



# Forest Cover in India: Progress and Initiatives

[Source: PIB](#)

## Why in News?

Recently, the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** provided valuable insights into the **various initiatives to boost forest cover in India** during a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

## What are the Major Forest Conservation Initiatives in India?

### ▪ About Forest Cover in India:

- The **Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun** has been conducting **biennial (once every two years)** assessments of **forest cover since 1987**, and the findings are published in the [India State of Forest Report \(ISFR\)](#).
- As per the latest assessment in **ISFR 2021**, India's total forest and tree cover stands at **8,09,537 square kilometers, which accounts for 24.62%** of the country's geographical area.
- Notably, this represents an **increase of 2261 square kilometers compared to the ISFR 2019 assessment**, indicating positive strides in forest conservation efforts.

### ▪ Government Initiatives to Boost Forest Cover:

- [Green India Mission \(GIM\)](#): Started in the Financial Year 2015-16, GIM focuses on afforestation activities.
    - Over the last five years, **Rs. 755.28 Crores** has been released to seventeen States and one union territory to support afforestation efforts.
  - [National Afforestation Programme](#): Implemented for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas.
    - **The National Afforestation Programme is now merged with Green India Mission.**
  - [Nagar Van Yojana \(NVY\)](#): Launched in 2020, NVY aims to create **600 Nagar Vans and 400 Nagar Vatika in urban and peri-urban areas** by 2024-25.
    - The initiative intends to enhance the **green cover, preserve biological diversity, and improve the quality of life** for urban dwellers.
  - [Compensatory Afforestation Fund \(CAMPA\)](#): Utilized by States/UTs for compensatory afforestation to offset forest land diversion for developmental projects.
    - **90% of the CAF money is to be given to the states** while 10% is to be retained by the Centre..
  - **Multi-Departmental Efforts**: Apart from the central initiatives, afforestation activities are taken up under various programs and schemes of line Ministries, State Governments/UT Administrations, Non-Government Organizations, Civil Society, and Corporate bodies.
    - Some notable efforts include participation in the [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme](#), [National Bamboo Mission](#), and [Sub-Mission on Agroforestry](#).
  - **Draft National Forest Policy**: The policy focuses on **integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation measures into forest management practices**. It emphasizes building resilience to climate change, particularly among forest-dependent communities.
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## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### **Prelims**

**Q1. At the national level, which ministry is the nodal agency to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006? (2021)**

- (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- (c) Ministry of Rural Development
- (d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

**Ans: (d)**

**Q2. A particular State in India has the following characteristics: (2012)**

1. It is located on the same latitude which passes through northern Rajasthan.
2. It has over 80% of its area under forest cover.
3. Over 12% of forest cover constitutes the Protected Area Network in this State.

**Which one among the following States has all the above characteristics?**

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Assam
- (c) Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Uttarakhand

**Ans: (a)**

### **Mains**

**Q. "The most significant achievement of modern law in India is the constitutionalization of environmental problems by the Supreme Court." Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws. (2022)**