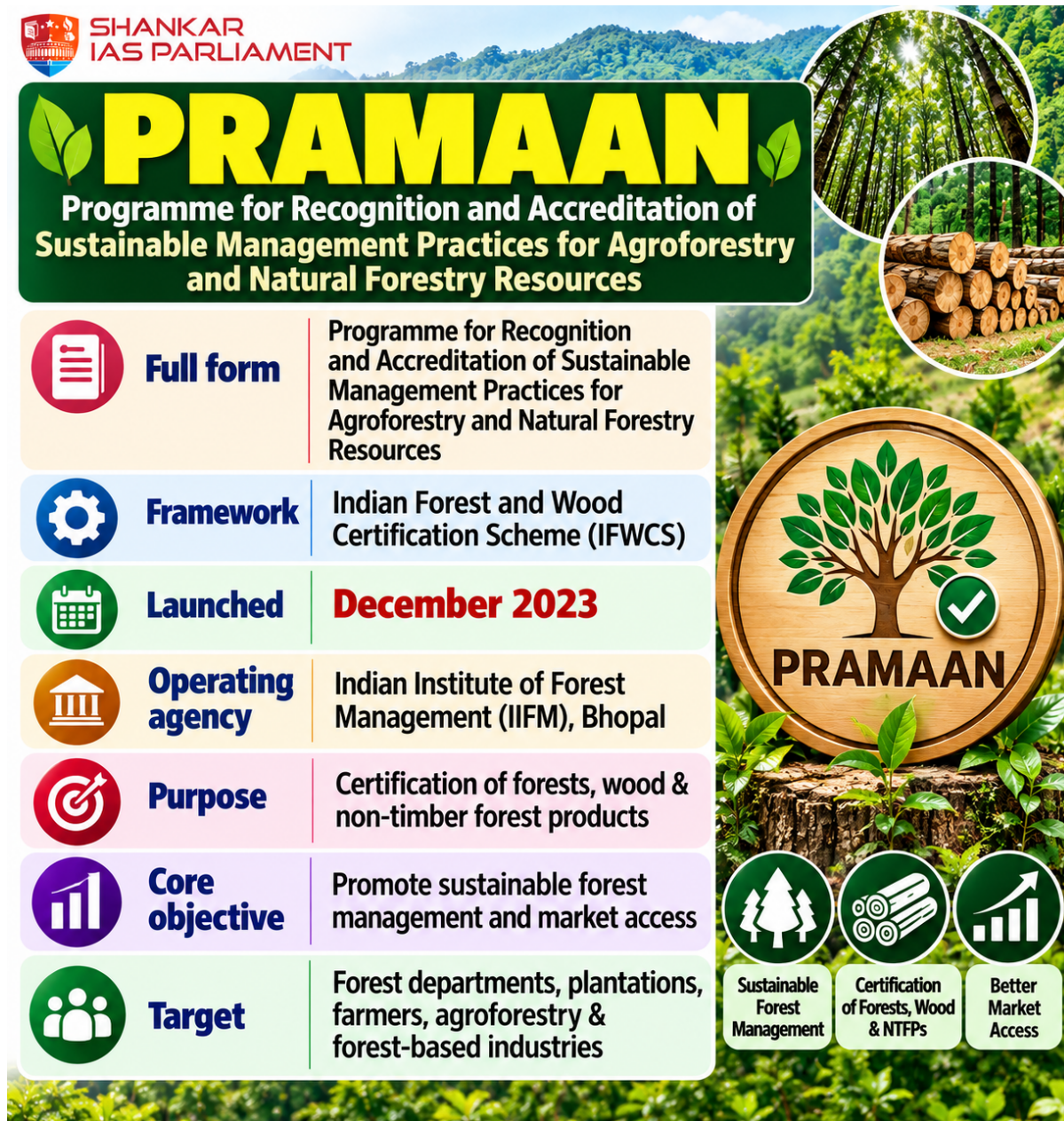


PRAMAAN & Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)

***Prelims:** Current events of national and international importance | Government Policies & Interventions*

Why in News?

Recently, First PRAMAAN certificates under the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS) were awarded.



PRAMAAN

Programme for Recognition and Accreditation of Sustainable Management Practices for Agroforestry and Natural Forestry Resources

	Full form	Programme for Recognition and Accreditation of Sustainable Management Practices for Agroforestry and Natural Forestry Resources
	Framework	Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)
	Launched	December 2023
	Operating agency	Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal
	Purpose	Certification of forests, wood & non-timber forest products
	Core objective	Promote sustainable forest management and market access
	Target	Forest departments, plantations, farmers, agroforestry & forest-based industries

PRAMAAN

Sustainable Forest Management | Certification of Forests, Wood & NTFPs | Better Market Access

- **Organised by** - Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, as the scheme's operating agency.
- **Certificates were given to:**
 - Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC) - plantations covering 33,000 hectares.
 - A bamboo farmer from Odisha, associated with the Odisha Bamboo Development Agency (OBDA).
- **Certification Categories** - It offers certification in the following categories:
 - **Forest Management**
 - **Tree Outside Forest Management**
 - **Chain of Custody**
- **Forest Management Certification**
 - Assessment is conducted according to the **Indian Forest Management Standard (IFMS)**.
 - IFMS is part of the **National Working Plan Code (NWPC), 2023**.
 - Certification relies on **independent third-party audits**.

- Certification is not solely dependent on **voluntary self-declaration**.
- **Accreditation Architecture**
 - Certification bodies are accredited by the **National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) operates under the Quality Council of India (QCI)**.
 - The accreditation architecture is benchmarked against **international certification frameworks**.
 - This approach aims to enhance acceptance among both **domestic and international buyers and regulators**.
- **Significance**
- **Environmental** - It promotes **sustainable forest management**.
 - It supports responsible and **deforestation-free sourcing of timber**.
 - It enhances the ecological and social value of forests and agroforestry systems.
- **Economic & Trade** - It enables Indian producers to comply with emerging **global sustainability and due diligence requirements**.
 - Certification can facilitate access to **premium domestic and international markets**.
 - It strengthens sustainable forest-product supply chains in India.
- **Livelihood** - It integrates **smallholder farmers, tribal communities, and forest-dependent populations** into formal certification systems.
- Potential beneficiaries include:
 - Women **Self-Help Groups**
 - Marginal landholders
 - NTFP collectors/processors
 - Agroforestry and tree-based farmers
 - Farmer Producer Organisations/Companies.

Reference

[PIB | PRAMAAN 1st Certificates](#)