

World Forestry Day **21ST MARCH 2024**

Theme: “Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World”

World Forestry Day, celebrated on March 21st every year, is an occasion dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of forests and trees in sustaining life on Earth. This day serves as a reminder of the vital role that forests play in providing habitats for biodiversity, regulating climate, preserving soil health, and supporting countless livelihoods around the world.

World Forestry Day also highlights the need for sustainable forest management practices to ensure the long-term health and resilience of forest ecosystems. Through tree-planting initiatives, educational campaigns, and community engagement activities, people from all walks of life come together to celebrate the beauty and significance of forests and to advocate for their conservation and protection.

Theme for World Forestry Day

The theme for World Forestry Day this year is, “*Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World*”, it emphasizes the importance of innovations and technology. It has revolutionized forest monitoring, enabling countries to track and report on their forests more effectively. The battle against deforestation requires new technological advancements. With 10 million hectares lost annually due to deforestation and approximately 70 million hectares affected by fires, these innovations are essential for early warning systems, sustainable commodity production, and empowering indigenous people through land mapping and climate finance access.

Significance of World Forestry Day

- **World Forestry Day raises awareness about the crucial role forests play in sustaining life on Earth, including their contribution to biodiversity, climate regulation, and provision of essential ecosystem services.**
- **It emphasizes the role of forests in lessening climate change through carbon sequestration, which helps reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.**
- **Forests play a crucial role in water conservation by regulating water flow, preventing soil erosion, and maintaining water quality, making them essential for sustainable water management.**
- **World Forestry Day recognizes the socioeconomic importance of forests, as they support the livelihoods of millions of people worldwide, including indigenous communities and forest-dependent populations.**
- **This day provides a platform for environmental education and advocacy, fostering greater understanding and appreciation of forests and the need for their conservation.**
- **It also encourages international cooperation and collaboration among governments, organizations, and individuals to address global forest-related challenges and achieve sustainable forest management goals.**
- **World Forestry Day underscores the importance of safeguarding forests as invaluable natural resources for current and future generations, ensuring their long-term sustainability and resilience in the face of environmental threats and pressures.**

Types of Forest in Nagaland

- 1. Northern Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests.**
- 2. Northern Tropical Semi Evergreen Forests.**
- 3. Northern Sub-tropical Broad Leaved Wet Hill Forests.**
- 4. Northern Sub-tropical Pine Forests.**
- 5. Northern Montane Wet-temperate Forests.**
- 6. Temperate Forests.**

Forest in the Life of the Nagas

- ◆ Forest and land symbolise more than a physical entity for the Nagas; it is the basis of their economic system and cultural life.**
- ◆ Forest products like firewood and timbers are a source of income for the Naga Villagers.**
- ◆ Naga women collect Nontimber forest products like wild mushrooms, green leafy vegetables, fruits, etc. from the forest and sell them in the market to earn their livelihood.**
- ◆ The alder tree-based shifting cultivation practiced by the Nagas, particularly by the Khonoma farmers of the Angami Naga tribe consists of proper use of forestland and managing the soil fertility in the jhum fields by planting the nitrogen-fixing alder trees.**
- ◆ Nagas also have rich knowledge about how different forest products are a good source of a nutritious diet, their medicinal values, and plants that are herbal or aromatic.**

Some plants used as nutritional supplements as well as home remedies are:

- **(a) Turmeric** (*Cucuma aromatic L*): It is used as a spice and as a stomach tonic and blood purifier.
- **(b) Ginger** (*Ziniber officinale*): It is used as a spice and for the treatment of the common cold.
- **(c) Pepper** (*Piper nigrum*): It is also used as a spice and used for caring for stomach trouble, and lowering blood sugar.
- **(d) Tree tomato** (*Cyphomandra betacea*): It is used as a vegetable, for making jam and jelly and is a good source of protein, fat, minerals, and vitamin A.
- **(e) Yongchak** (*Parkia roxburghii*): Its tender shoots and pods are eaten as vegetables and lotion from the bark and leaves is used to treat sores and skin infections.
- **(f) Gooseberry** (*Emblica officinalis*): The fruits are a rich source of vitamin C and it is used in the treatment of diarrhoea and dysentery.

Did you know?

Forests are large carbon storages.

More than 25% of Western Pharmaceuticals are derived from rainforest ingredients.

Forests play a critical role in influencing global and regional climate patterns.

