



Farm Fires Rise Across Haryana | Haryana | 30 May 2024

Why in News?

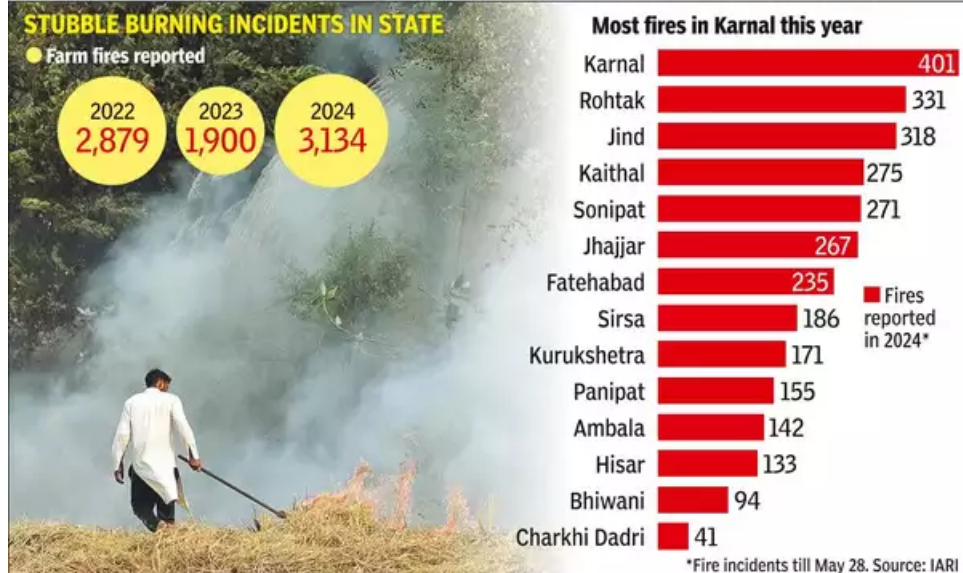
Farm fires that are **used to clear land after wheat harvesting** in the summer months reached 3,134 cases in **Haryana** in April and May, making it the highest number recorded in the state during this period in the last three years.

Key Points

- As per satellite data analyzed by the [Indian Agricultural Research Institute](#) in 2023, there was a 42% reduction in farm fires during April-May, with only 1,900 incidents recorded.
 - The decrease in figures for 2023 was attributed to a higher number of **pre-monsoon showers** in the area.
- The [Commission for Air Quality Management \(CAQM\)](#) recently stated that the increased occurrences of **burning crop residue** in and around the **National Capital Region (NCR) and forest fires** in neighboring states may be contributing to the poor air quality in Delhi-NCR, alongside dry weather conditions causing dust to linger over the area.
 - Public awareness initiatives have been initiated to inform both farmers and the public about the **adverse effects of burning crop residue** and the significance of **embracing environmentally friendly alternatives**.
- According to the **Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP)**, **authorities** must not only focus on combating air pollution in winter but also **address the issue throughout the year**.
 - Although the negative impact of farm fires causing poor air quality is usually highlighted during October–November, the **burning of Rabi stubble in April and May is equally detrimental**.
 - Even though stubble burning may not significantly affect Delhi's air quality in the summer due to monsoon winds, it does contribute to a decline in air quality in Punjab and nearby regions.
 - This situation worsens when **stagnant winds** persist for several days, hindering the dispersion of pollutants.

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5 DISTRICTS ACCOUNT FOR OVER 50% OF STATE'S FIRES



Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)

- Indian agricultural Research Institute (IARI), popularly known as **Pusa Institute**, began in **1905 at Pusa (Bihar)** with the generous grant from an **American philanthropist, Mr. Henry Phipps**.
- Following a devastating earthquake in 1934, the **institute was shifted to Delhi on 29th July 1936**. Post independence, the institute has been **renamed as Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)**.
- The **green revolution** that brought smiles to millions of Indians bloomed from the fields of IARI with the development of famous wheat varieties which contributed to massive production.
- IARI continues to be the leading institution for agricultural research, education and extension in the country.

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)

- It is a **statutory mechanism** to coordinate and **oversee diverse efforts to improve air quality** in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and UP, with the underlying remedial approach.
- The establishment of CAQM has the **potential to address the problem of air pollution** but an institution by itself is not a solution.

Haryana to Demolish Illegal Floors | Haryana | 30 May 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **Haryana government's department of town and country planning (DTCP)** has issued directions stating that **illegally built fourth floors of houses** constructed on residential plots **may be demolished** and their **occupancy certificates cancelled**.

Key Points

- In February 2023, the Haryana government **suspended approval for new 'stilt plus four floors' building plans** for residential plots, including pending applications.
 - The government has not yet decided whether to allow such buildings across the state.
- The DTCP officials clarified that occupation certificates of those residential buildings, where a fourth floor was built but necessary formalities had not been completed by February 23, 2023, will remain suspended till further directions from the Haryana government on the policy.

High Power Demand Amid Heatwave | Haryana | 30 May 2024

Why in News?

Gurugram is facing a significant **increase in electricity demand** due to the current [heatwave](#). Recently, the **power demand** reached a record high of **482.3 lakh units (LU)** as the temperature soared to 47 degrees, marking an 84% rise from 2023.

Key Points

- The **high demand for electricity** is causing significant **stress on the city's power distribution system**. People all over the city are experiencing **unplanned power outages and frequent changes in voltage**, resulting in nights without proper rest.
- According to the **officials**, they are diligently **overseeing the situation** and **implementing necessary measures** to avoid power outages or failures.

