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Qn It is time to formulate an unambiguous and universally accepted definition of forest to get a true picture of the country's forest resources. Analyse in the light of state of forest report 2019 (200w).

Ans.

As per the ~~for~~ State of Forest In India report - 2019 published by the Forest Survey of India; India has 25% forest Area of its total land Area.

However the Actual Forest Area Cover as per many sources is around 21%. The background of this confusion lies in the definition of Forest, in India.

Lack of proper definition is impacting India in following ways, in present time

(i) Ambiguity between Forest Area as per records vs Actual forest cover.

Various existing flaws

- * Forest Conservation Act, 1927
 - fails to define
- * As per supreme court
 - follow the dictionary meaning -
 - state doesn't need to have same definition as centre

ii) States fail to update the forest area which are saved for other purposes. Having a proper definition would help to enforce compliance.

iii) Expansion of the actual forest cover can help in carbon sinking targets as per Paris Climate Deal.

iv) Indian Forest Mission, 1952 targets 33% of forest cover. Not having a clear definition will drift around the efforts taken towards it.

v) Impacts due to encroachments for tribal cultivation and issues due to exotic plant introduction are on the rise. To handle the same a clear distinction of forest and other greenery is essential today.

Hence, having a clear definition regarding Forest would facilitate us to reach our mission of 33% forest cover through the periodical monitoring via the reports like the 'State of Forest in India'.