a **heavily built, semi-domesticated bovine species**.
- Mithun is believed to have originated more than 8000 years ago and is **considered to be a descendent of wild Indian gaur, or bison**.
- It is known as the **‘cattle of the mountain’**.
- **Distribution:**
  - The **highest concentration** of mithuns in the world is spread over the **North Eastern (NE) region of India**, with **Arunachal Pradesh having the highest population**. It is also found in parts of **Southeast Asia, viz., Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Bhutan**.
  - The geographic zone is covered with **tropical evergreen rain forests**.
- It is the **state animal of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland**.
- The **‘Soulung’ festival** is observed annually by the **Adi tribes of Arunachal Pradesh** to commemorate the birth and **arrival of Mithun on this earth**.
- **Features:**
  - Mithun appears somewhat **similar to that of the Guar (Indian bison) but is smaller in size**.
  - Like Guars, they are **strongly built, large-sized fleshy animals** with an average weight of 400-650 kg.
  - The **characteristic feature** of Mithun lies in the **head, which has a well-developed, broad frontal bone with a flat-shaped face**, and from the front view, it appears like an inverted triangle from where **two horns emerge** from the lateral sides.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - **IUCN Red List: Vulnerable**
  - **CITES: Appendix I**