

Sacred Groves

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Sacred Groves Latest News

The Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) recently initiated a pilot restoration programme for sacred groves in collaboration with the local Biodiversity Management Committees.

About Sacred Groves

- A sacred grove comprises **patches of natural vegetation** – from a few trees to several acres – that are **dedicated to local deities or tree spirits**.
- These spaces are **protected by local communities** because of **their religious beliefs** and **traditional rituals** that run through several generations.
- These are some of the most **valuable, primitive practices of nature conservation**.
- They act as **repositories of biodiversity**, sheltering rare plant and animal species.
- **Hunting and deforestation** are **usually prohibited**, while **sustainable activities** such as honey collection or gathering deadwood are **permitted**.

- The **total number of sacred groves in India** is **more than 1,00,000**. These groves are found **all over the country** with local names and associated deities.
- They are particularly found in regions like:
 - The Western Ghats
 - The Himalayas
 - The northeastern hill tracts
 - Central India
- **Regional Names** for Sacred Groves:
 - **Dev Van in Himachal Pradesh**
 - **Bugyal** or Dev Van in **Uttarakhand**
 - **Than and Madaico in Assam**
 - **Matagudi, Devgudi, or Sarana in Chhattisgarh**
 - **Jaherthan or Sarana in Jharkhand**
 - **Devarakadu in Karnataka**
 - **Kavu or Sarpa Kavu in Kerala**
 - **Kovilkaadu in Tamil Nadu**
 - **Devrai or Devgudi in Maharashtra**
 - **Law Kyntang or Asong Khosi in Meghalaya**
 - **Orans in Rajasthan.**
 - **Jahera or Thakuramma in Odisha**

Source: **TH**

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