



Indian Sandalwood

 drishtias.com/printpdf/indian-sandalwood

Why in News

Recently, as a part of the ongoing '**Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**' initiative, the government of India inaugurated a **training program on Indian Sandalwood Farming & Management**.

The programme **aims at establishing Sandalwood Technology Innovation centres** in the growing states, value addition in training & skill development as well as introducing new methods of cultivation among farmers & young entrepreneurs.



Key Points

- **About:**
 - *Santalum album*, commonly known as Indian Sandalwood, is a **dry deciduous forest species native to** China, India, Indonesia, Australia, and the Philippines. Sandalwood has been long associated with the Indian heritage & culture, as the country contributed **85% of the world' sandalwood trade erstwhile**. However, lately this has been declining at a fast rate.
 - This small tropical tree **grows to 20m high with red wood and a variety of dark colors of bark** (dark brown, reddish and dark grey). Because it is **strong and durable**, *S. album* is mostly harvested for its timber.
- **IUCN Red List Status**: Vulnerable

- **Uses:**
 - In India, it is also called "**Chandan**" and "**Srigandha**". Sandalwood has a special place in Indian tradition where it is being **used from cradle to cremation**.
 - **Sandalwood heartwood**, which is close-grained, is **used for fine furniture and carving**. The heartwood and roots also contain 'sandal oil' which is valued for **use in perfumes, incense, cosmetics, soaps, and medicines**. The **bark contains tannin**, which is used **for dye**.
 - Sandalwood essential oil has **antiseptic, anti inflammatory, antispasmodic and astringent properties**.

It is used in **aromatherapy** to reduce stress, hypertension and heals wounds and treats skin blemishes.
- **Major Growing Areas:** In India, sandalwood is mostly grown in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu.

Sandalwood Market

- Though there are many varieties of sandalwood available in the world, **Indian sandalwood and Australian sandalwood are very famous** and have excellent commercial value in the market.
- Globally, **India & Australia are the largest growers of sandalwood**, while the biggest markets lie in the United States, China, Japan & the Indian domestic market.

Source: PIB