



Earth Day

Why in News?

On 22nd April 2022, the **52nd anniversary of [Earth Day](#)** was celebrated. Earth Day is an international event celebrated around the **world to pledge support for environmental protection.**

- The **theme for Earth Day 2022** is "**Invest In our Planet**".

What is Earth Day?

- **Background:** Earth Day was first observed in 1970 when 20 million took to the streets to protest environmental degradation on the call of US Senator Gaylord Nelson.
 - The event was triggered by the **1969 Santa Barbara oil spill**, as well as other issues such as smog and polluted rivers.
 - In 2009, the United Nations designated 22nd April as '**International Mother Earth Day**'.
- **About:** Earth Day is now globally coordinated by **EARTHDAY.ORG**, which is a non-profit organization. It was formerly known as **Earth Day Network**.
 - **It aims to "build the world's largest environmental movement to drive transformative change for people and the planet"**.
 - It 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 landmark **Paris Agreement**, which brings almost 200 countries together in setting a common target to reduce global greenhouse emissions, was also signed on Earth Day 2016.

What are some Other Important Days?

- 22nd March: **[World Water Day](#)**
- 22nd April: Earth Day
- 22nd May: **[World Biodiversity Day](#)**
- 5th June: **[World Environment Day](#)**
- **[Earth Overshoot Day](#)**

What is Earth Hour?

- **Earth Hour** is the **[World Wildlife Fund for Nature \(WWF\)](#)**'s annual initiative that began in 2007. It is held every year on the last Saturday of March.
- It encourages people from more than 180 countries to switch off the lights from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm as per their local time.
- It seeks to raise awareness about **[climate change](#)** and the need to save the environment.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. Consider the following statements regarding 'Earth Hour': (2014)

1. It is an initiative of UNEP and UNESCO.
2. It is a movement in which the participants switch off the lights for one hour on a certain day every year.
3. It is a movement to raise awareness about the climate change and the need to save the planet.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (c)

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