



# Earth Day

## Why in News

- Every year, **April 22** is celebrated as **Earth Day** to raise public awareness about the environment and inspire people to save and protect it.
- The year 2020 marks 50 years since the start of this **modern environmental movement in 1970**.
- The theme of Earth Day 2020 is **“Climate Action”**.

## Key Points

- It was first celebrated in 1970, and is now coordinated globally by the **Earth Day Network** and celebrated in more than 193 countries each year.
- The idea of commemorating such a day was propounded by **Gaylord Nelson**, an American environmentalist and politician.
- The Earth Day also recognizes a **collective responsibility**, as called for in the [1992 Rio Declaration \(Earth Summit\)](#), to promote harmony with nature and the Earth to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations of humanity.
- The **Paris Agreement** was also opened for signature on **22 April 2016 - Earth Day - at UN Headquarters in New York**.
- World Earth Day encourages people to take more steps for the protection of nature and to thank mother earth for the rich environment.

## World Earth day 2020: Digital Celebration

- Google marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Earth Day with a special interactive doodle dedicated to one of the smallest and most critical organisms - **the bees**.
- As people have to stay inside their homes amid [Covid-19 lockdown](#), World Earth Day 2020 is all set to be celebrated digitally. People who plan on participating can join **'24 hours of action'**.
- One can also take 22 challenges that include measuring your carbon footprint, doing a plastic audit, skype a scientist, work for the earth, zero waste for one day and consume 1 meal per day this week on a plant-based diet.

## Earth Day Network

- Earth Day Network is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to diversify, educate and activate the environmental movement worldwide.
- EDN main office is located in Washington DC, USA.

## Note

- 22 March: [World Water Day](#)
- 22 April: Earth Day
- 22 May : [World Biodiversity Day](#)
- Recently the [Earth Hour](#) was observed on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. It encourages people to switch off the lights from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm as per their local time.

**Source: TH**

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