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22 April 2024

National & International News

World Earth Day 2024



Why in the news?

- Earth Day is dedicated to **demonstrating support for environmental protection.**

About World Earth Day 2024:

- **Date:** Earth Day will be observed on **April 22, 2024.**
- **Theme:** The theme for 2024 is "**Planet vs. Plastics**", focusing on **reducing plastic pollution and its impact on human and environmental health.**
- **Goals:** The aims include a **60% reduction in plastic production by 2040, phasing out single-use plastics by 2030, and promoting innovative technologies for a plastic-free future.**
- **Negotiations:** Concurrent with Earth Day, the fourth round of negotiations for the **United Nations Global Plastic Treaty** will take place, aiming for stringent commitments against plastic pollution.

Think:

- Know about the **Global Plastic Treaty.**

Global Financial Stability Report 2024

Why in news?

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** released the latest **global financial stability report.**
- The report warns about **risks to the global financial system from several factors:**
  - Persistent high inflation
  - Rising lending in the unregulated credit market
  - Increasing cyber-attacks on financial institutions.

Key points of the report:

- **Geopolitical risks**, such as the **ongoing war in West Asia and Ukraine**, could **affect aggregate supply and lead to higher prices.** This might **prevent central banks from lowering rates soon.**
- In 2023, **India was the second-largest recipient of foreign capital after the U.S.** However, this could change quickly if Western central banks indicate that they could maintain high interest rates for a prolonged period.



- The report also highlights **concerns about the growing unregulated private credit market**, where **non-bank financial institutions** lend to corporate borrowers.

### Did you know:

- IMF also publishes the **World Economic Outlook (WEO)** twice a year, typically in **April** and **October**.
- It provides a **detailed analysis of global economic performance and projections**.

### Places in news: Rafah crossing

### Why in news?

- **Israeli strikes** occurred overnight in the **southern Gaza city of Rafah**.
- The strikes resulted in the death of 22 people.

### About Rafah crossing:

- **Location and Function:** Rafah Crossing is the **only border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip**. It serves as the **primary passage for Gazans to access the outside world** and for the delivery of humanitarian aid.
- **Control:** The crossing is controlled by **Egypt**, following an **agreement with Israel made in 2007**.





<p><b>Longevity India Initiative</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Indian Institute of Science (IISc)</b> has announced the launch of a project called the <b>Longevity India Initiative</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About Longevity India Initiative:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The initiative is aimed at <b>extending the human health span</b>, the period during which a person remains healthy, and <b>tackling aging-related challenges</b>.</li><li>• It is a <b>Multidisciplinary Collaboration</b>.</li><li>• It seeks to <b>develop interventions</b> that can <b>effectively manage age-related diseases</b> and promote healthy ageing across India.</li><li>• <b>Research areas include</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Identifying biomarkers of ageing,</li><li>○ Early disease indicators, and</li><li>○ Developing new therapeutics and technologies.</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><b>Mpox or Monkeypox</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A study published on April 18 by <b>Nature Communications</b> extensively <b>sequenced the genome of the mpox virus</b> implicated in the <b>2022 outbreak</b> using <b>advanced genome sequencing technologies</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About Mpox:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is a <b>DNA virus</b>.</li><li>• <b>Cause:</b> Mpox is caused by the <b>monkeypox virus</b>, which is a <b>member of the Orthopoxvirus genus</b> in the family <b>Poxviridae</b>.</li><li>• <b>Transmission:</b> The <b>virus can spread from person to person</b> through <b>close contact with respiratory secretions, skin lesions of an infected person, or recently contaminated objects</b>. Transmission can also occur via droplets during prolonged face-to-face contact.</li><li>• <b>Vaccination:</b> Vaccines used for smallpox such as the <b>JYNNEOS</b> (also known as Imvamune or Imvanex) vaccine are effective against Mpox.</li></ul> <p><b>Think:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Know about <b>genome sequencing technologies</b>.</li></ul>

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