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