

National Forest Martyrs Day 2025

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National Forest Martyrs Day Latest News

Tributes were paid to Forest Department personnel who died while engaged in conservation works during the National Forest Martyrs Day, observed recently.

About National Forest Martyrs Day

- It is observed annually on **September 11th** in India to **honor the sacrifices of those** who have **laid down their lives in defense of the country's forests and wildlife**.
- The day **honours protective environmentalists** and personnel of the forest who have experienced certain risks in the process of conservation of natural resources.

National Forest Martyrs Day History

- The day goes back to the memory of the **Khejarli Massacre**, which took place in **1730 in the Marwar Kingdom**.

- The then **Maharaja Abhai Singh** demanded **Khejri trees** from the **Bishnoi village of Khejarli** to be **cut down** to provide timber for his new palace.
- However, his action was **resisted by the Bishnoi community**, which has always been very sensitive towards the natural community.
- Villagers **under the leadership of Amrita Devi Bishnoi** **protested by hugging trees** to safeguard them.
- Unfortunately, **Devi and many other members** of the village were **slain while defending the trees**.
- It was estimated that **363 of them died** while protesting.
- Their legacy **inspired later conservation movements, including the Chipko Movement**, shaping India's environmental ethos. In recognition of this sacrifice, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** of India **declared September 11 as the National Forest Martyrs Day** in **2013**.

Significance of the National Forest Martyrs Day

- It is a tribute to all those who defended nature against exploitation, from illegal logging to poaching.
- It underscores that forests are not just resources; they are lifelines that regulate the climate, purify air and water, and support biodiversity.
- The day is **marked by memorial services, tree plantation drives**, awareness campaigns, and **educational events organised by the Ministry of Environment**, state forest departments, and schools.
- Communities come together to honour martyrs and spread awareness about eco-conscious living.

Source: **TH**

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