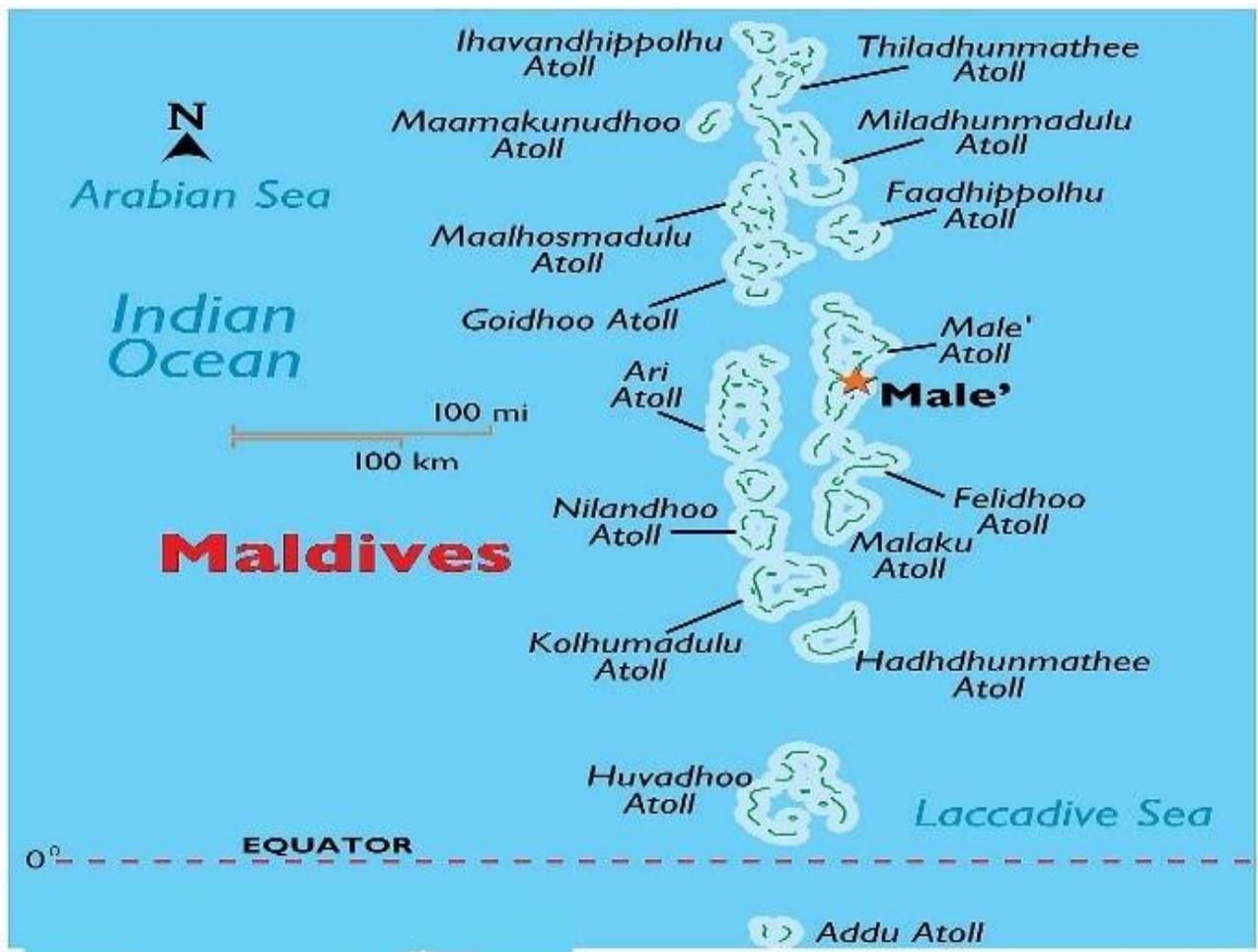




15 Oct 2025

Place in News - Maldives Achieves Triple Elimination

Context: The World Health Organization (WHO) has recognized the Maldives as the first nation globally to accomplish "triple elimination" — halting mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B, which signifies a historic milestone in global public health.



15 Oct 2025

About the Maldives Achieves Triple Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission (MTCT):

- Triple Elimination denotes a country's successful prevention of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B — three significant infectious diseases that impact newborns worldwide. The WHO only validates countries when there are no new infant cases reported for at least two consecutive years, alongside robust monitoring systems and universal maternal healthcare.

Achievements of the Maldives:

- **Global First:** The Maldives is the first country ever to attain the WHO "triple elimination" status (HIV, syphilis & hepatitis B).
- **Universal Maternal Health Coverage:** More than 95% of pregnant women receive antenatal care and are screened for all three infections.
- **Immunization Success:** Over 95% of newborns are administered the hepatitis B birth dose within 24 hours, providing early protection.
- **Zero Transmission:** Since 2022, no infants have been born with HIV or syphilis, and surveys conducted in 2023 indicated zero cases of hepatitis B among children.

About the Maldives:

- **Location:** The Maldives is an independent island nation situated in the north-central Indian Ocean, approximately 600 km southwest of India and 645 km southwest of Sri Lanka.
- **Capital:** Malé.



- **Population:** Estimated at 561,900 (2025); the official language is Dhivehi; the state religion is Islam.

Geographic Features:

- **Island Composition:** The nation consists of around 1,200 small coral islands organized into 26 atolls, of which about 200 are inhabited.
- **Elevation:** It is one of the lowest-lying countries in the world, with no island exceeding 1.8 meters (6 feet) above sea level.
- **Climate:** The Maldives experiences a tropical climate, with the southwest monsoon (May–Aug) bringing rainfall and the northeast monsoon (Dec–Mar) providing dry weather.