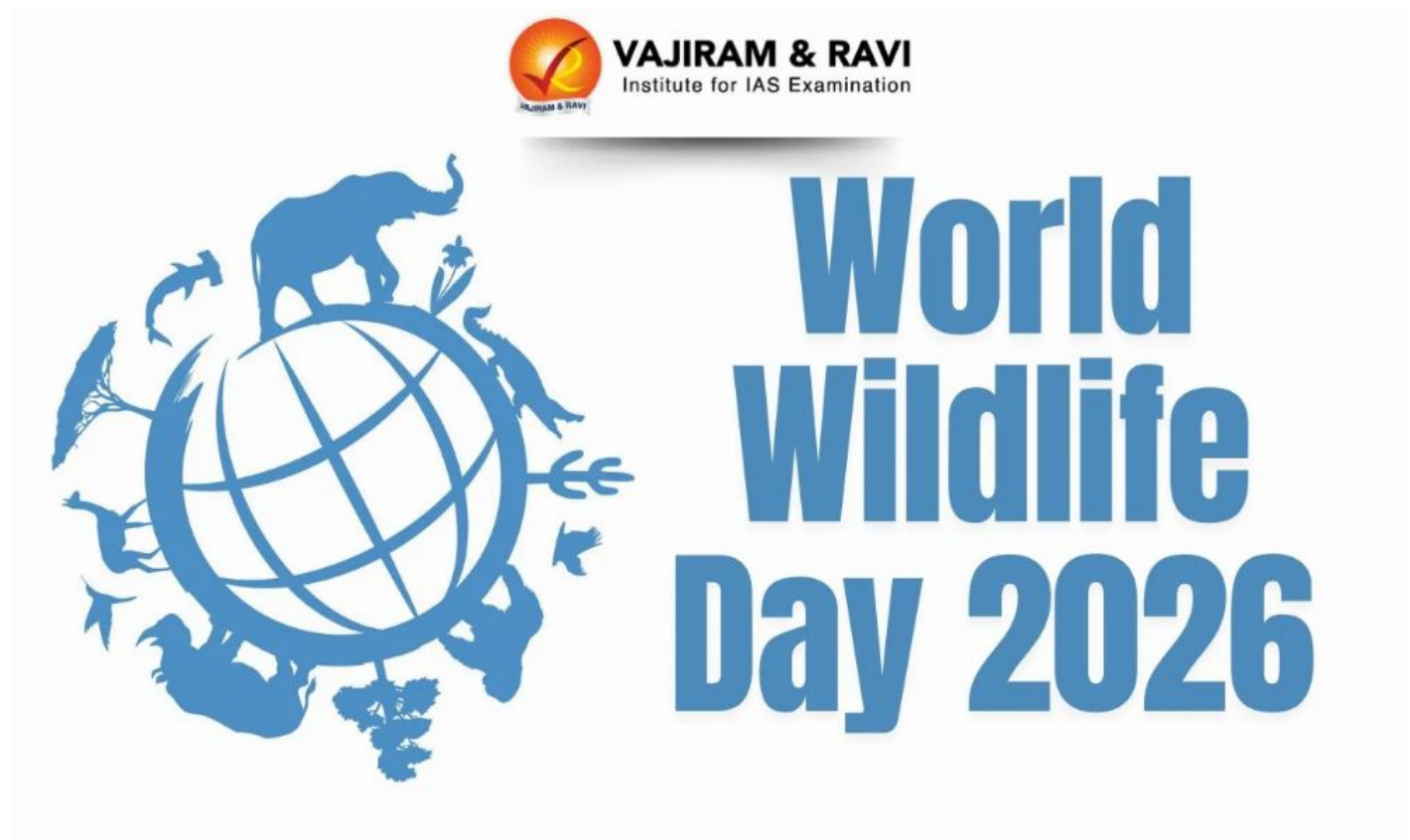


## World Wildlife Day

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### World Wildlife Day Latest News

The Prime Minister reaffirmed India's commitment to wildlife conservation and sustainable practices on the occasion of World Wildlife Day.

### About World Wildlife Day (WWD)

- It is observed every year on **March 3** to celebrate wild animals and plants and recognize the unique roles and contributions of wildlife to people and the planet.
- **History:**
  - It was **established by the United Nations in 2013** after Thailand proposed to dedicate a day to raise awareness about wildlife conservation.
  - On December 20, 2013, the UN General Assembly officially declared March 3 as World Wildlife Day, with the **first celebration taking place in 2014.**
  - This date was chosen because, **in 1973**, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**) **was signed on the same day.**

- **CITES** is a global agreement to **ensure that international wildlife trade does not threaten the survival of animal and plant species.**
- **WWD 2026 Theme: “Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods”**
  - It highlights the importance of plants used for medicine, their role in preserving cultural traditions, and the income they provide to local communities.
  - Across the world, **70-95% of people in developing countries depend on traditional medicine** for basic healthcare, much of it derived from plant-based resources.
  - Medicinal and aromatic plants form the foundation of traditional systems of medicine and also contribute significantly to modern pharmaceuticals.
  - **India is one of 17 megabiodiversity-rich countries** with around **15,000 medicinal plant species**, of which 8,000 are used in Indian medicine, making it one of the world’s most important hubs for medicinal and aromatic plants.

**Source: DD**

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