



3. **Know What You Have** - An updated inventory or assessment of the local tree resource.
4. **Allocate the Resources** - Dedicated annual budget for the routine implementation of the tree management plan
5. **Celebrate the Achievements**

Determining a Tree's Age

- The most common method of determining the age of the tree is Dendrochronology – or tree-ring dating also called growth rings.
- Each year, roughly a tree adds to its girth, the new growth is called a tree ring. By counting the rings of a tree, the age can be determined.
- To analyse the rings, core samples are extracted using a borer that's screwed into the tree and pulled out, bringing with it a straw-size sample of wood. The hole in the tree is then sealed to prevent disease.

5.5 Heritage Trees

- The Maharashtra government will make amendments to the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act of 1975, to introduce provisions for the protection of 'heritage trees'.
- **Heritage trees** - Under the proposed amendment, a tree with an estimated age of 50 years or more shall be defined as a heritage tree. It may belong to specific species, which will be notified from time to time.
- The environment department, in consultation with the forest department, will issue guidelines to determine the age of the tree.
- **Protection** - According to the current Compensatory Plantation in the state, one sapling has to be planted for each tree that is cut.
- Under the proposed amendment, anyone cutting a heritage tree must plant compensatory trees in the same numbers as the cut tree's age.
- **Maintenance** - The organization planting these trees will have to ensure the survival of the plantation for 7 years and geo-tag the trees.
- Such plantations can be carried out either in the same plot or a common amenity plot.
- The amendment also has the fine for illegal felling of trees from a maximum of Rs 5,000 to Rs 1 lakh per tree.

5.6 Seaweed Mission

- It is an initiative for commercial farming of seaweeds and its processing for value addition towards boosting national economy.
- It is initiated by Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC).
- If sea weed cultivation is done in 5% of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) area of India, it can
 1. Set up new seaweed industry;
 2. Provide employment to people and Contribute to national GDP;
 3. Improve ocean productivity and create a healthier ocean;
 4. Abate algal blooms, sequester millions of tons CO₂;
 5. Produce bio-ethanol approx. 6.6 billion litres.

5.7 Fish Pass

- Fish passes for hilsa fish constructed by the government in 2019, to redesign the navigation lock at the Farakka Barrage, has proved fruitful now.
- Hilsa is an anadromous fish i.e., it lives most of its life in the ocean, but during the rainy season (spawning time), it moves towards the estuary, where the rivers of India and Bangladesh meet the Bay of Bengal.
- This fish pass project has facilitated the movement of hilsa upstream along the Ganga to its spawning grounds.
- [Farakka Barrage, operational on the Ganga since 1975, disrupted the westward movement of the hilsa.]
- Fish passes or fish ladders or fish ways aim to assist fish in crossing obstacles presented by dams and barrages.