



**LiFE**  
Lifestyle for  
Environment

75  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav



**G20**  
भारत 2023 INDIA

# Report on International Day of Forests 2023



21 March  
International Day of Forests

**HEALTHY FORESTS  
FOR HEALTHY PEOPLE**



Organized by

**EIACP Programme Centre Resource Partner on  
Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement  
ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding  
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)  
Coimbatore – 641 002**

## International Day of Forests 2023 Celebrations by ICFRE-IFGTB EIACP PC RP

As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) and Mission LiFE, EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme) Programme Centre (erstwhile IFGTB ENVIS) RP at the ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore commemorated the International Day of Forests 2023 by organizing a Tree Sapling Planting Programme. The main aim of this event was to create and spread awareness about the importance of tree planting and role of individuals in protecting the environment from degrading by planting indigenous trees.

Dr C Kunhikannan, Director, ICFRE -IFGTB inaugurated the programme. During his Special address, the Director spoke on the various benefits provided by the indigenous trees. Dr Kunhikannan highlighted that trees are the most precious gift given to mankind and it is our duty to preserve it. From birds and insects, to bats and squirrels, trees provide a canopy and a habitat for many species of wildlife. But they don't just act as a home for wildlife; the fruits from trees provide food for them too, he added. Director emphasized that humans are dependent on trees for their needs. The need of the hour is that all the destruction caused by humans can only be balanced by planting more number of trees. He urged all to plant more trees whenever possible and save the environment.

Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and Coordinator ENVIS spoke on the significance of celebrating the International Day of Forests and also gave an insight to the equinoxes, the days when the Sun is exactly above the Equator, which makes day and night of equal lengths. While explaining about "Forests and Health", the current year's theme Dr Warriar highlighted that by planting more trees, it will contribute to global reforestation efforts, restoring lost forests, repairing damaged ecosystems and mitigating climate change. Current forest cover statistics in the country was also shared by Dr Warriar. 17 States in India have achieved the target of 33% forest cover and Tamil Nadu stands 7th in terms of total forest area in India.

Shri Saravanan, Senior Manager, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Coimbatore region also spoke about the importance of planting saplings of native trees.

Saplings of various indigenous medicinal and timber tree species like *Ficus racemosa* (Athi), *Terminalia arjuna* (Neer maruthu), *Magnolia champaca* (Senbagam), *Mimusops elengi* (Magilam), *Calophyllum inophyllum* (Punai), *Bischofia javanica* (Shola vengai), *Syzygium cumini* (Naval), , *Simarouba glauca* (Sorga maram) and *Atrocarpus hirsutus* (Pala) etc. were planted in the Botanical Garden by officers, staff members, scholars and interns of ICFRE-IFGTB.

An awareness poster highlighting the significance of forests was released during the occasion and were shared with all the stakeholders. Awareness handouts were disseminated to school children and the general public. Dr S. Vigneswaran, Senior Programme Officer, EIACP PC RP proposed vote of thanks.









**EIACP Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement**  
**ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding**

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education)  
 P.B.No. 1061, Forest Campus, R.S.Puram PO, Coimbatore - 641 002

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS-2023**  
**Theme: Forests and Health**



**Forest Cover In India (2023) – Important Statistics**

The total forest cover in India (2023) is 7,13,789 square kilometers which is 21.71% of the total geographical area of the country. India added 1,540 sq km of forest cover from 2019 to 2021. The forest cover is divided into 3 parts.

\* Very dense forest: All land with tree canopy density of 70% and above.

\* Moderately dense forest: All land with tree canopy density of 40% – 70%.

\* Open forest: All land with tree canopy density of 10% – 40%.

Very Dense forest	99, 779 (sq km)	3.04 % of India's area
Moderately Dense forest	3,06,890 (sq km)	9.33 % of India's area
Open forest	3,07,120 (sq km)	9.34 % of India's area
Total forest cover	7,13,789 (sq km)	21.71 % of India's area

**Top 5 states/UTs with most forest cover area**

Madhya Pradesh: 77,493 sq km  
 Arunachal Pradesh: 66,431 sq km  
 Chhattisgarh: 55,717 sq km  
 Odisha: 52,156 sq km  
 Maharashtra: 50,798 sq km

**Top 5 states/UTs with most forest cover percentage (of their geographical area) area**

Lakshadweep: 90.33 %  
 Mizoram: 84.53 %  
 Andaman and Nicobar Islands: 81.75 %  
 Arunachal Pradesh: 79.33 %  
 Meghalaya: 76.00 %

POSTER NO.13/IFGTB ENVIS-MARCH 2023

# AzadiKaAmritMahotsav #EkBharatShreshthaBharat # Mission LIFE # Choose LIFE