



## Haryana Forest Census | Haryana | 18 Apr 2024

### Why in News?

According to the first state-wide tree census there are around **4.1 crore trees outside designated forests in Haryana**, with **neem, shisham, pipal, bargad and eucalyptus** being the most common species.

### Key Points

- Approximately 150 surveyors, taxonomists, and technical staff were engaged in the project for a duration of 13 months to assist authorities in making well-informed decisions regarding **green cover management in the state**.
  - It provides **data on the number of trees in each district outside forest areas**. The **highest tree counts** were found in Yamunanagar, Ambala, Sirsa, Bhiwani, and Hisar.
  - Faridabad had the **lowest count**, with Kurukshetra, Palwal, Gurgaon, and Rohtak following suit.
- Covering only 6.7% of its total area, **Haryana has the smallest forest and tree cover in India**. The [National Forest Policy](#) aims for a 20% coverage for each state.
  - Out of 22 districts in Haryana, 21 have less than 20% forest and tree cover.
  - Karnal ranks the lowest with 1.8%, Panchkula tops the list with 47.4%, and Gurgaon stands sixth at 12.9%.
- The state is witnessing a rapid decline in tree cover too, as reported by the [Forest Survey of India](#), with a 140 sq km reduction in the tree cover (excluding forest area) from 2019 to 2020.
  - Forest department officials are planning to enhance conservation efforts using census data.
  - They are advocating that the government earmark at least 25% of panchayat and common lands for plantations, institutions should have 33% of their area under tree cover, and urban local bodies should focus on developing green spaces in cities, drawing inspiration from Hyderabad's initiatives.
  - Emphasizing the importance of high-quality seedlings, officials stressed that using them is crucial for ensuring the survival and growth of trees.

### National Forest Policy

- India's forests are currently governed by the **National Forest Policy, 1988**
- It has environmental balance and livelihood at its centre.
- **Salient Features and Goals:**
  - Maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and restoration of ecological balance.
  - Conservation of Natural Heritage (existing).
  - Checking Soil Erosion and Denudation in catchment areas of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.
  - Checking extension of sand dunes in desert areas of Rajasthan and along coastal tracts.
  - Substantially increasing Forest/Tree Cover through Afforestation and Social Forestry.
  - Taking steps to meet requirements of fuel, wood, fodder, minor forest produces, soil and timber of Rural and Tribal Population.
  - Increasing the productivity of Forests to meet National Needs.
  - Encouraging efficient utilization of Forest Produce and Optimum Use of Wood (Timber).
  - Generation of Work Opportunities, the involvement of Women.

## Forest Survey of 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.

---

## Athletics Federation of India (AFI) | Haryana | 18 Apr 2024

### Why in News?

The [Athletics Federation of India](#) has **disaffiliated 16 district associations** across the country for failing to send teams for the **National inter-district junior athletics meet held in Ahmedabad**.

### Key Points

- The disaffiliated districts (with name of State/UT association) are **Panchkula** (Haryana), Budgam, Ramban & Shopian (all J&K), Lohardaga (Jhkd), Kalpeni (Lakshadweep), East Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills & Ri-Bhoi (all Meghalaya), Harda & Neemuch (both MP), Ferozpur & Fazilka (both Punjab), Jhalawar (Raj), Krishnagiri (TN), Purba Medinipur (WB).
- As per the AFI constitution, the **suspended districts will be removed and fresh associations will be formed**.
  - The State associations have been asked to take appropriate action, in consultation with the AFI, and form the new district units.

### Athletics Federation of India (AFI)

- It is the apex body for running and managing athletics in India.
- It is a non-governmental and non-profitable autonomous body.
- It is affiliated to the World Athletics, the **Asian Athletics Association (AAA)**, and the [Indian Olympic Association](#).
- It was formerly called the Amateur Athletic Federation of India (AAFI).
- The AFI has as many as **32** affiliated state units and institutional units.
- It came into **existence in 1946**, and the federation organises the National Championships, **trains the Indian Athletics National Campers**, selects the Indian Athletics Teams for various international competitions, including the **Olympics, Asian Games, CWG, World Championships, Asian Championships**, and other international meets, conducts the National Championships for various age categories.
  - The AFI conducts **international and national championships** and various meets to promote the sport, popularise it amongst the masses, and make athletics commercially attractive for the further growth of the athlete and the sport.
  - The federation also **supervises and assists its state units** in their activities, plans and **sets up special coaching camps, coaches training**, and takes initiatives for development programmes and **grass root promotion of athletics in India**.

