

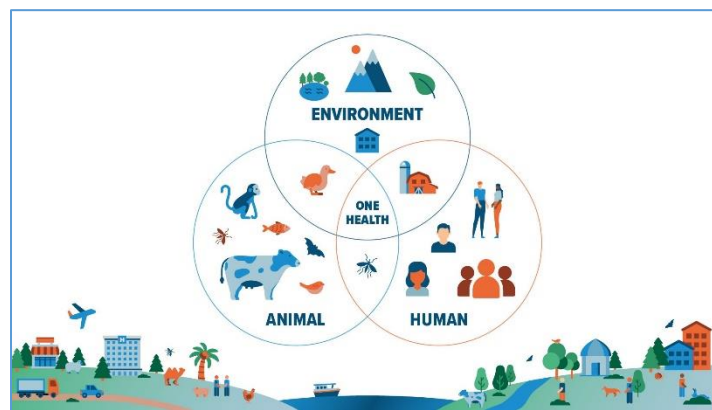
July - 30

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Rahaab Allana was honoured by France as an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters for his work in the South Asian photography and fostering Indo-French cultural ties.
- ❖ The French Alps are set to host the XXVI Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games 2030.
- ❖ Salt Lake City-Utah of USA will host the XXVII Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games 2034.
- ❖ Shah Rukh Khan is set to receive the prestigious Pardo alla Carriera award at the Locarno Film Festival, Switzerland.
 - Recently, he was honoured with the customised gold coins by Paris' Grevin Museum.
- ❖ International Friendship Day is celebrated every year on July 30.
 - But, countries such as India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, the UAE, and the USA observe Friendship Day on the first Sunday of August.

TAMIL NADU

One Health panel - Tamilnadu



- ❖ The State has constituted the 'One Health and Climate Change Strategic Committee' with the Chief Secretary as the Chairperson.
- ❖ The 23-member committee aims to promote a comprehensive response to the public health challenges posed by climate change.
- ❖ Experts included are Soumya Swaminathan, G. Sundar Rajan, Kalpana Bala Krishnan and WASH specialist Ananya Ghoshal.

- ❖ The effects of climate change, combined with land use and lifestyle changes, may lead to the emergence of various diseases affecting both humans and animals.

NATIONAL

9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog

- ❖ Prime Minister chaired the 9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog.
- ❖ 26 States and UTs participated in the meeting while 10 states and UTs were absent.
- ❖ During the conference, recommendations were made on five key themes —
 - **Drinking** water: access, quantity, and quality;
 - **Electricity**: quality, efficiency, and reliability;
 - **Health**: accessibility, affordability, and quality of care;
 - **Schooling**: access and quality and land and
 - **Property**: accessibility, digitization, registration, and mutation.



Right to tax mineral-rich lands

- ❖ The Supreme Court held that, the power of State Legislatures to tax mining lands and quarries is not limited by the Parliament's Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act of 1957.



- ❖ It frees states from the restrictions of the Centre and is in tune with the federalist principles of governance.
- ❖ State Legislatures derive their power to tax mines and quarries under Article 246 read with Entry 49 (tax on lands and buildings) in the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- ❖ Mineral bearing lands fall within the description of 'lands' in Entry 49.
- ❖ But centre had argued that Entry 50 in the State List had allowed the Parliament to impose "any limitations" on taxes on mineral rights through laws relating to mineral development.
- ❖ The verdict further clarified that royalty paid by those who lease mines to the government is not tax.
- ❖ The case has its genesis in a dispute between India Cement Ltd and the Tamil Nadu government of 1989.

“ Royalty is not a tax. Royalty is a contractual consideration paid by the mining lessee to lessor for enjoyment of mineral rights. The liability to pay royalty arises out of the contractual conditions of the mining lease. Payments made to the govt cannot be deemed to be a tax merely because the statute provides for their recovery as arrears –SC's majority order

The state legislatures have legislative competence under Article 246 read with Entry 49-List II to tax lands and buildings but not lands which comprise of mines and quarries or have mineral deposits as mineral bearing lands do not fall within the description of lands (under Entry 49-List II)

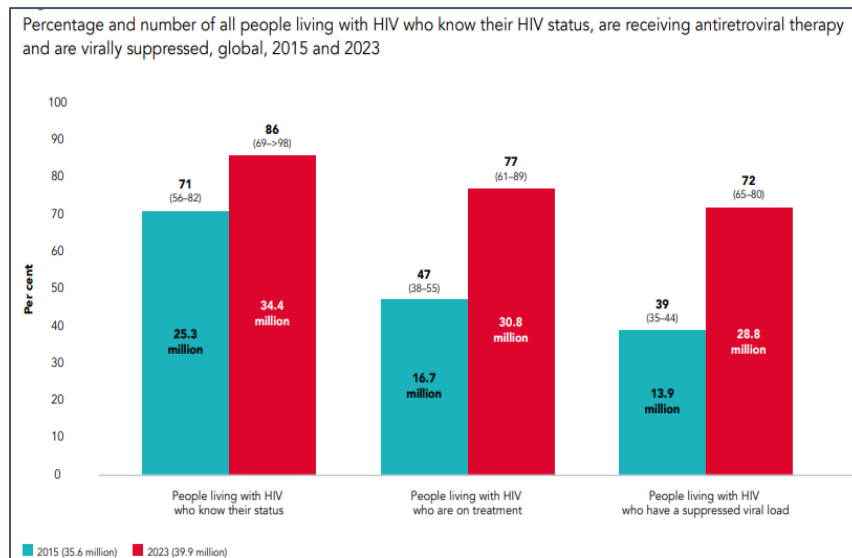
–Justice B V Nagarathna's dissenting order in 8:1 verdict

INTERNATIONAL

UNAIDS Global AIDS Update 2024

- ❖ HIV remains a major global public health issue, having claimed an estimated 42.3 million lives to date.
- ❖ There were an estimated 39.9 million people living with HIV at the end of 2023, 65% of whom are in the WHO African Region.

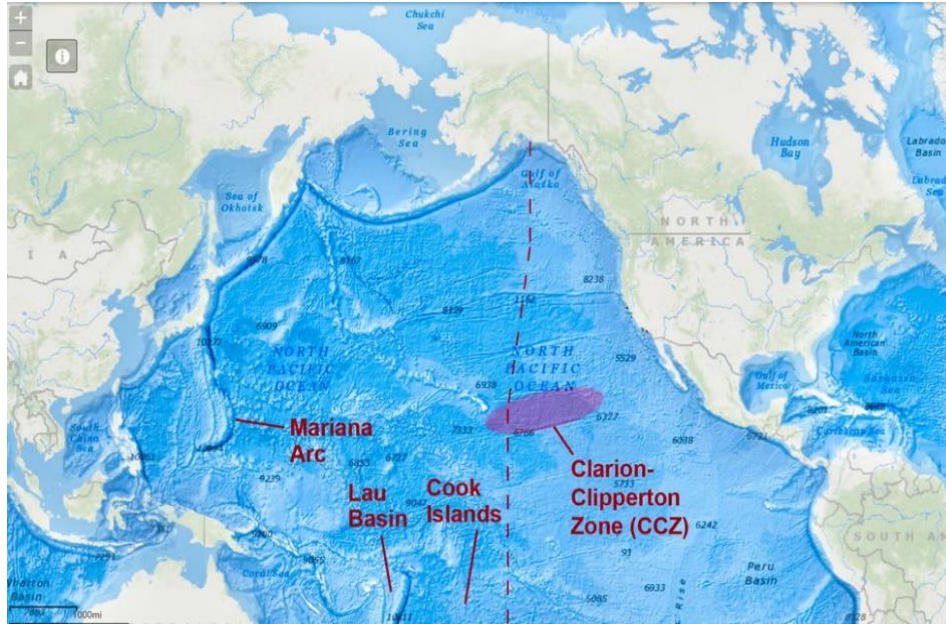
- ❖ In 2023, an estimated 630 000 people died from HIV-related causes and an estimated 1.3 million people acquired HIV.
- ❖ By 2025, 95% of all people living with HIV should have a diagnosis, 95% of whom should be taking lifesaving antiretroviral treatment, and 95% of people living with HIV on treatment should achieve a suppressed viral load.
- ❖ In 2023, these percentages were 86%, 89%, and 93% respectively.
- ❖ In 2023, of all people living with HIV, 86% knew their status, 77% were receiving antiretroviral therapy and 72% had suppressed viral loads.
- ❖ The 1.3 million people who acquired HIV in 2023 was 39% lower than in 2010.
- ❖ However, 1.3 million new cases of HIV are three times higher than the 2025 target of 370,000 or fewer new infections.
- ❖ The HIV response globally is short of \$9.5 billion, and this gap keeps increasing.



Clarion-Clipperton Zone

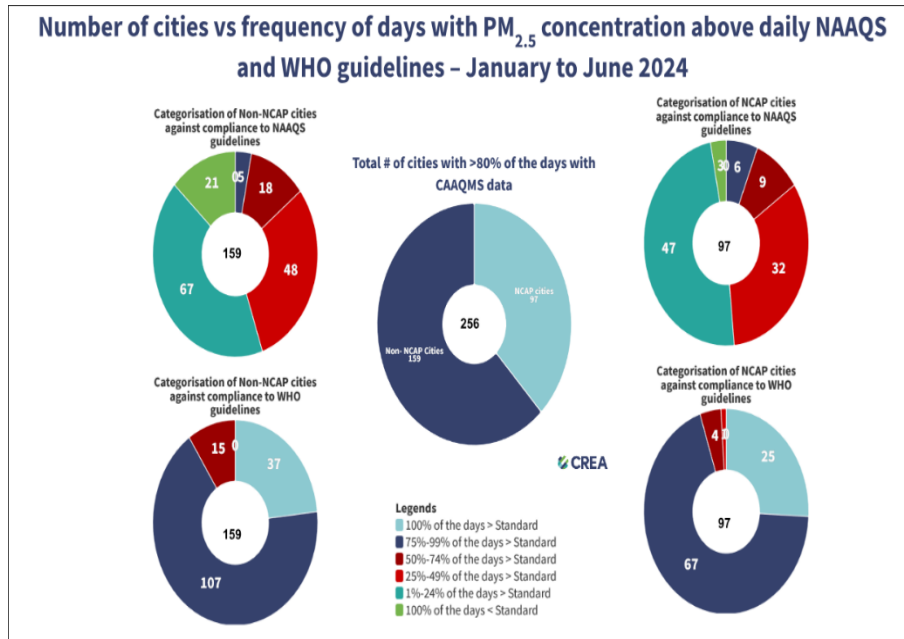
- ❖ India will apply for licences to explore for deep-sea minerals in the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ India plans to focus on the Clarion-Clipperton Zone.
- ❖ It is a vast plain between Hawaii and Mexico.
- ❖ It is known to hold large volumes of polymetallic nodules containing minerals like manganese, nickel, copper, and cobalt.
- ❖ International Seabed Authority (ISA) has issued 31 deep-sea exploration licences, including two for India in the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ But, it is yet to allow mining because the 36-member body is still working on the regulations.

- ❖ China, Russia, and some Pacific Island nations have already secured exploration licences for the Pacific Ocean.



ENVIRONMENT

Mid-Year Air Quality Assessment for India 2024



- ❖ Recently, the mid-year air quality assessment for India was released by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

- ❖ Byrnihat of Meghalaya, located on the Assam-Meghalaya border, ranked as the most polluted city in India.
- ❖ Among India's top 10 polluted cities, three were located in Haryana, two each in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, while Delhi, Assam, and Bihar each had one.
- ❖ 163 cities exceeded the annual National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of India ($40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).
- ❖ All 256 cities exceeded the annual World Health Organization (WHO) standard ($5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).
- ❖ Karnataka and Maharashtra had the highest number of cities under the 'Good' and 'Satisfactory' categories, with 16 and 30 cities, respectively.
- ❖ Bihar had the most cities (10) under the 'Moderate' category, while Haryana and Rajasthan each had three cities in the 'Poor' category.
- ❖ Only one city, located in Assam, fell under the 'Severe' category.

SPORTS

Gender Equality in Paris Olympics 2024

SPORT PROGRAMME FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES PARIS 2024

MAIN FEATURES

- Historic 100% gender equality (in athlete quotas)
- 4 additional sports
 - Skateboarding
 - Sport Climbing
 - Surfing
 - Breaking
- More youth-focused events
- Reduction to 10,500 athletes (11,092 in Tokyo)
- Reduction to 329 events (339 in Tokyo)

GENDER EQUALITY

Female participation:

50% Paris 2024 **48.8%** Tokyo 2020 **45.6%** Rio 2016

Exactly 50 per cent male and female participation following the gender equality which has already been achieved for Tokyo 2020 with 48.8 per cent female participation.

22 mixed events (18 in Tokyo)

28 OUT OF 32 sports will be fully gender equal

YOUTH

4 ADDITIONAL SPORTS
Breaking making its Olympic debut.

Skateboarding, sport climbing, surfing and breaking

URBAN SPORTS
concept has been expanded, showcasing youth-focused events, which are inclusive, engaging and can be practised outside conventional arenas.

olympic.org @Olympics

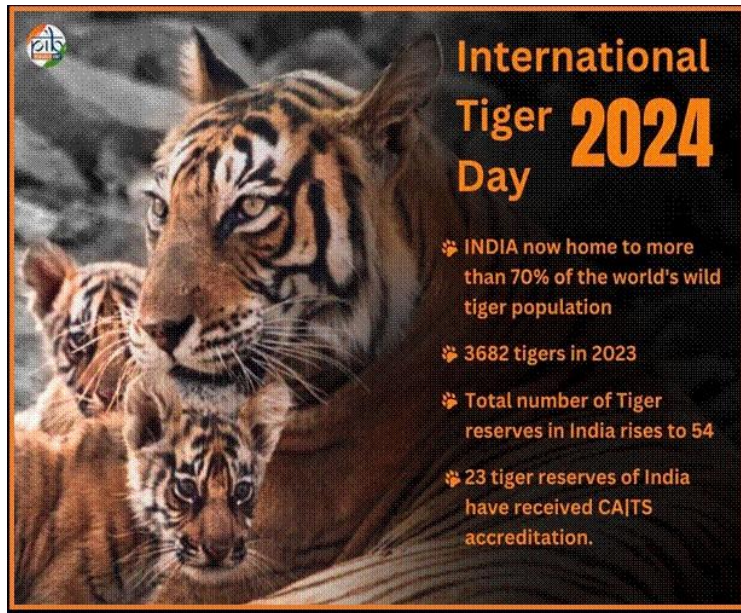
- ❖ Exactly 50 per cent male and female participation, following on from the gender equality already achieved for Tokyo 2020.
- ❖ 2020 Olympic Games held with an overall 48.8 per cent female participation.
- ❖ Now, Mixed gender events increased from 18 to 22, compared to Tokyo 2020.

- ❖ Athletics, boxing and cycling reaches full gender equality for the first time ever at Paris 2024.
- ❖ 28 out of 32 sports on the Paris 2024 programs are fully gender balanced.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Tiger Day 2024 - July 29

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about tiger conservation and promote protection of tiger habitats.
- ❖ This was first announced in 2010 at the Tiger Summit in St Petersburg, Russia.
- ❖ On this occasion, the 13 tiger range countries came together to create Tx2, the global goal to double the number of wild tigers by the year 2022.
- ❖ India is home to over 70 % of the global tiger population.
- ❖ Project Tiger, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, was launched in 1973 (April 1).



MISCELLANEOUS

Digital Postal Index Number

- ❖ The Department of post had collaborated with IIT Hyderabad for developing a National Addressing Grid, named as Digital Postal Index Number (DIGIPIN).
- ❖ This system will act as a strong and robust pillar of Geospatial Governance.

- ❖ It will be leading to enhancements in public service delivery, faster emergency response and a significant boost to logistics efficiency.
- ❖ It will be fully available in public domain and can be easily accessed by everyone.

