



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

6. World Environment Day 2026– Environment

India reaffirmed its commitment to ecological restoration, climate action, and sustainable development on World Environment Day 2026 (June 5), celebrated in Baku, Azerbaijan – the same city that hosted COP29. The 2026 theme "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future." with campaign message #NowForClimate reflects growing urgency as interconnected planetary crises – weakening AMOC, rising ocean heat, Arctic ice dynamics, and stalled fossil fuel phase-out – demand immediate governance response. From COP29's landmark Article 6.4 carbon markets finalization to COP30's Tropical Forest Forever Facility, global climate architecture is evolving while developing nations including India protest the inadequacy of the \$300 billion developed-nation climate finance pledge.

1. About World Environment Day

1. Established by UNEP during the 1972 Stockholm Conference on Human Environment
2. Marked birth of modern global climate diplomacy
3. Celebrated every year on June 5
4. 2026 Host – Republic of Azerbaijan (Baku) – following Azerbaijan's critical role hosting COP29
5. 2026 Theme – "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future." – #NowForClimate

2. Major Global Environmental Hazards and Emerging Threats

Weakening of Ocean Currents (AMOC)

1. Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) – Massive network of ocean currents acting like giant conveyor belt
2. Moves warm surface water from tropics northward; cools, becomes denser, sinks into deep ocean; drifts back south as cold current balancing global temperatures
3. Threat – Melting Arctic freshwater mixing into ocean, lowering salinity, stalling this engine
4. IPCC Sixth Assessment Report – High confidence AMOC will weaken over 21st century
5. New research – AMOC may slow up to 59% by 2100 – dangerously approaching irreversible "climate tipping point"
6. Socioeconomic Impact –
 1. Extreme sea-level rise in North America
 2. Altered global weather systems
 3. Heavily impacting Indian Monsoon – severe risks for farming, food security, water supplies
 4. Disrupting rural livelihoods for hundreds of millions dependent on summer rains

Rising Ocean Heat and Stratification

1. Oceans absorbed record heat (2024-25) – Additional 23 zettajoule of energy
2. Intense warming causes ocean stratification – warmer nutrient-poor surface water sitting atop heavier cold nutrient-rich deep water
3. Damage –
 1. Harder for layers to mix → Oceans absorb less CO₂
 2. Oxygen cannot circulate properly threatening marine biodiversity
4. Marine Heatwaves (MHWs) – Surface temperatures rising 3-4°C above average for 5+ days
 1. Bleaching coral reefs



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

2. Disrupting global fisheries
3. Fuelling more frequent, intense storms in Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal

The Melting Arctic Sea Ice Illusion

1. Study reveals pace of Arctic Sea ice loss temporarily slowed due to natural climate shifts
2. Core Issue - NOT a recovery - region already lost over 10,000 cubic kilometres of sea ice since 1980s
3. Human-driven GHG emissions continue climbing
4. Temporary 5-10-year slowdown will likely be followed by faster, accelerated melting
5. Long-term impacts - Exacerbated global warming, higher sea levels, greenhouse gas releases via permafrost thaw

The Clean Energy Puzzle

1. World added record 582 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity (2024) - 15% annual increase
2. Total global capacity - 4,442+ gigawatts; clean sources producing ~30% global electricity
3. Aligns with COP28 (Dubai) mandate to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030
4. Structural Flaw - Clean energy not yet fully replacing fossil fuels at global scale
5. COP30 (Belém, Brazil) - Geopolitical gridlock; nations failing to secure consensus on legally binding "phase out" fossil fuels timeline; settled on standard text emphasizing clean energy expansion

3. India's Environmental Vision and Actions

Philosophical Foundation

1. Views nature as shared heritage to protect rather than economic resource to exploit
2. Cultural roots - Classical Indian traditions (Thirukkural) teaching compassion for all living creatures, sustainable natural resource use
3. Living in harmony with nature as philosophical basis

Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration

1. **Wildlife Protection** - Scientific management, habitat restoration for Great Indian Bustard, Snow Leopard, Sloth Bear, Cheetah
2. **Ecosystem-Level Protection** -
 1. Wetlands (Chilika Lake) - vital regional carbon sinks
 2. Mangroves - natural barriers against cyclones, shoreline erosion
3. **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Campaign** - Citizen participation (Jan Bhagidari) tree-planting movement; India adding nearly 119,000 hectares forest cover annually (MoEFCC reports)

Mission LiFE and Circular Economy

1. **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)** - Translates national climate goals into individual behavioural shifts
2. **Focus areas** -
 1. **Sustainable Agriculture** - Organic, regenerative farming protecting soil fertility, conserving water
 2. **Plastic Waste Management** - Single-use plastic bans + Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) frameworks holding manufacturers accountable
 3. **Behavioural Shifts** - Eco-friendly commuting, water-saving, minimizing food waste driving green jobs



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

India's Climate Commitments for 2035

1. Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for 2035 cycle under Paris Agreement
2. Scaling up targets independently in accordance with Paris Agreement timeline

4. International Initiatives and Global Cooperation

New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)

1. Established at COP29 (Baku)
2. Modern foundational pillar for global climate finance
3. Target – Scale up climate funding to developing nations to at least \$1.3 trillion per year by 2035 (all public + private sources)
4. Developed nations agreed to lead mobilization of at least \$300 billion annually by 2035

Baku–Belém Roadmap to 1.3T

1. Institutional mechanism spanning Azerbaijan–Brazil COP presidencies
2. Creating operational path to unlock public, private, concessional grant-based funding streams

Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)

1. Launched at COP30 (Belém, Brazil) – 'Amazon Forest COP'
2. Addresses financial drivers of deforestation by making standing forests more economically valuable than cleared land
3. **Framework** – \$125 billion fund backed by sovereign contributions, private capital; net annual returns paying developing tropical nations for maintaining forest canopy integrity
4. **Socioeconomic Safeguards** – At least 20% of TFFF capital pay-outs go directly to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) as frontline guardians

Article 6.4 Carbon Markets

1. COP29 finalized international framework for Article 6.4 of Paris Agreement
2. After decade of technical, diplomatic deadlock
3. Fully operationalizes unified UN carbon markets
4. Paving way to channel estimated \$1 trillion per year by 2050 into verified green projects across Global South

5. The Climate Finance Challenge

Funding Gap and Geopolitical Discontent

1. Developing economies including India, Nigeria, Bolivia protesting \$300 billion target as "deeply inadequate"
2. India alone requires –
 1. ~\$2.5 trillion by 2030 for baseline green targets
 2. ~\$10.1 trillion by 2070 for complete net-zero trajectory
3. Heavy-emission sectors (steel, cement, transport, thermal power) requiring immense upfront financing; green alternatives (green hydrogen) not yet commercially viable at mass scale

Structural Obstacles

1. **Taxonomy Gap** – India lacks finalized Climate Finance Taxonomy (official rulebook defining "green investment"); without this, international investors cautious about greenwashing risks



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

2. **Local Fiscal Weakness** – Adaptation policies designed centrally but executed by state, local governments lacking fiscal capacity and direct access to international climate funds

6. Way Forward

1. **Finalize Green Taxonomy** – Clear, transparent Climate Finance Taxonomy unlocking global capital pools
2. **Deploy Blended Finance** – Public, multilateral funds absorbing early losses; lowering risks for private developers in offshore wind, energy storage, green hydrogen
3. **Enhance Central Bank Regulations** – RBI introducing mandatory climate stress-testing for banks; expanding Priority Sector Lending for green ventures; increasing capital requirements for carbon-intensive investments
4. **Dedicated Sub-National Facility** – Coordinated channel uniting central government, NABARD, international financial institutions routing adaptation funding directly to state, local bodies
5. **Remove IP Barriers** – Developed countries sharing patents for green steel, carbon capture, smart grid systems enabling developing countries to skip pollution-heavy development stages

7. Conclusion

World Environment Day 2026 highlights interconnected planetary crises — AMOC weakening threatening Indian monsoon, ocean stratification disrupting marine ecosystems, Arctic ice loss continuing despite temporary slowdown, and clean energy growth failing to displace fossil fuels — against the backdrop of COP29's landmark \$300 billion climate finance pledge (protested as inadequate), Article 6.4 carbon market operationalization, and COP30's Tropical Forest Forever Facility. India's response combines philosophical harmony with nature, ecosystem restoration (119,000 hectares annual forest addition), Mission LiFE behavioural shifts, and updated 2035 NDCs while demanding climate finance justice requiring India \$2.5 trillion by 2030 and \$10.1 trillion by 2070.

Source – <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/planet-swelters-world-environment-day-2026-focuses-urgent-climate>