

The International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is observed annually on September 7



Designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2019, the global event builds awareness, promotes international cooperation, and drives action to reduce air pollution and improve air quality worldwide.

Air pollution causes approximately 7 million premature deaths annually, making it the single greatest environmental risk to human health and one of the main avoidable causes of death and disease globally.

Air pollution doesn't only affect human health, it also negatively impacts the climate, economic growth and our natural environment. Air pollution decreases the oxygen supply in our oceans, making it harder for plants to grow and as such, contributes to climate change.



The theme for the 2026 International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies is

"Clean Air for Climate Action",

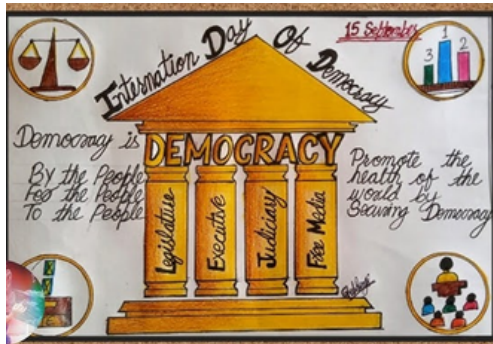
Air pollution also clearly violates the right to a healthy and sustainable environment. Poor air quality has implications for a wide range of human rights, including the rights to life, health, water, food, housing and an adequate standard of living.



Democracy draws its strength from people: their voices, their choices, and their participation in shaping their societies. It flourishes when rights are protected, particularly for those most often left behind.



The International Day of Democracy is celebrated around the world on 15 September each year. It was established through a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly in 2007, encouraging governments to strengthen and consolidate democracy.



The values of freedom, respect for human rights and the principle of holding periodic and genuine elections by universal suffrage are essential elements of democracy.



For 20 years, the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) has played a crucial role in advancing democratic values across the globe. Since its founding, UNDEF has supported civil society, inclusive participation, and strengthened institutions that uphold human rights and the rule of law. Its projects have reached grassroots communities, giving voice to the marginalized, promoting gender equality, and encouraging transparent governance.

Theme 2026:
Bring human rights into focus



WHY IT MATTERS

800

More than 800 cases are currently before the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP), involving MPs facing detention, prosecution or persecution for their work.

58

58 countries from all regions saw a deterioration in parliamentary human rights protections in 2025.

When a parliamentarian is silenced, the communities they represent lose their voice in democracy too.



World Cleanup Day is a global social action program held annually on September 20 to combat the solid waste crisis. It unites millions of volunteers across more than 190 countries to clean up litter from parks, beaches, forests, and streets



Began in 2008 as a grassroots movement in Estonia where 50,000 people cleaned up the entire country in a single day.



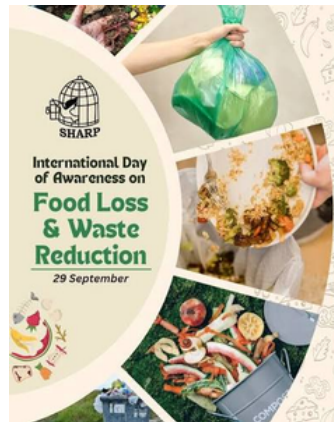
2026-Theme: "From Clean Plates to Clean Cities," centering on food waste reduction and sustainable urban management.



Textile and fashion waste, one of the most visible and fast-growing environmental challenges. Every year, tens of millions of tonnes of unwanted clothes and fabrics end up in our cities – piling up in landfills, clogging drains, and polluting our neighbourhoods. Every second, a garbage truck full of clothes is dumped in a landfill or burned. The fashion industry generates 92 million tonnes of textile waste each year, overwhelming waste systems, polluting waterways, and fuelling the climate crisis.



The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste is observed annually on 29 September. Co-convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), it highlights the urgent need to reduce food loss and waste to improve global food security and fight climate change



The theme for World Food Day in 2026 is
"Innovate today.
Nourish tomorrow."



1 billion tonnes of food are wasted globally each year. Households generate about 60% of all total food waste. Roughly 13% of food is lost post-harvest before ever reaching retail. The average person wastes roughly 79 kg of food annually.

Environmental & Social Impact
Food loss and waste generate 8% to 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Discarded food in landfills acts as a major methane hotspot. Hundreds of millions face hunger and food insecurity while edible meals are thrown away daily.

