

The first International Day of Zero Waste

April 3, 2023

In news- The first-ever International Day of Zero Waste was observed on March 30, 2023, encouraging everyone to prevent and minimise waste and promoting a societal shift towards a circular economy.

About the day-

- **The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) established the day** in response to the worsening impacts of waste on human health, the economy and the environment.
- The day calls upon all stakeholders, including governments, civil society, businesses, academia, communities, women and youth to engage in activities that raise awareness of zero-waste initiatives.
- **The day was established through a UN General Assembly resolution that followed other resolutions on waste**, including the March 2, 2022 UN Environment Assembly's commitment to advance a global agreement to end plastic pollution.
- Waste generation has increased massively around the world in recent decades, and there are no signs of it slowing down, according to data analysis website Statistica.
- The International Day of Zero Waste aims to bring these myriad impacts of waste to the world's attention and encourage global action at all levels to reduce pollution and waste.

Note:

- **By 2050, worldwide municipal solid waste generation is expected to have increased by roughly 70 per cent to 3.4**

billion tonnes.

- Humanity generates more than 2 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste annually, of which 45 per cent is mismanaged, stated a press release by UNEP.
- Waste comes in all forms and sizes – including plastics, debris from mining and construction sites, electronics and food.
- It disproportionately impacts the poor, with up to 4 billion people lacking access to controlled disposal facilities.