

Daily Current Affairs

22 April 2026

Earth Day 2026

- Earth Day 2026 will be observed on April 22 and it brings the people worldwide together to raise awareness about environmental protection. This global event highlights the urgent need to tackle climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.
- The historical roots of Earth Day can go back to the early environmental movement in the 1960s. The major turning point came with the publication of the Silent Spring by Rachel Carson, which has exposed the harmful effects of pollution.
- On April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day was celebrated and with over 20 million people participating around the world.
- The theme for Earth Day 2026 is “**Our Power, Our Planet.**”
- This theme focuses on the idea that individual and community actions can drive global environmental change.
- **Key Indian Initiatives**
- National Action Plan on Climate Change focuses on clean energy and sustainability.
- India’s led International Solar Alliance promoting solar energy adoption.
- The Green India Mission aims to increasing forest cover.
- LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) Movement which encourages sustainable habits.
- Swachh Bharat Mission.



Goldman Environmental Prize 2026

- Goldman Environmental Prize 2026 has been awarded to the six women leaders from across the world. And it marks the first all-women cohort since the inception of the award.
- This award is often referred to as the 'Green Nobel' and the prize honors grassroots activists who are working to protect the environment and to combat climate change.
- The Goldman Environmental Prize was established in 1989 by philanthropists the Richard and Rhoda Goldman and it is one of the world's most prestigious awards for environmental activism.
- Each of the recipient receives **\$200,000** and highlights their contributions to environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and climate justice.
- **2026 Winners**
 - Iroro Tanshi (Nigeria) – Africa
 - Borim Kim (South Korea) – Asia
 - Sarah Finch (United Kingdom) – Europe
 - Theonila Roka Matbob (Papua New Guinea) – Islands & Island Nations
 - Alannah Acaq Hurley (United States) – North America
 - Yuvelis Morales Blanco (Colombia) – South & Central America



IIT Madras Introduces ‘Omega Ball’

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras has introduced the new sport which named is Omega Ball. It is an innovative three-team football format and marks the its first-ever entry into the country.
- The initiative not only brings the new dimension to competitive sports but also showcase the IIT Madras commitment to the innovation beyond academics. Alongside with the launch the institute has also proposed the formation of the national-level Omega Ball Club to promote and expand the sport across India.
- Omega Ball is the fast-paced variation of football which introduces a completely new gameplay structure.
- Unlike traditional football,
- It features the three teams playing simultaneously on a circular field with three goals.



ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 Kicks Off in Cairo

- The ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 is set to start in Cairo, Egypt and the start of the international shooting season for the young athletes.
- The tournament was hosted at the Egypt International Olympic City and this competition will see the top junior shooters from all around the world competing across the rifle, pistol and shotgun events. India has fielded the strong 71-member contingent in the global shooting event.
- India has sent the 71-member team with the 58 athletes already arrived in Cairo along with support staff.
- This large contingent reflects the India's commitment to nurturing young talent and maintain the position as the global powerhouse in shooting sports.
- India has fielded the six shooters in the 10m Air Rifle Women category and which is led by **Shambhavi Kshirsagar** an Asian junior record holder and ISSF World Cup champion.



India and South Korea Announce 25 Key Outcomes

- The State Visit of Lee Jee Myung to India both countries have elevated their bilateral ties to the futuristic partnership and unveiled the total 25 key outcomes.
- The main part of the announcement is the Joint Strategic Vision for to strengthening the India-Republic of Korea (ROK) Special Strategic Partnership.
- **Major areas of cooperation includes the,**
- Ports and maritime infrastructure
- Steel and supply chain resilience
- Small and medium enterprises (SMEs)
- Science, technology and the innovation
- Climate action and sustainability
- Cultural and creative industries
- Both countries have set the ambitious target to increase the bilateral trade from \$27 billion to \$50 billion by 2030.
- Resumption of the negotiations to upgrade the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) along with the establishment of an India-Korea Financial Forum and additionally the proposal for the Korean Industrial Township in India.



India Adds 99th Ramsar Site

- Minister of Environment Bhupender Yadav has announced the inclusion of **Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh** as the country's 99th Ramsar site on April 22nd, 2026.
- It is located in Aligarh, and this recognition highlights the India's growing commitment to protect the wetlands and biodiversity. After this addition Uttar Pradesh now has 12 Ramsar sites and also strengthens the position as a key state in wetland conservation.
- The sanctuary is part of the Central Asian Flyway which is a major migratory route used by the birds traveling between northern breeding grounds and southern wintering areas.
- A Ramsar Site is the wetland which is recognized under the Ramsar Convention (1971).
- These wetlands provide crucial critical habitats for migratory birds, endangered species and support the unique flora and fauna.



k
MS

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Earth Day is observed every year on which date?

- A. April 18
- B. April 20
- C. April 22
- D. May 1

Answer: C. April 22

Explanation: Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22 to promote environmental awareness worldwide.

2. The theme of Earth Day 2026 is:

- A. Save Nature Now
- B. Climate First
- C. Our Power, Our Planet
- D. Green Earth Mission

Answer: C. Our Power, Our Planet

Explanation: The 2026 theme emphasizes the role of individuals and communities in environmental protection.

3. Which book played a key role in inspiring the environmental movement?

- A. The Green Revolution
- B. Silent Spring
- C. Earth Matters
- D. Nature and Life

Answer: B. Silent Spring

Explanation: *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson exposed the harmful effects of pollution and triggered environmental awareness.

4. The Goldman Environmental Prize is also known as:

- A. Blue Planet Award
- B. Green Nobel
- C. Earth Hero Award
- D. Global Eco Prize

Answer: B. Green Nobel

Explanation: The Goldman Environmental Prize is popularly called the “Green Nobel” due to its prestige.

5. In which year was the Goldman Environmental Prize established?

- A. 1970
- B. 1985
- C. 1989
- D. 1995

Answer: C. 1989

Explanation: The prize was established in 1989 by philanthropists Richard and Rhoda Goldman.

6. Which Indian institution introduced the sport 'Omega Ball'?

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIT Bombay
- C. IIT Madras
- D. IISc Bengaluru

Answer: C. IIT Madras

Explanation: Indian Institute of Technology Madras introduced Omega Ball, a three-team football format.

7. Omega Ball differs from traditional football because:

- A. It uses two balls
- B. It has no goalposts
- C. Three teams play simultaneously
- D. It is played indoors only

Answer: C. Three teams play simultaneously

Explanation: Omega Ball features three teams competing on a circular field with three goals.

8. The ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 is being held in:

- A. Tokyo
- B. Cairo
- C. Paris
- D. Beijing

Answer: B. Cairo

Explanation: The ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 is आयोजित in Cairo, Egypt.

9. India aims to increase its trade with South Korea to what amount by 2030?

- A. \$40 billion
- B. \$45 billion
- C. \$50 billion
- D. \$60 billion

Answer: C. \$50 billion

Explanation: India and South Korea have set a target to boost bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030.

10. Which site became India's 99th Ramsar Site in 2026?

- A. Chilika Lake
- B. Keoladeo National Park
- C. Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary
- D. Wular Lake

Answer: C. Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary

Explanation: Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary was declared India's 99th Ramsar site in April 2026.