

India's forest cover increases by 5,516 sq km in four years

ISFR 2021: Conservation, afforestation, enhanced protection are succeeding

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(GN Photo)

The Dehradun-based Forest Survey of India (FSI), an organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially since 1987 and the findings are published in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per the latest ISFR 2021, there is an overall increase in forest cover by 5,516 square kilometres over ISFR 2017.

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909907> (<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909907>)

(The change in forest cover recorded in the hill districts of each of the 13 Himalayan States in the last ten years is given in Annexure I. The details of statewise forest cover from ISFR 2017 to ISFR 2021 are given in Annexure-II.)

Some states have shown increase in forest cover while a few others have shown decline, but on the whole, there is a significant increase in forest cover of the country. This may be attributed to conservation measures, afforestation activities, enhanced protection measures in plantation as well as in traditional forest areas, expansion of Tree Outside Forest. The decrease in forest cover may be attributed to short rotational plantation, biotic pressure, clearance in encroached area, developmental activities etc.

This information was given by Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, according to an official statement on Thursday.

Forests are an invaluable resource to the country providing essential feeder services. Forests not only host villages in their fringe areas but neighboring villages areas are also dependent upon them as a resource base for several forest products like timber, fuel-wood, medicinal plants, food, non-timber forest products (NTFPs). Forests provide a number of products and services and contribute to the national economy.

Forests also provide services such as bio-diversity conservation, watershed protection and carbon sequestration. Decline in forest cover... Read More (+)

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While the average growth of energy requirement in the country for 2023-24 viz-a-viz 2022-23 has been estimated as 4.9%, the months of April and May have been projected as high demand period. During the current year, the peak demand is expected to be around 229 GW during the summer period. The government ha