Sankalp Parva: Plantation of Trees

The Ministry of Culture is celebrating ‘Sankalp Parva’ to plant trees from 28th June to 12th July 2020.

The initiative has been taken on the call of the Prime Minister to plant at least five trees either in office campus or wherever it is possible, to ensure a clean and healthy environment of the country.

**ImpPoints**

- The Ministry of Culture has **recommended planting five trees** which represent the herbal heritage of the country.
- These trees are: **Bargad, Awla, Pepal, Ashok** and **Bel**. These are also medicinal plants.
- **Other Initiatives Related to Plantation of Trees:**
  - Recently, the government has announced implementation of the **Nagar Van (Urban Forest) Scheme** which aims to develop 200 Urban Forests across the country in the next five years.
  - The **Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act was passed in 2016** to manage the funds collected for compensatory afforestation which till then was managed by Ad hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

**Compensatory afforestation** means that every time forest land is diverted for non-forest purposes such as mining or industry, the user agency pays for planting forests over an equal area of non-forest land, or when such land is not available, twice the area of degraded forest land.

The **National Medicinal Plants Board** (NMPB - under the Ministry of AYUSH) intends to establish herbal gardens of various types to popularize the usefulness of commonly available and frequently used medicinal plants among the various stakeholders.

The Jajpur district administration in Odisha has made **plantation a mandatory precondition for granting licenses for eight services** including society registration, license for minor minerals, setting up crusher units, purchase of new vehicles, issuance of solvency certificate, etc.