

National Working Plan Code-2023 released for scientific management of forests

By IASToppers | 2023-06-20 15:05:00



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The Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) introduced the National Working Plan Code-2023 (NWPC) coinciding with the 'World Day To Combat Desertification & Drought.'



[Ref: economictimes]

About National Working Plan Code (NWPC) 2023:

- The NWPC will incorporate the **India Forest Management Standards (IFMS)**.
 - IFMS is a set of **eight comprehensive guidelines and rules** applicable to all states.
- The NWPC will serve as a **guiding principle for State Forest Departments** in preparation for the working plan for different forest divisions in the country.
- The plan deals in detail with the **essentials of forest management planning**, incorporating the principles of sustainable management of forests.
- It includes-
 - Extent and condition of forest and tree cover,
 - Maintenance, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity including wildlife,
 - Forest health and vitality,
 - Conservation and management of soil and water resources,
 - Enhancement of forest resource productivity,
 - Maintenance and enhancement of social, economic, cultural and spiritual benefits, and
 - Providing the appropriate policy, legal and institutional framework.
- NWPC 2023 prescribes that **state forest departments** engage in **continuous data collection and updation** in a centralized database.

About World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought:

- The United Nations observes World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on **June 17**, every year.
- **Theme (2023):** “Her land Her rights.”
 - This theme emphasizes that investing in **women’s equal access to land** and associated assets is a **direct investment in their future** and the future of humanity.

Objectives

- To promote public **awareness** of the **issue of Desertification and Drought**.
- To let people, know that desertification and drought can be effectively tackled, that solutions are possible and that key tools to this aim lay in **strengthened community participation** and cooperation at all levels.
- To strengthen implementation of the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification** in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.