Cerebral Palsy

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in news?

Recently, the World Cerebral Palsy Day were organized to raise awareness about Cerebral Palsy (CP) among the people with great enthusiasm and inclusivity.

- Cerebral Palsy (CP) is a ***group of disorders*** that affect a person's ability to move and maintain balance and posture.
- "Cerebral" means having to do with the brain; "Palsy" means weakness in or problems with using the muscles
- **Causes –** It is caused by ***abnormal brain development*** or damage to the developing brain that affects muscle control.
- It can happen before birth, during birth, within a month after birth, or during the first years of a child's life, while the brain is still developing.
- **Types of CP –** Depending on which areas of the brain are affected –
  - Spasticity (Stiff muscles);
  - Dyskinesia (Uncontrollable movements);
  - Ataxia (Poor balance and coordination) and
  - Mixed cerebral palsy.
- **Symptoms –** Its symptoms vary from person to person includes poor coordination, balance, and muscle tone, uncontrolled movements or tremors, etc.
- The associated symptoms includes seizures, learning disabilities, and intellectual disabilities.
- **Treatment –** There is ***no cure*** for CP, but early identification and treatment can improve the lives of those who have the condition.

Quick Fact

World Cerebral Palsy Day

• It is celebrated annually on **October 6**.
• **1st declared in –** 2012 by Cerebral Palsy Alliance.
• **Aim –** To raise awareness and to highlight the challenges faced by people living with CP worldwide.
• The day serves as a platform for individuals, families, and organizations to share experiences and promote understanding.
• **Theme for 2025 –** "Unique and United".
• **In India –** Jointly observed by
  - Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD),
  - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment along with
  - National Institutes and Composite Regional Centers (CRCs).

The estimated prevalence of CP in India is around 2.1 to 3 cases per 1,000 live births.

References

1. PIB | World Cerebral Palsy Day
2. Center for Disease Control and Prevention | Cerebral Palsy

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