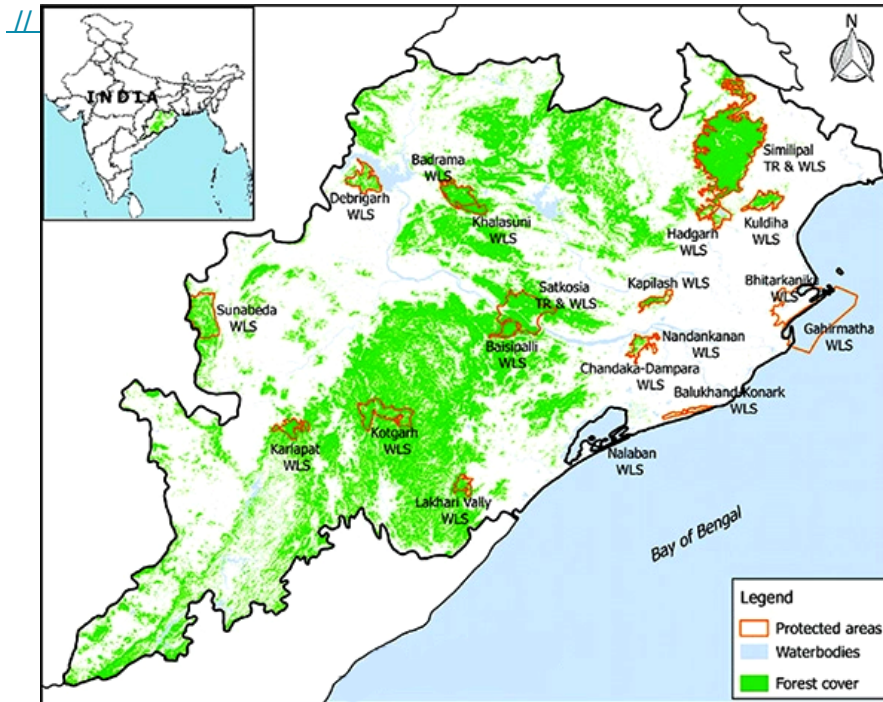




Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Country's Worst Forest Fires in Odisha



According to the [Forest Survey of India \(FSI\)](#) data, forest fires **continue to rage in Odisha after the state recorded 642 large fire incidents in March 2023** — the highest in the country during the period. A sudden jump in the incidents of fires across Odisha **resulted in a massive loss of flora and fauna in the state's forests.**

Odisha has recorded **871 large forest fires** since November 2022. This is also a national record for the season, official data showed. It was **followed by Andhra Pradesh (754), Karnataka (642), Telangana (447) and Madhya Pradesh (316)**. In 2021, 51,968 forest fire incidents occurred in the state. Massive fires **had broken out in Similipal National Park in the Mayurbhanj district, which is one of the major biospheres of Asia.**

Forest fire is also **called bush or vegetation fire or wildfire**, it can be **described as any uncontrolled and non-prescribed combustion or burning of plants** in a natural setting such as a forest, grassland, brushland or tundra, which consumes the natural fuels and spreads based on environmental conditions (e.g., wind, topography).

Read More: [Forest Fire: Causes, Classification, Incidents in India & Measures Taken](#)

54th CISF Raising Day

THE SEVEN CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES



AR



BSF



CISF



CRPF



ITBP



NSG



SSB

March 10 is **annually observed as the Raising Day when the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** was set up under the Union ministry of Home Affairs.

CISF is **one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces in India** and is responsible for providing security to various public sector undertakings, airports, and other important installations. The **CISF was set up under the act of the Parliament of India on March 10, 1969**. Since then, **CISF Raising Day is being celebrated on March 10 each year. However, in 2023, the date was revised (12th March)**.

Read More: [Central Armed Police Force \(CAPF\)](#)

Centers of Excellence Under MIDH

Under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), **Centers of Excellence (CoEs) are being established in various States through Bilateral Cooperation or Research Institutes**. These CoEs serve as demonstration and training centres for the latest technologies in the field of horticulture. **3 CoEs that have been approved include:**

- CoE for Kamlam (Dragon Fruit) at Bengaluru, Karnataka
- CoE for Mango and Vegetables at Jajpur, Odisha
- CoE for Vegetables and Flowers at Ponda, Goa

MIDH is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector** covering fruits, vegetables and other areas. Under MIDH, **the Government contributes 60% of the total outlay for developmental programmes in all the states** (except Northeastern and Himalayan states where GOI contributes 90%) & **40% is contributed by State governments**.

Read More: [Status of the Horticulture Sector in India](#)

First Woman to Lead Army Unit Near China border (Ladakh)

Recently, a woman officer, **Colonel Geeta Rana has for the first time, taken over the command of an independent unit in the sensitive Ladakh sector** where India and China have been locked in a lingering border row.

In January 2023, **the army for the first time deployed a woman officer, Captain Shiva Chouhan, at Siachen, the world's highest and coldest battleground**. It also deployed its [largest contingent of 27 women peacekeepers in Sudan's disputed region of Abyei](#), where they are performing security-related tasks in a challenging mission as part of the United **Nations Interim Security Force (UNISFA)**.

One of the turning points for women in the military came **in 2015 when the Indian Air Force (IAF)**

decided to induct them into the fighter stream for the first time.

Read More: [Representation of Women in Armed Forces](#)

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