



## 14th Mid Career Course (Phase III)

### Why in News?

[The National Human Rights Commission \(NHRC\)](#), India, organized a training programme for Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers as part of the **14th Mid Career Course (Phase III)** at the [Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun](#).

### Key Points

- **Importance of IFS Officers:**
  - The Chairperson of NHRC emphasized the **key role of Indian Forest Service officers in safeguarding the [nation's natural heritage](#)**. He highlighted their responsibility to **balance development needs with conservation priorities**.
  - He stressed the need for officers to **understand the historical context of forest legislation, the evolving challenges in forest management**, and the relationship between law, policy, and enforcement to carry out their duties effectively.
- **Historical Evolution of Forest Legislation:**
  - The Chairman also discussed the **historical development of forest legislation, from the British era to the present**. The changing balance between development and conservation was also highlighted.
  - The impact of [the 2013 Land Acquisition Act](#) on forest land acquisition was examined, which eventually led to [the 2023 amendment of the Forest Conservation Act](#).
- **Judicial Impact on Forest Conservation:**
  - The Chairperson emphasized the role of the courts in shaping forest conservation, citing the landmark [T. N. Godavarman case of 1995](#). This case **reduced the [timber industry's detrimental effects on forest cover](#)**.
  - The **importance of strong laws and effective enforcement mechanisms** was highlighted, noting that the ongoing involvement of the court through '**continuing mandamus**' highlights the persistent challenges in balancing development with conservation.

### National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

- **About:**
  - It ensures the **protection of [rights related to life, liberty, equality](#)**, and dignity of individuals.
  - Rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution and international covenants enforceable by Indian courts.
- **Establishment:**
  - Established on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1993, under the [Protection of Human Rights Act \(PHRA\), 1993](#).
  - Amended by the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006, and Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019.
  - Established in conformity with the Paris Principles, adopted for promoting and protecting human rights.

## Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy

- It is a forest service training institute **under the Ministry of Environment and Forests of India**, which was originally as Indian Forest College, **established in 1938** for training of senior forest officers.
- It is situated in the **New Forest campus of Forest Research Institute**, Dehradun.

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