



# Farm Fires Rise Across Haryana

## Why in News?

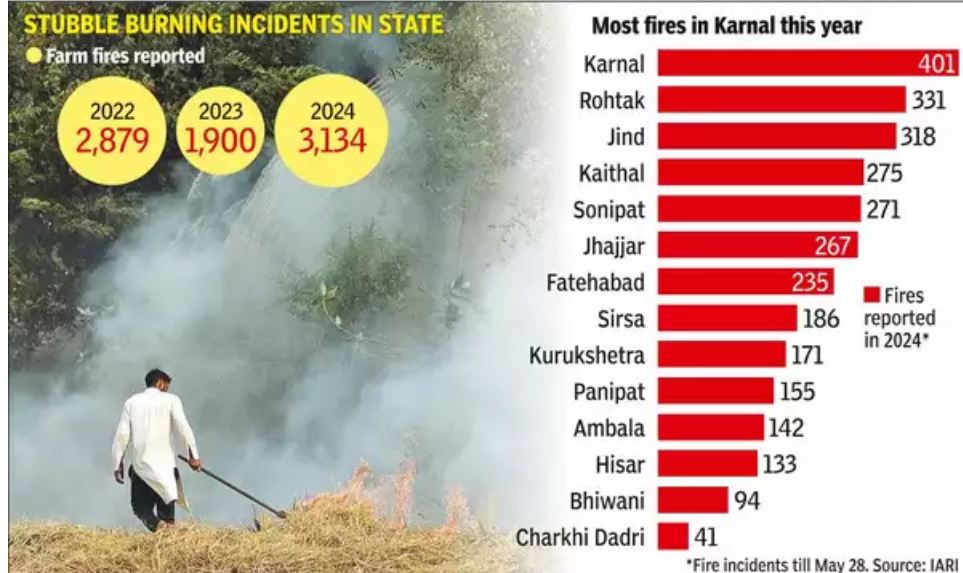
**Farm fires** that are **used to clear land after wheat harvesting** in the summer months reached 3,134 cases in **Haryana** in April and May, making it the highest number recorded in the state during this period in the last three years.

## 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.

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