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Har Gaon Hariyali

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Why is in news? 'Har Gaon Hariyali' initiative records plantation of 90 lakh saplings during current fiscal in J&K

In Jammu and Kashmir, Government's ambitious initiative 'Har Gaon Hariyali' has **recorded a plantation of 90 lakh saplings** during the current fiscal against the set **target of plantation of 1.35 Crore seedlings**.

The UT Government launched this initiative in consonance with the **vision of 'Green Jammu and Kashmir' to ensure sustainable development and promote climate justice** across J&K.

The **Green Jammu and Kashmir drive** itself is in **commensuration with the National Forest Policy 1988** and the **Jammu and Kashmir Forest Policy 2011** which envisages afforestation on all degraded and denuded lands in the union territory within and outside forests.

Green Jammu and Kashmir campaign aims at **creating people's movement** at a massive scale with involvement of all stakeholders particularly village panchayats, women, students, Urban Local bodies, NGOs and civil society.

The 'Har Gaon Hariyali' campaign was **initiated in November 2021**.

The aim of the department is to **bring two third geographical area of J&K under the forest and tree cover**.

The forest cover in J&K is about 55 percent, which is substantially higher than the national average of 24.56 percent.

Significantly, **1.35 crore plantations** have been **targeted for the year 2022-23**, of which, 26.50 lakh saplings will be planted with active involvement of Village Panchayat Plantation Committees (VPPCs) to create green assets in the Gram Panchayats.

To ensure widespread people's participation in government-sponsored plantation drives, the government is adopting a **multi-disciplinary convergence model linking** school-level eco clubs, Village Panchayat Plantation Committees and MGNREGA works to various plantation and protection drives.

The biggest achievement under Har Gaon Hariyali is that a **massive convergence programme** is taking place by dovetailing funds under MG-NREGA and the afforestation programme of the forest department.

Under low-cost mode of greening and increasing the forest and tree cover, more than 50 lakh seeds/grass-slips are likely to be planted during the year 2022-23.

Notably, NITI Aayog in its '**State Energy and Climate Index**' report has revealed that Jammu and Kashmir has 94.5 tonnes of **carbon stock** per hectare of forest land while Andaman and Nicobar tops the list with 96.4 tons of carbon stock per hectare.

Carbon stock refers to the **amount of carbon stored in forests in the form of biomass, soil, deadwood, and litter**. An **increase in green cover and carbon stock** indicates a **healthy trend** to deal with global warming.

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A recent **Forest Survey of India report** revealed that Jammam Kashmir has witnessed an increase in the total forest cover in the last three years. The report said that the emission intensity of Carbon in Jammam Kashmir forests is 98.2 tonnes per hectare.

Jammam Kashmir has 20,194 sq km of forest area which is 47.80% of its geographical area with 55% forest and tree cover and 43% open forest. Besides, having the maximum number of forest types, **J&K also has the highest biodiversity of herbs** in the country.

Economically, the forests in Jammam Kashmir generate 2 million man days of employment and has a monetary value equivalent to Rs 1.93 lakh crore.