

### 13. International Day of Forests - 21st March

**Observed on:** 21st March every year since 2012.

**The organizers are** the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with Governments, **the Collaborative Partnership on Forests** and other relevant organizations in the field.

#### **Background:**

The occasion was established, and the date fixed, on November 28, 2012, by a resolution of **the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**. The aim behind observing the International Day of Forests is to 'celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests.'

#### **Theme 2022:**

- "Forests and sustainable production and consumption".

### 14. Earth Hour

Every year, **Earth Hour is observed on the last Saturday of March at 8:30 pm**. And while previously it brought the public out onto the roads to mark the hour, this year the famous environmental initiative went digital.

**The topic for Earth Hour 2022 will be "Shape Our Future."** This is a pivotal year for everyone and our world. It is up to us to #ShapeOurFuture by raising awareness about the serious issues impacting our world today.

#### **What is Earth Hour?**

Dating back to 2007, Earth Hour is an annual event **organized by the World Wildlife Fund** that promotes conservation and sustainable energy. During this time, civilians are encouraged to switch off their lights for one hour to help reduce the effect of global warming and raise awareness for climate change and wildlife conservation.

#### **What's the difference between Earth Hour and Earth Day?**

Whereas Earth Hour stands as a climate change initiative where people reduce their electricity usage, **Earth Day (April 22)** celebrates our natural environment by inspiring people to plant trees, recycle regularly and keep the planet tidy.

### 15. India's First Dugong Reserve in Palk Bay:

- **India's first Dugong conservation reserve will be built in Tamil Nadu's Palk Bay for the conservation of Dugong.**
- It would be established in the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay between India and Sri Lanka, for the conservation of the animals.
- The reserve will spread over an area of 500 km in Palk Bay on the southeast coast of Tamil Nadu.

Dugongs are on the verge of extinction, as in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands their population is less than 100.

- Both in the Gulf of Mannar and the Gulf of Kutch, there are very few sporadic records.

#### **Dugong: The sea cow:**

- Dugong or the sea cow is **the State animal of Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.
- This endangered marine species survive on seagrass and other aquatic vegetation found in the area.
- They are marine mammals and have to surface every four minutes to breathe.

