

## Kashmir Chinars

### Why in News?

*J&K Forest Research Institute (FRI) of J&K Forest Department recently geo-tagged and equipped with QR-code of chinar trees in Kashmir for digital protection and to conserve the rich heritage.*

- It is a large deciduous tree with a spreading crown and a long life.
- **Scientific Name** - *Platanus orientalis*.
- Chinar is also known as **Oriental plane tree**, maple tree and locally it is called as Boueen.
- **Habitat** - It is a distinctive feature of the **Kashmir valley** and is found all around it.
- **Origin** - It is believed to have been introduced in Kashmir from Persia.
- **Height** - It can grow up to 30 meters in height and have a girth of 10 to 15 meters at ground level.
- It takes around **150 years** for a Chinar to reach its full size.
- **Uniqueness** - One of the unique characteristics of this tree is that its leaves change colors.
- During the summer season, the chinar tree's leaves are deep green. But, as the autumn season sets in, the leaves change color to a beautiful blood-red, amber and yellow.

*'Char Chinar' is an island on the Dal Lake in Srinagar, gets its name after the Chinar Tree.*

- Kashmir is home to the **World's Oldest Chinar**, which is 647 years old and located in central Kashmir's Budgam district.
- **Uses**
  - Ornamentation,
  - Leaves, and bark are used as traditional medicine,
  - Used for creating wood products,
  - Twigs and roots can be used as fabric dye.

### Reference

[New Indian Express | Kashmir Chinars](#)