



DATE: 3 JULY 2026

1 Human Papillomavirus (HPV) (Source: The Hindu)

- HPV is a **DNA virus** that spreads via sexual contact and causes cervical cancer, and can affect other areas like the throat, skin, etc.
- No specific cure is available, but the vaccine exists.

Few Steps Taken to Counter HPV

- WHO: '90-70-90' targets for 2030 to combat cervical cancer.
- The Union government has proposed to add the HPV vaccine under the Universal Immunisation Programme.
- India's development of the indigenous quadrivalent vaccine, Cervavac
 - The vaccine has to be administered in adolescent girls before they are sexually active between the ages of 9 and 14 years. This is because the vaccine can only prevent the entry of the virus.
 - Screening from the age of 30 can detect cervical disease, which, when treated, also prevents cervical cancer.

Other sexually transmitted diseases:

- AIDS
- Hepatitis

2 Gulf of Aden (Source: The Hindu)

- It is an extension of the Indian Ocean between the Arabian Peninsula and the African continent.
- Borders by Somalia, Yemen, and Djibouti.
- The Gulf is connected to the Somali Sea by the Guardafui Channel and to the Red Sea by the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb.
- It is also a critical part of the Suez Canal shipping route, which connects the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.





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3 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (Source: The Hindu)

NATO is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) in April 1949, with 32 member countries.

- It was set up to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- Headquarters is located in Brussels, Belgium.
- NATO's essential and enduring purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of all its members by political and military means and collective defence under Article 5 of the treaty.
- Founding members are Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- Countries recently joined NATO, are Finland (31st member in 2023), Sweden (32nd member in 2024).

