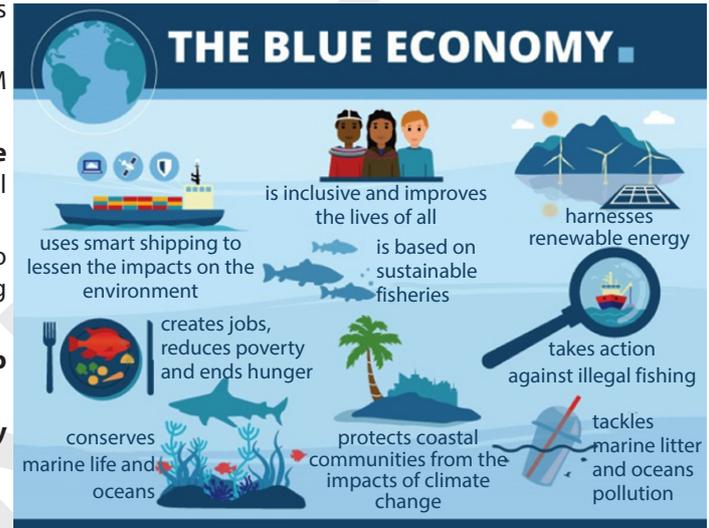


NEWS TODAY

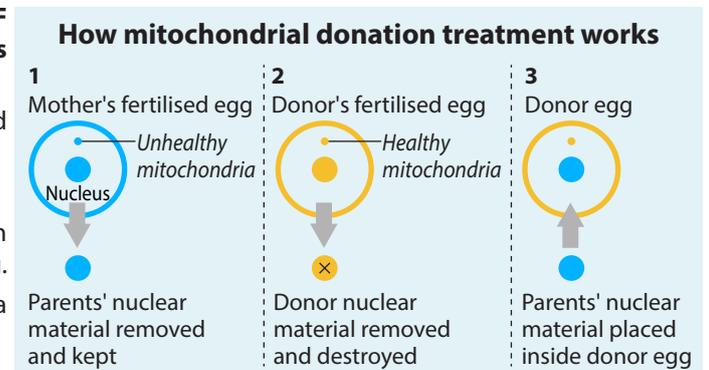
FIRST-EVER HIGH-LEVEL MISSION STEERING COMMITTEE (MSC) MEETING OF DEEP OCEAN MISSION (DOM) ORGANIZED BY UNION MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (MoES)

- Meeting of MSC was held to **review the progress of DOM** and its various components.
 - MSC is the **highest Policy making body** constituted under the DOM providing broad **policy direction** to the mission.
- The meeting highlighted the exploration of **strategic minerals like cobalt, nickel, copper, and manganese** and their commercial exploitation.
 - 11 potential sites for exploration of hydrogen sulphides** has also been identified and a dedicated multi-purpose vessel was being acquired to carry out detailed surveys as part of the DOM.
- DOM **aims to explore the deep ocean for resources and develop deep-sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.**
 - It will be a five year mission-mode project to support **Blue Economy initiatives.**
 - Ministry of Earth Sciences** is the nodal ministry for this mission.
 - DOM consists of 6 themes viz.
 - Development of **Technologies for Deep Sea Mining**, and Manned Submersibles.
 - Development of **Ocean Climate Change Advisory Services.**
 - Technological innovations for exploration and conservation of deep-sea biodiversity.
 - Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration.**
 - Energy and freshwater from Ocean.**
 - Advanced Marine Station for Ocean Biology.**
- The **Samudrayaan project** (consists of manned submersible vehicle 'MATSYA 6000') was also launched in 2021 to fulfill the objective of DOM.



FIRST UK BABY BORN WITH HELP OF MITOCHONDRIAL DONATION TREATMENT (MDT) (THREE-PARENT BABIES)

- MDT uses tissue from the **eggs of healthy female donors** to create **IVF (in vitro fertilization) embryos** that are free from **harmful mutations** their mothers carry and are likely to pass on to their children.
 - It is also known as **mitochondrial replacement therapy (MRT)** and **Three-parent babies Process** (due to involvement of three persons)
- Mechanism:**
 - Embryos** combine sperm and egg from the **biological parents** with tiny battery-like structures called **mitochondria** from the donor's egg.
 - Resulting baby has **DNA** from the **mother** and **father** as usual, plus a small amount of genetic material (about 37 genes) from the donor.
- Benefits:**
 - It aimed to help women with **mutated mitochondria** to have babies **without the risk of passing on genetic disorders.**
 - About **one** in 6,000 babies are **affected** by mitochondrial disorders.
 - People inherit all their mitochondria from their mother, **so harmful mutations in the "batteries" can affect all of the children a woman has.**
- Concerns:** Development of designer babies, dilutes parenthood, costly in nature etc.



50% OF INDIA'S TOTAL VILLAGES ARE NOW ODF PLUS UNDER SWACHH BHARAT MISSION GRAMEEN (SBM-G) PHASE II

- **More than 2.96 lakh villages** have declared themselves Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus, which is a significant step towards **achieving the SBM-G phase II goals by 2024-25**.
 - **Top performing states** in terms of percentage of ODF Plus villages are **Telangana (100%)**, followed by **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh** among the big states.
 - **Goa and Sikkim** are top performers among small states.
 - **Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu and Lakshadweep** have 100% ODF Plus Model villages.
- **SBM-G Phase I** was launched in 2014 by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** to eliminate open defecation in rural areas by 2019.
 - Under it, **all villages in India declared themselves ODF** by 2019.
- The Phase-II of SBM-G, being implemented from **2020-21 to 2024-25**, focuses on **sustainability of ODF status and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM)**. The other major components under it are:
 - Plastic Waste Management (PWM), and Faecal Sludge Management (FSM),
 - **GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources)** - Management of cattle waste, agriculture waste and organic waste,
 - Information Education and Communication/Behavior Change Communication (IEC/BCC) and
 - Capacity Building

MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING & WATERWAYS (MOPSW) LAUNCHED 'HARIT SAGAR' THE GREEN PORT GUIDELINES 2023

- Harit Sagar Guidelines - 2023 **envisages ecosystem dynamics in port development, operation and maintenance** while aligning with 'Working with Nature' concept and minimizing impact on biotic components of harbor ecosystem.
 - It lays emphasis on use of **Clean/Green energy in Port operation, developing Port capabilities for storage, handling and bunkering Greener Fuels** viz. Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia, Green Methanol / Ethanol etc.
- **Highlights of the guidelines**
 - Ports must meet at least **60% of electricity needs via renewables by 2030 and 90% by 2047**.
 - Ports Must have at least one **LNG bunkering station by 2030**.
 - Setting up **electric vehicle charging stations** in and **around port areas by 2025**.
 - Provisions for **adopting global Green Reporting Initiative (GRI) standard**.
 - Aspects of the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** pertaining to ports.
- **Significance of guidelines:**
 - To achieve **Zero Carbon Emission Goal**.
 - **Minimizing impact on biotic components** of harbor ecosystem.
 - Achieve **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
 - Promoting **environmental friendly practices** across all ports.

GREEN PORT INITIATIVES

- **Project Green Ports** with two verticals - Green Ports Initiative and Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan
- **National Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS)**
- Pilot project in India under the **IMO Green Voyage 2050 project**
- **Draft Green Ports Policy**

OPEN DEFECTION FREE

SBM ODF: If not a single person is found defecating in the open.

SBM ODF+: ODF status conditions and all community and public toilets are functional and well maintained.

SBM ODF++: ODF+ status conditions and Toilets with sludge and septage management.

INDIAN SLUDGE HAS 'HIGH POTENTIAL' FOR USE AS FERTILIZER: INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IIT)-ROORKEE ANALYSIS

- A first of its kind analysis of the sludge found in Indian sewage treatment plants (STP), set up to treat polluted water from the Ganga, found that most of it had **"high potential" for use as fertilizer**.
 - **Study showed that after drying the sludge fell into the class B category.**
 - **Its nitrogen and phosphorus levels**, which are essential soil nutrients, were higher than the recommended standards.
- **Sludge is the thick residue filtered out of STPs** that while rich in organic chemicals is also a repository of heavy metals, industrial effluents, and bacterial contaminants.
 - **Sludge needs to be stored for at least three months to kill pathogens**, and blended with cattle manure and husk or local soil to reduce the heavy metal.
- **Arth Ganga** (economic value from Ganga) has been launched under **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCC)** to **monetise and reuse** treated wastewater and sludge.
 - It aims to **convert sludge** into usable products such as **manure** and bricks.
- **Benefits of Using Sludge as a Fertilizer:** Proper disposal of sludge, using minerals present in it (circular economy), etc.

TREATED SLUDGE

- **Treated sludge** can be classified as class A or class B, as per the standards of the United States Environment Protection Agency.
 - **Class A** is safe to be disposed of in the open and **useful as organic fertilizer**.
 - **Class B** means that the sludge can be used in **"restricted" agricultural applications**.

UNION MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (WCD) LAUNCHED THE POSHAN BHI, PADHAI BHI (PBPB) SCHEME

- PBPB will focus on **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)** (first six years of children) at anganwadis across the country.
- **Key Highlights of the Scheme:**
 - It envisages training of anganwadi workers through the **National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)**.
 - It targets **children's development in every domain** mentioned in the **National Curriculum Framework**, like physical and motor development, cognitive development etc.
 - It will focus on **promoting holistic and quality early stimulation and pre-primary education** for children.
- **ECCE** refers to providing care including health and nutrition as well as early learning opportunities to all young children.
 - A **protective and stimulating** environment consisting of play-based and developmentally appropriate activities are vital for children's physical-motor, cognitive, socio-emotional and language development.
 - **ECCE** is a crucial component of **Mission Saksham Anganwadi** and **Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0)** and it was foreseen under the **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020**.
- **Anganwadi centers in India:**
 - They are established under **Integrated Child Development scheme (1975)**.
 - **1.39 million operational Anganwadi centers** across the country are providing supplementary nutrition and early care and education to around 80 million children under the age of 6 years.

ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>Update on Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Union government has added new activities as money-laundering under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002.● It includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Acting as a formation agent of companies and limited liability partnerships.➤ Acting as a director or secretary of a company.➤ Individuals who provide the company with an office or correspondence address.➤ Partner of a firm or similar position in relation to other companies and limited liability partnerships, etc.● Any agreement of lease, sub-lease, tenancy or any other agreement for the use of land, building or space where the rent is subject to tax deduction at source, will not be covered under this. <p>Note: Please refer to News Today of 5th May as government has earlier brought certain entities under the PMLA, 2002.</p>
 <p>Raising and Accelerating MSMEs Performance programme (RAMP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● First meeting of National MSME Council held with emphasis on RAMP.● About RAMP<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It is a World Bank assisted Central Sector Scheme, supporting COVID Resilience and Recovery interventions of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).➤ It aims at improving access to market and credit, strengthening institutions and governance, improving Centre-State linkages and partnerships, addressing issues of delayed payments and greening of MSMEs.● The National MSME Council has been set up to oversee inter-Central Ministerial/Departmental coordination.
 <p>Right To Walk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Punjab has become the first state to implement the 'right to walk'.● Right to walk make it mandatory for all road-owning agencies, including the NHAI, to provide footpaths and cycle tracks on the road.
 <p>Indo- Thai CORPAT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● It is a military exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thailand Navy

 <p>Exchange Traded Commodity Derivatives (ETCDs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SEBI allowed stock exchanges to extend direct market access facility to foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) for participation in ETCDs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Earlier in 2022, SEBI had also allowed FPIs to participate in the ETCDs in order to increase depth and liquidity in the market. ● An ETCD is a derivative that is listed and traded on a regulated exchange with a commodity being an underlying asset. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Derivatives are financial contracts that derive their values from the price fluctuations of their underlying assets such as stocks, currency, bonds, commodities etc
 <p>Mission Amrit Sarovar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More than 50,000 water bodies have been rejuvenated ahead of schedule (build 50,000 'Amrit Sarovar' by August 2023) under the Mission Amrit Sarovar. ● Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched in 2022 with an objective to develop at least 75 Amrit Sarovar in every district of the country with a view to conserve water for the future. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal ministry. ➤ It aims to construct or renovate the 'Amrit Sarovar' in such a way that they become the centre of local community activities.
 <p>SAKSHAM Learning Management Information System (LMIS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the SAKSHAM LMIS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It has been developed by the National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW), New Delhi. ● SAKSHAM is a dedicated and unified platform for providing online training and medical education to all health professionals in the country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It will ensure inclusive capacity building of health professionals from primary health centres located in rural and remote areas all the way up to tertiary care and corporate hospitals in metropolitan cities.
 <p>Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has approved shifting three tigresses from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR) to Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR) and Ramgarh Visdhari Tiger Reserves. ● It lies in the eastern part of Rajasthan (at the junction of the Aravali and the Vindhya hill ranges). ● Forest Type: Tropical dry deciduous, dhak (Flame of forest) is the most common tree. ● Animal Species: Tiger, Hanuman langurs, rhesus macaques, jackals, jungle cats, caracals etc
 <p>Telangana's Robotics Policy Framework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Telangana has become the first state in the country to launch a state robotics framework with a vision to create a sustainable robotics ecosystem. ● It has been developed by the Emerging Technologies Wing in collaboration with the All-India Robotics Association and inputs from academia, industry experts and stakeholders. ● It focuses on leveraging robotics technology to drive growth and development across identified four key domains – agriculture, healthcare, industrial automation and consumer robotics.

Errata: In News Today dated 8th April, 2023, due to a typographical error, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (**INCOIS**) was given as a **regional commission of United Nations.**

Correct information: INCOIS is **not** a regional commission of United Nations.

Addition information for INCOIS is:

● **Other important functions of INCOIS are:**

➤ To establish an **Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges.**

➤ To **promote research in the field of ocean information** and related services including satellite oceanography