



International Day of Forests 2022

Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
JAMMU & KASHMIR



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The International Day of Forests is celebrated every year on 21st of March, by raising awareness on the importance of all types of Forests. The forests are important for the survival of life on earth and it is unimaginable to think of earth bereft of forests.

The importance of conserving forests for sustaining life has been prophesied by the Rishi, Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani, the Alamdar-e-Kashmir in his famous words "*Ann poshe telli, yeli van poshe*". The spirit of his wisdom can be visualized in this year's theme for the International Day of Forests, 'Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption.'

The people of Jammu and Kashmir especially inhabiting rural areas have integrated their lives with the forests. However, ever-increasing demand is testing the forests and it is time once again that we become aware of sustainable production and mindful consumption. While on one hand we are conserving the precious forest resource, on the other hand, the desire of the people to grow and prosper needs to be satisfied.

The dedicated effort of the government in restoration of natural forests and combating degradation with the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions under the "Green Jammu and Kashmir Drive", through "Har Gaon Haryali" campaign has resulted in awakening the masses in protecting the forests. The government at the same time has empowered Biodiversity Management Committees and the Panchayati Raj Institutions for sustainable collection and consumption of forest produce.

On the International Day of Forests, I extend my best wishes to the people of J&K and the forest department for contributing significantly towards the sustainable development of Jammu & Kashmir.

Manoj Sinha
(Manoj Sinha)

SUSTAINABLE FORESTS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

21ST March INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta,
IAS



Chief Secretary
Jammu & Kashmir



Message

The United Nations General Assembly declared 21st March as the "International Day of Forests." The theme for this year is "Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption" to raise awareness on conservation & protection of forests.

Forests provide priceless ecological, economic, social and health benefits and we must protect this easily renewable resource with the active involvement of the people who depend on them and other stakeholders.

Sustainable management of forests and utilization of its resources contributes significantly to prosperity and well-being of current and future generations. This also helps the country in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals on poverty alleviation, food security, ensuring healthy lives and mitigation of Climate Change.

I am happy to know that "Green Jammu and Kashmir Drive" programme of the Government is being implemented with the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions especially the Village Panchayats, Eco-clubs, Line Departments, NGOs and Civil Society in a campaign "Har Gaon Haryali". The efforts of Forest Department towards "Van se Jai, Jai se Jeevan" and "Forests for Livelihood" need to be scaled up and productivity of forests for fodder production be enhanced.

I hope this day encourages people and the Forest Department to strengthen their efforts towards protection, restoration and sustainable management of forests and biodiversity conservation.

(Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta)

Sanjeev Verma,
IAS



Message

Forests of Jammu and Kashmir are renowned for their diversity, in type and functions. Ranging from the tropical dry deciduous forests, in lower altitudes to Alpine vegetation at higher altitudes, the flora and fauna of the Union territory is very diverse. With nearly, 50% of the geographical area being forest, socio-economic landscape of J&K, is enmeshed with forested ecosystem; J&K is intimately connected with its forests, for drawing economic and ecological sustenance.

Invariably, forests are renewable and have been the purveyors of livelihood, since times immemorial; however, forests are not infinitely available, to service the needs of people, and there is always a tipping point, beyond which any forest ecosystem degrades. To maintain sustainable production, Department resorts to various interventions: afforestation, rehabilitation of degraded forests, assisted natural regeneration and eco-restoration. This year's theme of International Day of Forests is: "Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption"; it validates and reaffirms the sustainable management practices already adopted by the Department.

Government of J&K has embarked upon various initiatives as: "Green Jammu and Kashmir Drive", "One Beat Guard, One Village" under the campaign "Har Gaon Haryali", which would further augment and assist the sustainable production of forests. Department's focus on livelihood creation from forests, is a strong testimony to the broader vision of the government in promoting sustainable consumption regime.

Government is shortening the resources of the Department, through convergence with MGNREGA, and it is certainly useful to realize the available potential for achieving sustainable production. For the sustainable management of forests; Panchayati Raj Institutions, Biodiversity Management Committees, Women Self-Help Groups and Village Panchayat Plantation Committees have been suitably co-opted and integrated.

On this occasion of "International Day of Forests", I humbly beseech the intimate support of one and all, to be a part of the sustainable production and consumption, for present and future generations, that would inherit this planet.



Dr. Mohit Gera,
IFS



Message

Forests are "the lungs of the Earth" as they draw carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen. They stabilize the climate, moderate atmospheric temperatures, protect watersheds, augment the water regime and enrich the soil.

People from all walks of life derive multiple benefits from these forests, be it fresh water, wood for multiple uses, medicines or tourism and recreation. Jammu & Kashmir is blessed with one of the most diverse forest ecosystems consisting of Himalayan conifer and broad-leaved tree species with large number of shrubs & herbs.

The International Day of Forests, being observed on 21st March, 2022 with the theme "Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption" offers an opportunity to raise awareness on forest based products and ecosystem services and how they can contribute to sustainable life styles. This also helps in creation of livelihood for the forest dependent communities and management of forests with their active involvement.

I take this opportunity to invite one and all especially the Village Panchayats, Biodiversity Management Committees and Tribal Community Groups to join the forest department in protection and management of forests for ensuring sustained flow of their benefits.

(Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS)

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Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment
Government of Jammu and Kashmir