

Some Important Dates

World Wetlands Day on 2nd February:

The day marks the Convention on Wetlands adopted on the 2nd February 1971, in the Iranian City of Ramsar. The Ramsar convention defines wetlands as, "areas of marsh, fern, peat-land or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters"

World Forestry Day on 21st March:

It Commemorates the contribution and value of forests and forestry to the community. The concept of World Forestry Day originated at the 23rd General Assembly of the European Confederation of Agriculture in 1971. Celebrations are held to inform on key facets of forestry like protection, production and recreation.

World Earth Day on 22nd April:

The theme of the day is brought out by "Earth Pledge" taken on the occasion that reads as "Recognizing that people's action towards nature and each other are the source of growing damage to the environment and resources needed to meet human needs and to ensure survival and development. I Pledge to act to the best of my ability to help made the Earth a secure and hospitable home for present and future generation." The day is celebrated as an international event indicating that all major environmental threats are global in scope.

International Day For Biological Diversity on 22nd May

On this day, the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted. Biodiversity refers to the total variety of life on earth and include micro organisms, plants and animals. India is a rich country in terms of biodiversity. In the last few decades, however, India has been facing a serious problem of loss of biodiversity. Population growth, poverty and intensive exploitation of our natural resource base have all contributed to the loss of biological diversity.

World Environment Day on 5th June

This day marks the beginning of the historic United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972. United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) started as a result of this Conference. India also participated in the Conference and we committed to lend political support for the policies and measures on environmental protection. Subsequently, the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution of India incorporated the Article 51A that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve natural environment and Article 48A that it shall be the duty of the state to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the forests and wildlife.

Van Mahotsava in July:

It has been celebrated ever since in India in the month of July when the earth is moist with rains. Behind the idea of this festival lies the imperative of involving as many people as possible in covering the land with forests so that our soil and water are conserved, our birds and other life forms are sustained and our environment is kept healthy.

World Population Day on 11th July

This day was adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989. The action was inspired by the public interest in Five Billion Day on July 11, 1987, approximately the date on which the world's population reached five billion people. Population control measures and wiser and restrictive use of natural resources are therefore key areas of focus if we want our children to have a better future.

International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer on 16th September

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 16th September the International Day for the preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date, in 1987, on which the Montreal protocol on substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed.

Wildlife Week from 2nd to 8th October

The eastern Himalayas and the Western Ghats is one of the 12 mega-diversity areas. With only 2.4 per cent of the global land area, our country possesses more than 45,000 plant species representing about 11 per cent of the world's biota. The flowering plants comprise about 17500 species that represent more than 6 per cent of world's known flowering plants. There are a number of botanical curiosities in the Himalayas only. India's immense faunal diversity that is estimated to be over 81,000 represents about 6.5 per cent of world's fauna. As many as 29 endangered species like slow loris, brown bear, Himalayan lynx, clouded leopard, musk deer, and ibex are found in India.

National Pollution Prevention Day on 2nd December

To pay tribute to the memory of thousands of persons who have lost their lives in the Bhopal gas disaster

National Conservation Day on 3rd December

To publicize the concept of sustainable development among all concerned. The idea originated in 1992 when the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India came out with a National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development Work