



World Environment Day

For Prelims: World Environment Day, United Nations Assembly, Stockholm Conference, COP26, NAP, LiFE Movement, NRLM

For Mains: World Environment Day, Need to conserve Environment and related Initiatives

Why in News?

World Environment Day is celebrated on **5th June every year** to encourage awareness and environmental protection.

- On the Occasion, India launched '**Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement**'.

What are the Key Highlights about World Environment Day?

▪ About:

- The [United Nations Assembly](#) established World Environment Day in 1972, which was the **first day of the Stockholm Conference on the human environment**.
- The celebration of world environment day every year **is done according to a specific theme** and slogan which addresses the major environmental concern of the time.
- It is **hosted by a different country each year**.
 - For example, **India hosted the 45th celebration of World Environment Day** under the theme '**Beat Plastic Pollution**'.
- World Environment Day celebration last year also kicked off the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration \(2021-2030\)](#) which is a global mission to revive billions of hectares, from forests to farmlands, from the top of mountains to the depth of the seas.

▪ Theme for 2022:

- **OnlyOneEarth:**
 - It mirrors the theme of the **first World Environment Day in 1973**.

▪ Significance:

- 2022 is a historic milestone as it marks 50 years since the 1972 [Stockholm Conference](#).

What is LiFE Movement?

▪ About:

- The idea of LiFE was introduced by India during the **26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)** in Glasgow in 2021.
 - The **idea promotes an environmentally conscious lifestyle** that focuses on 'mindful and deliberate utilisation' instead of 'mindless and wasteful consumption'.
- With the launch of the Mission, the prevalent "**use-and-dispose**" **economy-governed by mindless** and destructive consumption-will be replaced by a [circular economy](#), defined by conscious and deliberate consumption.

▪ Objective:

- The Movement **aims to utilise the power of collective action** and nudge individuals

- across the world to undertake simple climate-friendly actions in their daily lives.
- It also **seeks to leverage the strength of social networks to influence social norms** surrounding climate.
- The Mission plans to create and nurture a global network of individuals, namely '**Pro-Planet People' (P3)**.
 - P3 will have a **shared commitment to adopt and promote environmentally friendly lifestyles**.
 - Through the P3 community, the **Mission seeks to create an ecosystem that will reinforce and enable environmentally friendly** behaviours to be self-sustainable.

What has India Achieved in Conserving the Environment?

- **Increase in Forest Cover:**
 - **India's forest cover** is increasing and so is the population of lions, tigers, leopards, elephants and rhinos.
 - The **total forest cover is 21.71% of the total geographical area** in 2021, compared with 21.67% in 2019 and 21.54% in 2017.
- **Installed Electric Capacity:**
 - India's commitment to **reach 40% of installed electric capacity** from non-fossil fuel-based sources has been achieved, 9 years ahead of schedule.
- **Ethanol Blending Target:**
 - The **target of 10% ethanol blending** in petrol has been achieved 5 months ahead of the November 2022 target.
 - This is a major accomplishment given that blending was hardly 1.5% in 2013-14 and 5% in 2019-20.
- **Renewable Energy Target:**
 - **Renewable energy** has a very high focus in the government.
 - The **country's installed Renewable Energy (RE) capacity** stands at 150.54 GW (solar: 48.55 GW, wind: 40.03 GW, Small hydro Power: 4.83, Bio-power: 10.62, Large Hydro: 46.51 GW) as on 30th Nov. 2021 while its nuclear energy based installed electricity capacity stands at 6.78 GW.
 - **India has the 4th largest wind power capacity** in the world.

What are the Other Related Initiatives?

- **National Afforestation Programme (NAP):**
 - It **focuses on the rehabilitation of degraded forests** and afforestation around forests.
- **National Mission for a Green India (GIM):**
 - It is under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)** and aimed at improving and increasing tree cover as a climate adaptation and mitigation strategy.
- **National Biodiversity Action Plan:**
 - It has been **launched to implement strategies for the reduction in rates of degradation**, fragmentation and loss of natural habitats.
- **Rural Livelihood Schemes:**
 - Recognition of natural resources intrinsically linked to rural livelihoods is also reflected in flagship schemes like the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** and the **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)**.

Source: PIB