



## Earth Hour

### Why in News?

Every year on 26<sup>th</sup> March, people around the planet take an hour off electricity by switching off their lights at homes and offices as a show of support for conservation of energy during the [World Earth Hour](#).

- It has to be noted here that the Earth Hour is different from [Earth Day \(22<sup>nd</sup> April\)](#).



### What is the World Wildlife Fund for Nature?

- **About:**
  - It is the **world's leading conservation organisation** and works in more than 100 countries.
- **Established:**
  - It was **established in 1961** and is headquartered at Gland, Switzerland
- **Mission:**
  - **To conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats** to the diversity of life on Earth.
- **Other Initiatives of WWF:**
  - [TX2 Goal](#)
  - [TRAFFIC](#)
  - [Living Planet Report](#)

## What is an Earth Hour?

### ▪ About:

- 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**.
- The idea is to **refrain from the use of non-essential lighting** to save energy in a symbolic call for environmental protection.

### ▪ 2022 Theme:

- Shape Our Future

## What are the Objectives and Significance?

- Earth Hour aims to **increase awareness and spark global conversations on protecting nature, tackling the [climate crisis](#)**, and working together to shape a brighter future for humans.
- It calls for the world to **unite in a moment of solidarity for people and the planet**.
- The practice has **become a catalyst for dramatic change and collective action** towards protecting the environment.
- The symbolic lights-out Earth Hour has become **the world's largest grassroots movement to raise awareness about climate change and [energy conservation](#)** and to assure a sustainable, brighter future.

## What are the Major Indian Initiatives for Energy Conservation?

- **[Perform Achieve and Trade Scheme \(PAT\)](#)**: It is a market based mechanism to enhance the cost effectiveness in improving the Energy Efficiency in Energy Intensive industries through certification of energy saving which can be traded.
- **[Standards and Labeling](#)**: The scheme was launched in 2006 and is currently invoked for equipment/appliances.
- **[Energy Conservation Building Code \(ECBC\)](#)**: It was developed for new commercial buildings in 2007.
- **Demand Side Management**: It is the selection, planning, and implementation of measures intended to have an influence on the demand or customer-side of the electric metre.

## 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 the 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)

[Source: HT](#)

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