



# World Environmental Health Day

## Why in News?

World Environmental Health Day 2022 is observed annually on September 26 to spread awareness globally regarding the health of the environment.

- The central idea behind celebrating this day is that the health of the human race is irrevocably intertwined with the health of the environment.

## What are the Key Highlights of World Environmental Health Day?

- **History:**
  - The day was first observed by the **International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH)** in the year 2011. The main aim is the well-being of people across the globe.
    - The IFEH is wholly dedicated to the development and dissemination of knowledge on the protection and subsequent improvement of environmental health.
- **Theme:**
  - The theme for this year is '**Strengthening Environmental Health Systems for the implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals.](#)**'
- **Significance:**
  - It is necessary that the world understands there is an integral connection between the environment, health and the economy. It is therefore **important to invest in healthy and green recovery**, close to all communities.
  - It becomes all the more important for the human race to pay attention to the environment and try to create balance.
  - The World Health Organization launched the "**Manifesto for a healthy recovery of [COVID-19](#)**", with the objective of taking advantage of the momentum that we are facing worldwide.
  - **Environmental Health plays** a pivotal role in the implementation of the SDGs. It is interesting to note that Environmental Health fits into 7 SDGs, 19 targets and 30 indicators of the SDGs.

## What do we Know about India's Environmental Health?

- **Present status:**
  - India was ranked at the **bottom of the list of 180 countries with a paltry score of 18.9** on the **[Environmental Performance Index](#)** 2022.
    - India ranked behind Myanmar at 179, Vietnam (178), Bangladesh (177) and Pakistan (176).
- **Related Initiatives:**
  - **Nagar Vana Udyan Scheme:** This scheme aims to **develop at least one city forest in each city having Municipal Corporation or Class 1 Cities (over 200)** to accommodate a wholesome healthy environment.
  - **National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP):** The initiative was launched to **conserve and make use of wetlands in the country.**
  - **Green Skill Development Programme :**The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate launched the **[Green Skill Development Programme](#)** in June 2017 to teach skills required

- for conserving and protecting the environment among the youth.
- **Save Soil Movement:** On World Environment Day 2022, the Prime Minister launched the '**Save Soil Movement**'. The initiative focuses on five things making the **soil chemical-free, saving organisms that live in the soil, maintaining soil moisture, increasing the availability of water**, and stopping the continuous erosion of soil due to the reduction of forests.
  - India has set a **goal of making 26 million hectares of barren land fertile by 2030** and aims to be **Net-Zero in emissions by 2070**.

**[Source: DTE](#)**

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