



Red Sanders

Why in News

The [International Union for Conservation of Nature's \(IUCN\)](#) recently categorised the **Red Sanders (or Red Sandalwood)** again into the 'endangered' category in its Red List.

- It was classified as '**near threatened**' in 2018.



Key Points

▪ About:

- The species, **Pterocarpus santalinus**, is an **Indian endemic tree species**, with a restricted geographical range in the [Eastern Ghats](#).
- The species is **endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Andhra Pradesh**.
- Red Sanders usually grow in the rocky, degraded and fallow lands with Red Soil and hot and dry climate.

▪ Threats:

- **Illicit felling for smuggling**, forest fires, cattle grazing and other anthropogenic threats.
- Red Sanders, known for their **rich hue and therapeutic properties**, are high in demand across Asia, particularly in China and Japan, for use in cosmetics and medicinal products as well as for making furniture, woodcraft and musical instruments.

▪ Protection Status:

- [IUCN Red List](#): Endangered.

- [CITES](#): Appendix II
- [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act 1972](#): Schedule II

Sandalwood Spike Disease

- It is an infectious disease which is **caused by phytoplasma**.
 - Phytoplasmas are **bacterial parasites** of plant tissues — which are **transmitted by insect vectors** and involved in plant-to-plant transmission.
- There is no cure as of now for the infection.
 - Presently, there is **no option but to cut down and remove the infected tree** to prevent the spread of the disease.
- The disease was **first reported in Kodagu, Karnataka in 1899**.
 - More than a million sandalwood trees were removed in the Kodagu and Mysore region between 1903 and 1916.

[Source: DTE](#)

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