

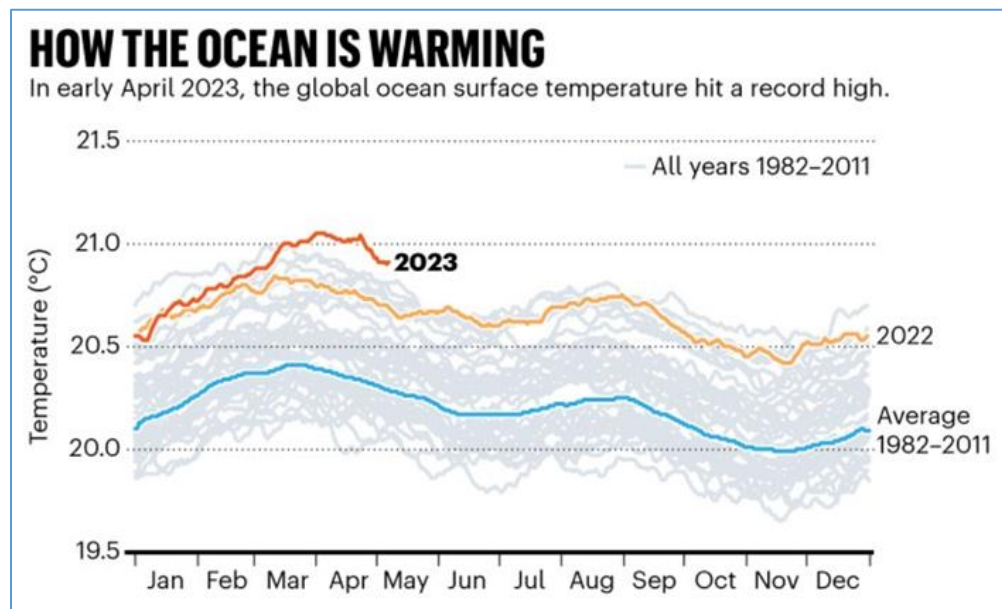
May - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Ministry of Commerce organized the third edition in the form of first-ever physical Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Startup Forum in New Delhi recently.
- ❖ Actor Alia Bhatt has been appointed as the first Indian global ambassador for luxury Italian fashion brand Gucci.

NATIONAL

Intensive cyclones on Indian coast



- ❖ A study titled “Changing status of tropical cyclones over the north Indian Ocean” was conducted recently.
- ❖ This study revealed how climate change is making cyclones more intense on both sides of the Indian coast.
- ❖ The translation speed of cyclones (the speed at which cyclones move) has decreased in the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ During 1982–2019, a significant increasing trend in the intensity, frequency, and duration of cyclonic storms (CS) and very severe CS (VSCS) was observed over the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ There has been a 52% increase in the frequency of CS during the recent epoch (2001–2019) in the Arabian Sea.

- ❖ There is a decrease of 8 percent in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ Temperatures have been between 30-32 degrees Celsius in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ These high temperatures play a very important role in the intensification of cyclonic storms as they infuse more convection.

ODF Plus Status



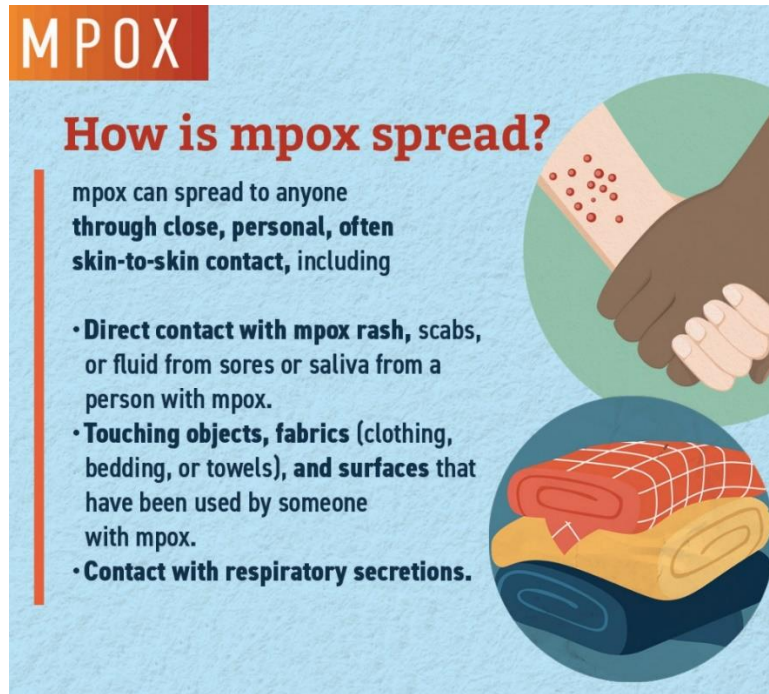
- ❖ Half of the nation's villages have attained ODF Plus status under the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) Phase II.
- ❖ Over 2.96 lakh villages have declared themselves ODF Plus.
- ❖ This putting the country on track to reach its SBM-G Phase II targets by 2024-25.
- ❖ An ODF Plus village not only maintains its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status but also implements either solid or liquid waste management systems.
- ❖ Among the top-performing states are Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Goa and Sikkim leading the way among smaller states.
- ❖ All Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu, and Lakshadweep boast 100% ODF Plus Model villages.

INTERNATIONAL

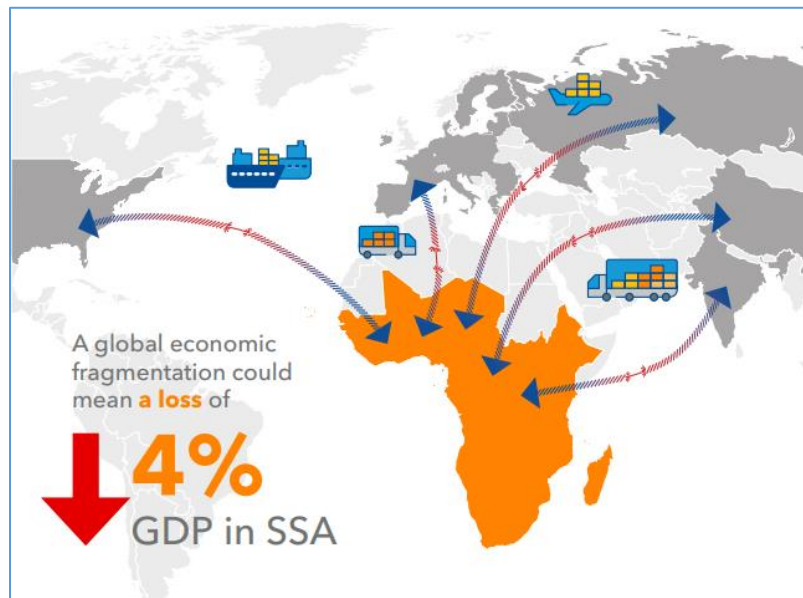
Mpox public health emergency

- ❖ World Health Organization (WHO) announced an end to the public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) for mpox.
- ❖ It was declared in July 2022 in the wake of unprecedented international spread.

- ❖ This came after confirmed cases in over 100 countries since the disease started spreading globally in May 2022.



IMF report on Sub-Sahara Africa



- ❖ The IMF recently released a report titled, 'Goeconomic Fragmentation: Sub-Saharan Africa Caught between the Fault Lines'.

- ❖ Economic and trade alliances with new economic partners, China, India and others, have benefited sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❖ Escalation of current geopolitical tensions would see countries in sub-Saharan Africa hit by higher import prices or even lose access to key export markets.
- ❖ This would mean that half of the region's international trade value could be impacted.
- ❖ Sub-Saharan African region could lose an estimated \$10 billion of foreign direct investment and official development assistance inflows.

ECONOMY

Greenwashing TechSprint

- ❖ The RBI invited interested Indian companies to participate in Greenwashing TechSprint.
- ❖ The RBI is among 13 international regulators taking part in first ever Greenwashing TechSprint.
- ❖ It is organised by Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN).
- ❖ The GFIN is a group of over 80 international organisations committed to supporting financial innovation.

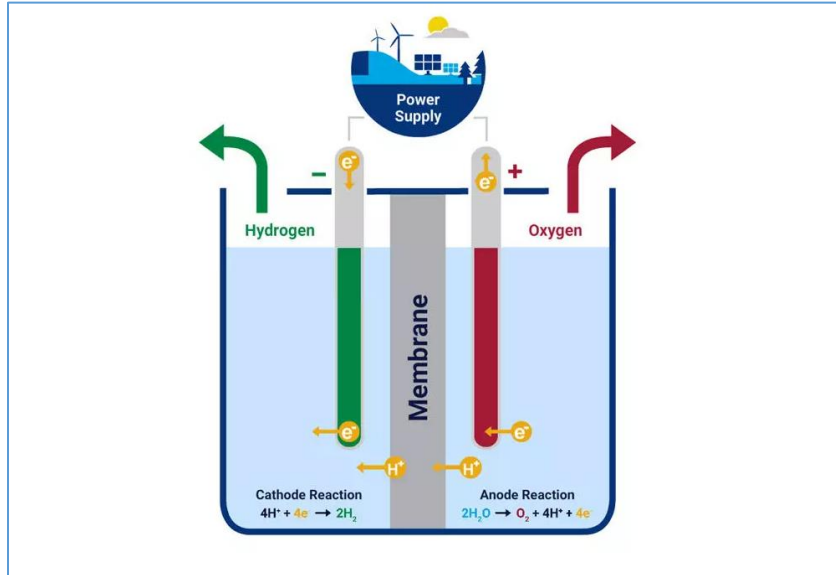


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Catalyst For Green Hydrogen Fuel

- ❖ IIT - Guwahati have developed a catalyst that can produce sustainable green hydrogen fuel from wood alcohol.
- ❖ Also, it wouldn't produce carbon dioxide as a by-product.

- ❖ The easy and environmentally safe process also produces formic acid which is a useful industrial chemical.
- ❖ This makes methanol a promising Liquid Organic Hydrogen Carrier (LOHC) and contributes to the concept of hydrogen-methanol economy.



Semi-Cryogenic Engine Tests



- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation has successfully commenced testing of its semi-cryogenic engines.
- ❖ The very first integrated test on an intermediate configuration of the 2000 kN (Kilonewton) semi-cryogenic engine carried out.

- ❖ This test conducted in newly-commissioned Semi cryogenic Integrated Engine & Stage Test facility at ISRO Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.

ENVIRONMENT

Ban the use of fossil fuels



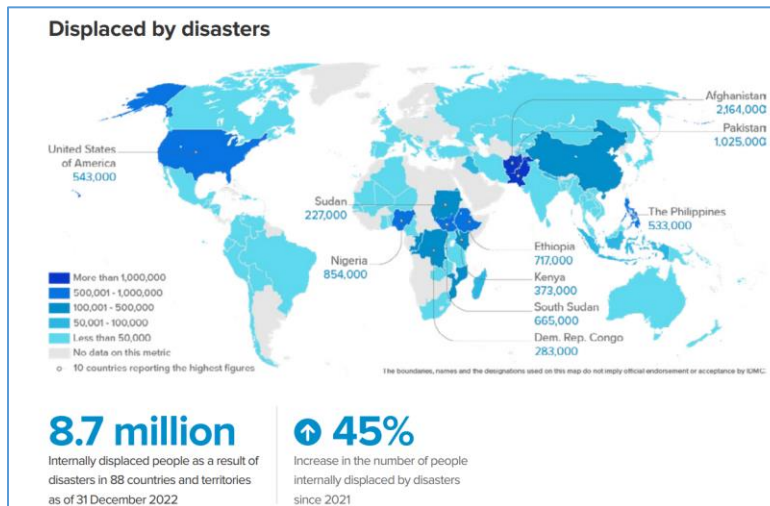
- ❖ New York has become first state in the US to ban the use of natural gas and other fossil fuels in the majority of new buildings.
- ❖ This is an important win for climate activists, but it could encounter pushback from the fossil fuel industry.
- ❖ By 2026, all new buildings under seven floors must have all-electric heating and cooking, and for higher buildings by 2029.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Report on Internal Displacement 2023

- ❖ This annual report was released by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.
- ❖ The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) around the world reached 71.1 million as of the end of 2022.
- ❖ This saw an increase of 20 per cent from the previous year.
- ❖ India recorded the fourth largest disaster displacement, with 2.5 million displacements.
- ❖ Pakistan had the highest number of disaster displacements in the world in 2022, at 8.16 million.

- ❖ The Philippines was at second rank and reported 5.44 million displacements.
- ❖ China at third rank with 3.63 million.
- ❖ Nigeria at fifth rank with 2.4 million.
- ❖ The conflict in Ukraine triggered nearly 17 million displacements as people fled repeatedly from rapidly shifting frontlines.
- ❖ Conflict and violence triggered 28.3 million internal displacements worldwide.
- ❖ The number of disaster displacements rose by nearly 40 per cent compared to the previous year, reaching 32.6 million.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Families - May 15

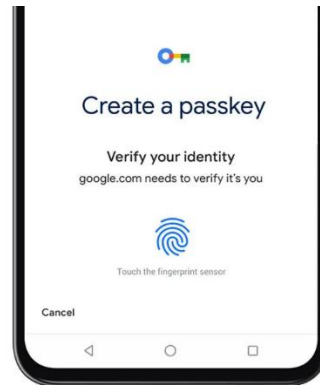


- ❖ This day is celebrated on to raise awareness of the importance of families and their role in society.

- ❖ The day focuses on the important role that families play in our society while also highlighting the issues faced by them.
- ❖ The United Nations adopted a resolution in 1994 to establish this International Day.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is 'Demographic Trends and Families'.

MISCELLANEOUS

Google passkeys



- ❖ Google has started rolling out passkeys - the password alternative to sign into Google accounts.
- ❖ Passkeys are considered a simpler and safer way to sign into apps and websites and relies on the user's biometrics.
- ❖ Passkeys offer a hassle-free sign in experience to users as they don't have to remember long passwords for different websites.
- ❖ Unlike passwords, passkeys are more resistant to online attacks like phishing.

