

Chinar Trees | Jammu & Kashmir | 25 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The J&K Forest Department, in partnership with the J&K Forest Research Institute (JKFI), has introduced a unique initiative by assigning Tree <u>Aadhaar numbers</u> to thousands of Chinar trees throughout the region to conserve the iconic <u>Chinar trees</u> of Jammu and Kashmir.

Key Points

- The Chinar Tree's Heritage Significance:
 - The Chinar tree, also known locally as *boonyi*, is a symbol of Jammu and Kashmir's cultural and natural heritage.
 - These majestic deciduous trees are characterized by their height (up to 30 meters) and vibrant golden-red leaves during winter.
 - The number of Chinar trees has significantly decreased in recent decades.
- The Tree Aadhaar Project:
 - Under this project, over 28,560 Chinar trees have been <u>geo-tagged</u> to create a comprehensive database.
 - The trees are assigned unique Tree Aadhaar numbers, and a <u>OR code</u> attached to a digital plate allows anyone to scan and access critical details, including the tree's location, height, girth, canopy, health status, ecological threats, and pest presence.
- Conservation Efforts:
 - The initiative is part of a larger effort to conserve these trees, whose numbers have been dwindling due to various factors.
 - A total of 28,000 trees have been geo-tagged and assigned their Tree Aadhaar IDs between 2021 and 2023.
- Further Plans:
 - In addition to this innovative documentation, the J&K Forest Department plans to create a Chinar Atlas, a comprehensive catalog of all Chinar trees across the region.
 - The initiative **also focuses on geo-tagging trees in restricted areas**, ensuring even the most remote trees are included in the conservation efforts.



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