



Heritage Trees

Why in News

The Maharashtra Cabinet has passed an action plan to protect and preserve **trees older than 50 years in urban areas** by terming them heritage trees.

Key Points

▪ Concept of Heritage Tree:

- Few important criteria for considering a tree as a "heritage tree" are: size, shape, rarity, aesthetical/historical values, association with historic person, place or even myths.
- A certain species **need not be native** to an area for this tag.

▪ Components of Plan:

- The provisions included in the plan are the concept of heritage trees and a plan of action for conservation, method to define the age of the tree, rules to be followed before hacking trees etc.
- **Compensatory Plantation:**
 - It will include **planting the number of trees equivalent to the age** of trees to be cut.
 - The saplings need to be **six to eight feet in height** while planting and they will undergo **geo-tagging** with **seven years of caring period**.
 - The option of **monetary compensation** has also been given, instead of compensatory plantation.
- **State-level Tree Authority:** The authority will be formed to protect and preserve heritage trees.
 - **Tree Census:** It will ensure that the tree census is conducted after **every five years**.
 - **Land Use:** Ensuring that **33% of government land** is used for tree plantation.

Source: TH

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