



Chinar Trees

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 Aadhaar numbers** to thousands of **Chinar trees** throughout the region to conserve the iconic **Chinar trees 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 **geo-tagged** to create a comprehensive database.
 - The trees are assigned **unique Tree Aadhaar numbers**, and a **QR code** 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.