

Forests as living spirit of the cosmos

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Forests of Earth are natural cradles for all terrestrial life. Indian culture is originally an Aranya culture, forest-based culture. All the enlightening epics of Hindu culture and our best poetic work, dramas, literary pieces have been created amidst the benevolent and creativity-inducing environment of forests.

All terrestrial communities of the organisms breathe in the oxygen the photosynthesisers, the chlorophyllous plants, release. Forests, therefore, are referred to as the lungs of our planet. They act as vital carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing life-enabling oxygen. Beyond their ecological importance, forests perform a myriad of ecosystem functions essential for our survival.

They are the richest home to nature's biodiversity and serve as habitats for countless species. They build up their own microclimate and play a key role in regulating global climate. These functions of the planet's forests are apart from supporting the livelihoods of millions of people worldwide.

"Forests and Innovation" is the theme for the Forest Day celebration in 2024. Innovations are generated amidst nature's climax. And forests robustly represent this climax of nature. Experience living in a natural forest and your mind will be unceasingly cultivating innovations within. Articulated in myriad of superb creativity, those forest-induced innovations will spell out their life-enhancing power.

Forests have been the primitive source of Earth from where light enters into life. Isn't it an innovation of the cosmos itself? Evolution of forests empowered with photosynthesis, that is, entry of light into life, is the first stroke of cosmic innovation. Life impregnated with wonderful diversity of organisms is the second stroke of innovation.

Evolution of human species is the third and human understanding of the supreme importance of forests leading to the care, protection, conservation, and enhancement of the forests is yet another stroke of innovation that ensures ecological and socioeconomic security of our future and of our sustainable well-being.



Natural forests attaining their ecological climax are quintessential symbol of the Living Earth. They are an outcome of the cosmic balance struck by the conversion of inorganics into organics. The universe is inorganic, and the biosphere is organic. It is the forest that converts inorganics into organics, operationalising a phenomenon known as photosynthesis, through which the energy of sunlight flows into living vessels of the planet. A forest, thus, functions as a bridge between the inorganic cosmos and the organic world. They truly represent the living spirit of the cosmos, embodying the vitality and essence of the universe.

Forests are a stupendous source of beauty we human beings always wish to live amidst. They constitute a biotic community and a benevolent sanctuary. For human societies, forests are the habitats of spiritual, emotional, and psychological renewal and of our physical, intellectual, ethical, and aesthetic development.

Life breathes, and we experience a sense of liberation when surrounded by forests infusing oxygen into our lungs, blood, cells, and organelles of each cell. There is a natural inclination to seek companionship with the life-sustaining forms the forests are.

The interconnectedness of forests and spirituality is profound. Our ancestors recognised and revered this bond, fostering and preserving it. Their spiritual well-being thrived as they understood the genuine wellsprings of nourishment.

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March 21 is International Day of Forests

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