World Earth Day, 2026

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Environment*

Why in News?

Recently, the National Science Centre, Delhi, hosted a Popular Science Lecture on Antarctic Exploration and an Open House Quiz to mark World Earth Day 2026.

- **Aim –** To raise ***awareness about environmental challenges*** and promote collective action for sustainability, resilience, and stewardship of natural resources.
- **Celebrated on –** 22nd April.
- **Began in -** 1970 as a national environmental teach-in, initiated by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson and activist Denis Hayes.

Highlights, 2026

- **Theme –** ***"Our Power, Our Planet"*** – emphasises individual and collective responsibility for renewable energy and sustainability.
  - **Renewable Energy Focus**- A major goal of the 2026 campaign is to ***triple global renewable energy generation by 2030,*** highlighting solar, wind, and geothermal power as accessible solutions today.
  - **Individual Empowerment -** The slogan serves as a reminder that personal choices, from the energy we use to how we vote hold significant power in shaping a sustainable future.
- **Focus Areas –** Climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, energy reliability, and community-driven solutions.
- **Global Initiatives– The 25% Revolution**: A campaign exploring how committed social action can change market norms and drive policy.
- **The Canopy Project**: Focused on global reforestation to improve air quality and biodiversity.
- Calls for a **60% reduction in plastic production by 2040**, alongside stronger recycling and waste-management systems.

- **India Events –** National Science Centre lecture by Dr. Amitava Sen Gupta (ISRO) on Antarctic exploration; quiz contest for students.
- **NASA Participation –** Showcased Earth images taken by the Artemis II crew during the lunar flyby.

Reference

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