



PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU  
( Research Unit )  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Government of India



## Earth Hour (March 26)

(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change)

March 26, 2022

*“Sustainable growth is possible only through sustainable energy sources”*

- [Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)

### Introduction<sup>1</sup> - What is Earth Hour?

Organized by the non-profit organization [World Wide Fund](#) (WWF), ‘Earth Hour’ is a global grassroots movement uniting people to take action on environmental issues and protect the planet. [Every year on the last Saturday of March](#), supporters in over 190 countries and territories unite, taking action on and raising awareness of the environment issues facing the planet. [Earth Hour 2022](#) will be observed on the Saturday, March 26 at 8:30 pm this year.

### Context - History of ‘Earth Hour’

Engaging a massive mainstream community, ‘Earth Hour’ was famously started as a **lights-out event in Sydney, Australia in 2007**. Since 2007, it has grown to [engage millions of supporters in more than 190 countries and territories](#), inspiring individuals and organizations worldwide to take action for the environment, and driving major legislative changes by harnessing the power of the people. Earth Hour now is described as the world's largest grassroots movement for climate change which aims to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the environment and wildlife.

It is a **worldwide event wherein global landmarks such as Eiffel Tower, Big Ben, Sydney Opera House, the Empire State Building, Rashtrapati Bhawan (India)** amongst others have also participated and switched off their electric lights during Earth Hour. As the movement grows, the one-hour lights out event continues to be the symbol of a broader commitment toward nature and the planet.

### About Earth Hour 2022: [Shape our Future](#)

- [Theme of Earth Hour 2022 is ‘Shape Our Future’](#) signals an important year for people and the planet.
- [The Earth Hour India anthem](#) this year is composed by Shantanu Moitra with vocals by Mohit Chauhan appeals to people for urgent action to save the planet.

- **Earth Hour 2022 will be observed on Saturday, March 26, 2022 at 8:30 p.m.**

### **Government of India's participation in Earth Hour**

Last year, on March 27, 2021, various government offices, buildings and Indian landmarks participated in the global movement to switch-off electricity showcasing their commitment to the cause. Some **landmarks that participated in Earth Hour last year were Rashtrapati Bhavan, India Gate, Shanti Stupa, Ladakh, Royal Mysore Palace, Qutub Minar, National Defence Academy (NDA) Pune, and Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai.**

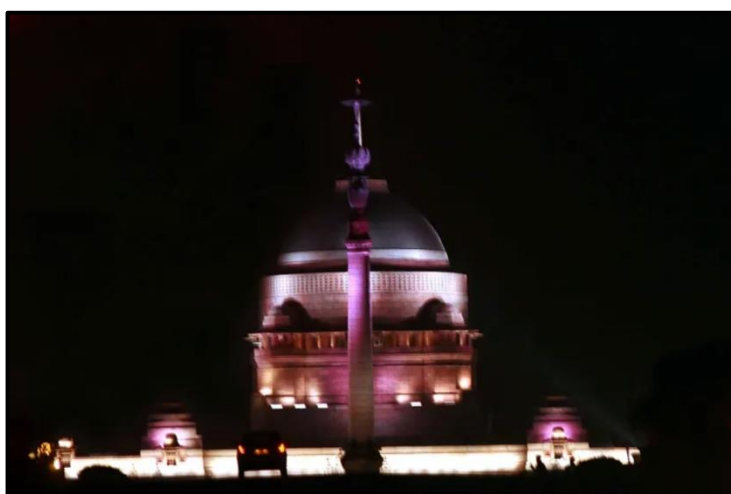


Photo by: Pallav Paliwal

Government of India acknowledges and is committed to recognizing an individuals' role in creating solutions to the planet's most pressing environmental challenges. Furthermore, India envisions development based on [5P's - People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership](#).

### **India's commitments, initiatives and measures taken towards Environment Conservation, Climate mitigation and Energy Transition in the recent past:**

- PM Narendra Modi [took part in the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties \(COP-26\)](#) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Glasgow, United Kingdom in 2021. PM made landmark commitments at COP26 such as India reaching non-fossil energy capacity of 500 GW by 2030, to meet 50 per cent of India's energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030, to reduce carbon emissions by One billion tonnes by 2030, to reduce economy's carbon intensity by 45 per cent by 2030 and to achieve the target of Net Zero by 2070.
- [For strengthening impact, the Indian Delegation](#) also participated in side events on the side-lines of COP26 which include South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, International Solar Alliance, CDRI, Leadership Group for Industry Transition and [Namami Gange](#).
- India's installed non-fossil energy capacity, which is the fourth largest in the world, has increased by [almost 300 per cent in the last 7.5 years and stood at more than 150 GW today. India has one of the world's lowest solar tariffs at Rs 2.14 kW/h.](#)
- Government of India's is focused on converting ['Waste to Energy' and 'Waste to Wealth'](#)
- [India is the only G20 nation well on track to achieve the goals](#) mentioned under [Paris Agreement](#).

- India's initiative [to convert incandescent lights to LED lights \(UJALA\)](#) is an example worthy of emulation by the world.
- The number of Ramsar sites ([Wetlands of International Importance](#)) in India have increased to 47 covering an area of 10,90,230 hectares which include 21 new sites designated during 2019-2021.
- To enhance the efficacy implementation of the Plastic Waste Management Rules (PWMR), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has notified the [Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021](#) which also prohibits identified single use plastic items, [which have low utility and high littering potential, by 2022](#).
- The Ozone Cell of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the [national ozone unit for implementation of the Montreal Protocol in India](#) and phase out of substances controlled under the [Montreal Protocol](#).
- After successfully phasing out [chlorofluorocarbons, carbon tetrachloride, halons, methyl bromide and methyl chloroform for controlled uses](#), India is now phasing out [hydrochlorofluorocarbons](#) as per the accelerated phase out schedule of the Montreal Protocol
- Government of India **ratified the [Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol](#)** to phase down Hydrofluorocarbons on [27 September 2021](#).
- To see the Union Budget 2022-23 provisions for Environment Conservation, affirmative Climate Action and Energy transition, click [here](#).

## References

- **PIB Press Release** on [Dr. Harsh Vardhan appeals to people to switch off lights during Earth Hour on March 24 dated March 23](#), 2018.
- **Press Release** on [Prime Minister delivers the opening address for the Webinar on "Energy for Sustainable Growth"](#) dated March 4, 2022
- <https://www.wfindia.org/?20682/Earth-Hour-2022-theme-Shape-Our-Future-signals-an-important-year-for-people-and-the-planet>
- [https://www.niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/SDG\\_3.0\\_Final\\_04.03.2021\\_Web\\_Spreads.pdf](https://www.niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/SDG_3.0_Final_04.03.2021_Web_Spreads.pdf)
- **Press Release** on [Year End Review: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change](#) dated December 29, 2021
- <https://ddnews.gov.in/sci-tech/earth-hour-harsh-varadhan-asks-people-switch-lights-hour-today>
- [https://wwfin.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/jan\\_apr\\_2011.pdf](https://wwfin.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/jan_apr_2011.pdf)

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.earthhour.org/faqs>