

7. Short News

1. World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026

The World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026 was held in Hyderabad to promote peace, dialogue, and ethical leadership.

About World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026

1. It was a two-day international conference inaugurated in March 2026 at Begumpet, Hyderabad.
2. **Organised By**– Buddhavanam, a unit of the Telangana Tourism Development Corporation, in association with the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha.
3. **Objective**– To showcase Buddhavanam as a Buddhist Heritage Theme Park to the world.
4. **Participation**– The conference brought together ministers, monks, scholars, and delegates from over 20 countries.
5. **Theme & Focus**– The summit focused on Buddhist approaches to conflict resolution, reconciliation, and healing.

2. 20 Years of Earth Hour

WWF India and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), organised awareness activities to mark 20 years of Earth Hour, with a nationwide call to “Give an Hour for Earth”.

About Earth Hour

1. Earth Hour is the world’s largest grassroots environmental movement, organized annually by the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
2. It encourages individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights for one hour as a symbol of commitment to the planet.
3. **History**– It began as a symbolic lights-out event in Sydney, Australia, in 2007. It has since grown to include over 190 countries.
4. **2026 Milestone**– This year marks the 20th anniversary of the movement.

3. IONS MARITIME EXERCISE (IMEX) TTX 2026

Recently, the Indian Navy hosted IONS Maritime Exercise (IMEX) TTX 2026 at the Maritime Warfare Centre, Southern Naval Command, Kochi

1. The exercise is particularly notable because India has assumed the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Chairmanship for the 2026–2028 cycle.
2. This marks the first time India has held the chair in sixteen years, signaling a renewed leadership role in regional maritime cooperation.

About the Exercise

1. It is a Tabletop Exercise (TTX) conducted in a simulated environment, allowing for complex scenario planning without the need for live ship deployments.
2. **Location**– Maritime Warfare Centre, Southern Naval Command, Kochi, India.

Primary Objectives–

1. Enhancing shared operational understanding among member navies.
2. Refining coordination mechanisms, including information sharing and decision-making.
3. Validating existing maritime security guidelines.

Participants–

4. Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Kenya, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Timor-Leste.



The event saw a broad multinational turnout, emphasizing the “SAGAR” (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative.

