



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.

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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

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