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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 84 OF 2026

In the matter of:

Surya Prakash Mishra

Versus

Applicant

Union of India &Ors.

Respondent (s)

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23.4.2026

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2.	<b>Annexure-I</b> A copy of report dated 02.05.2025 filed by CPCB before Hon'ble NGT, PB in O.A No. 425/2023.	
3.	<b>Annexure-II</b> A copy of report dated 05.08.2025 filed by CPCB before Hon'ble NGT, PB in O.A No. 425/2023.	

Filed by



**ADV. ANUJ BHANDARI**  
(On behalf on Central Pollution Control Board)

Place: Delhi

Dated: 21.04.2026

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 84 OF 2026**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Suyash Kumar Mishra

Applicant

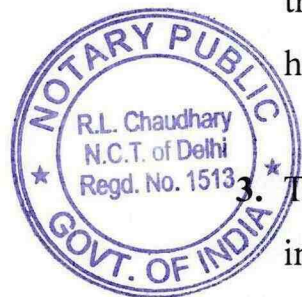
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**REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 03 i.e. CENTRAL  
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

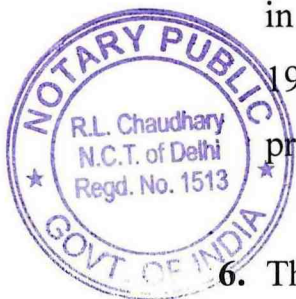
1. That, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Principal Bench (hereinafter referred to as "**Hon'ble NGT**") vide order dated 04.02.2026 in Original Application (hereinafter referred to as "OA") No. 84 of 2026, has sought the response of Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as "**CPCB**") in the instant matter. Thereby, the reply is made in this instant OA in succeeding paragraphs.
2. That at the outset, the answering respondent denies all claims, contentions, allegations and averments against answering respondent CPCB in the above OA contrary to anything stated or submitted in this reply. Nothing in the OA may be deemed to have been accepted or admitted by the answering respondent for want of a specific denial or on the ground of non-traverse, save and except any averment which has been expressly admitted hereinafter.
3. That, in the present matter the Applicant has raised concerns regarding increasing incidents of forest fires across India, including in fragile Himalayan ecosystems and the Western Ghats resulting in extensive



environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity, destruction of forest carbon sinks, damage to soil and water-shed systems, air pollution, increased climate vulnerability and has also highlighted issues relating to prevention, preparedness and response mechanisms in this regard. The Applicant has inter alia referred to data published in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2023 (para 5) indicating that nearly 36% of India's forest cover is prone to recurring fires and has further referred to data released by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) and the Forest Survey of India (FSI) (para 21) stating that approximately 50% of India's forest cover is fire-prone.

**PRELIMINARY SUBMISSIONS: -**

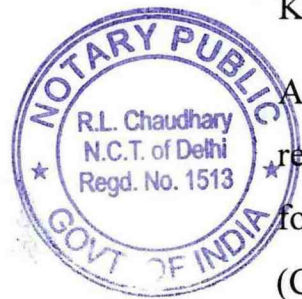
4. That, it is humbly submitted that CPCB has been constituted under Section 3 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (hereinafter referred to as "Water Act, 1974"). It performs the functions under the Water Act, 1974, The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (hereinafter referred to as "Air Act, 1981") and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (hereinafter referred to as "E (P) Act, 1986").
5. That, the State Pollution Control Boards (hereinafter referred to "SPCBs")/Pollution Control Committees (hereinafter referred to "PCCs") in every State/Union Territory have been constituted under the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981 and are responsible for implementation of the provisions of both the Acts in their respective State/Union Territory.
6. That, the issue of forest fire vis-a-vis its prevention, preparedness and control is governed by the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and the applicable rules framed by respective states in this regard. The state



forest departments are equipped for prevention, detection, and suppression of forest fires under the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and applicable State laws.

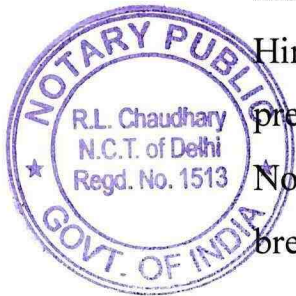
7. That, Hon'ble NGT in *Original Application No. 425/2023 (Deepika Khari versus State of U.P. & Ors.)*, directed CPCB to collect and compile information from all States/UTs regarding forest fire incidents, causes and preventive measures & budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires. Accordingly, CPCB collected and consolidated information from all State Forest Departments and submitted reports dated 02.05.2025 (copy of same is enclosed as **ANNEXURE I**) having information of 28 States/UTs (Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haven and Daman & Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Puduchery, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal). Further in compliance of Hon'ble NGT direction in the said matter CPCB submitted report dated 05.08.2025 (copy of same is enclosed as **ANNEXURE II**) having information of remaining 8 States/UTs (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Manipur and Telangana).

As per above said reports, a total of 154866 forest fire incidents were reported across 32 States/UTs during 2024 out of total 36 States/UTs. No forest fire incidents were reported during 2024 in 4 UTs/States (Chandigarh, Lakshadweep, Nagaland, and Puducherry) as per the said reports. States with significantly high incidents include Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh.

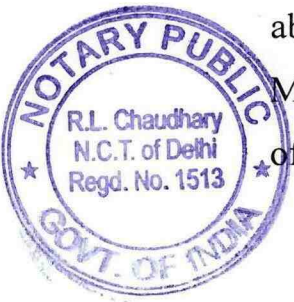


**PARA WISE REPLY:**

8. That, the averments made in paragraph no. 1 to 4 of the Application are about the reason of filing the application, introduction of applicant and about the alleged serious lapses in inter-departmental coordination, failure to implement standard operating procedures, the erosion of community-based forest governance structures like Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) and Van Panchayats in Uttarakhand. In these contexts, submissions made at Paragraph No. 6 of this reply are reiterated and not repeated for the sake of brevity.
9. That, the averments made in paragraph nos. 5 to 6 of the Application are about the data published in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2023 regarding forest cover of India which is prone to forest fire and Hon'ble NGT matter *Rajiv Dutta vs Union of India & Ors.* (O.A. No.147/2016) which are matter of record and needs no comment from this Answering Respondent No. 3.
10. That, the averments made in paragraph nos. 7 to 8 of the Application are about the forest fire incidents occurred in early 2026 in Uttarakhand and Maharashtra, repeated forest fire incidents in central, eastern and Himalayan states and alleged failure of the concerned State authorities to prevent such incidents. In these contexts, submissions made at Paragraph Nos. 6 and 7 of this reply are reiterated and not repeated for the sake of brevity.



11. That, the averments made in paragraph no. 9 of the Application are about the powers of Hon'ble NGT and need no comments from this Answering Respondent No. 3.
12. That, the averments made in paragraph nos. 10 to 11 of the Application are about the persistent administrative inaction, prolonged degradation of forest fire affected ecosystems and alleged violation of Article 21 of the Constitution of India and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, as amended. In these contexts, submissions made at Paragraph Nos. 6 and 7 of this reply are reiterated and not repeated for the sake of brevity.
13. That, the averments made in paragraph nos. 12 to 13 of the Application are about the provisions of E (P) Act, 1986 and Air Act, 1981 and alleged inaction by concerned authorities. In these contexts, submissions made at Paragraph Nos. 5 and 6 of this reply are reiterated and not repeated for the sake of brevity.
14. That, the averments made in paragraph nos. 14 to 16 of the Application are about the provisions of The Biological Diversity Act, 2002, The Indian Forest Act, 1927, Article 21 of the Constitution of India which are matter of record and needs no comment from this Answering Respondent No. 3.
15. That, the averments made in paragraph nos. 17 to 20 of the Application are about the fire incident occurred in various States such as Karnataka and Maharashtra. In this context, submissions made at Paragraph Nos. 6 and 7 of this reply are reiterated and not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.



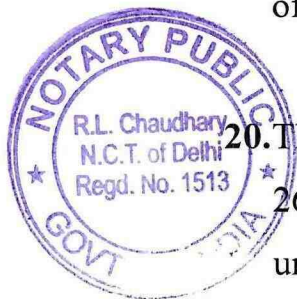
16. That, the averments made in paragraph nos. 21 of the Application are about the data released by Press Information Bureau and the Forest Survey of India (FSI) regarding forest cover in India which is fire prone, highly vulnerable to reoccurring and severe fire events, which are matters of record and needs no comment from this Answering Respondent No. 3.

17. That, the averments made in paragraph nos. 22 of the Application are about the constitution of Central Monitoring Committee on Forest Fire by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) which is matter of record and needs no comment from this Answering Respondent No. 3.

18. That, the averments made in paragraph nos. 23 to 25 of the Application are about the provision of financial assistance by MoEF&CC to the States under Forest Fire Prevention and Management (FPM) Scheme and increasing frequency despite of these institutional framework. In these contexts, submissions made at Paragraph Nos. 6 and 7 of this reply are reiterated and not repeated for the sake of brevity.

19. That, with reference to the averments made in paragraph nos. A to AD under the heading "GROUNDS", the submission made in preceding paragraphs of this reply are reiterated and not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.

20. That, no comments are offered over the averments made in paragraph nos. 26 to 27 dealing about the limitation and over the averments contained under the Heading "PRAYER" of the Application.



21. That, it is most respectfully submitted that the Answering Respondent seeks liberty to file additional reply, if the same is required to be filed at later stage.

22. In light of the above submissions, it is most respectfully submitted that this Answering Respondent No. 3 i.e. CPCB, shall abide by any order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble NGT in the instant Original Application.



**Sharandeep Singh**  
**Scientist 'E'**

**Central Pollution Control Board**  
**20.04.2026**

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 84 OF 2026**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Suyash Kumar Mishra

Applicant

Versus

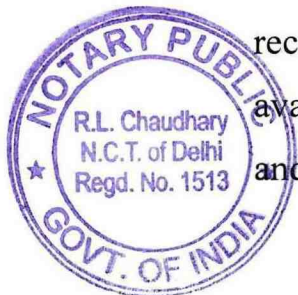
Union of India & Ors.

Respondent(s)

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, Sharandeep Singh, aged about 46 years in the capacity of Scientist-E, having office at Delhi, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state on oath as follows:

1. That I, the deponent herein is well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the information derived from the official records, and hence, I am competent to verify, sign and swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent CPCB.
2. That the accompanying reply may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit.
3. That the accompanying reply has been drafted and filed under my instructions, the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of the records maintained during ordinary course of business of CPCB and available records and documents and the contents of the same are read over and explained to me and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.



*Sharandeep Singh*

**शरणदीप सिंह DEPONENT Singh**  
वैज्ञानिक 'ई' / Scientist 'E'  
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
Central Pollution Control Board  
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
(Mo Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India)  
परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032  
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

**VERIFICATION**

I, Sharandeep Singh, herein do hereby verify that the contents of the above paragraphs are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

**20 APR 2026**

Verified at New Delhi on this the ..... Day of April, 2026.



**ATTESTED**  
  
**NOTARY PUBLIC**  
**GOVT. OF INDIA**

**20 APR 2026**

**20 APR 2026**

  
**DEPONENT**  
 शरणदीप सिंह / Sharandeep Singh  
 वैज्ञानिक 'ई' / Scientist 'E'  
 केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
 Central Pollution Control Board  
 (पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
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 परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032  
 Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

**Report in compliance to the Hon'ble NGT Order dated 17-02-2025 in Original Application No. 425/2023 titled Deepika Khari Applicant Versus State of UP & Ors.**

**1.0 Background:**

In the matter of OA No. 425/2023, *Deepika Khari v. State of U.P. & Others* wherein the applicant raised the issue of burning dry leaves at multiple locations in the Badkot Forest Range along the Rishikesh-Dehradun Road, and the inaction of forest and police officials despite complaints made to them.

In the said matter, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (hereinafter referred to as NGT), vide order dated 17-02-2025, (**Annexure-I**) directed as follows:

*Para 13. "The CPCB is directed to obtain, compile and include in its reply/response the information with respect to the following aspects:-*

*(i) State/U.T. wise number of forest fire incidents which took place in the year 2024 in entire India;*

*(ii) Causes for the forest fires specified separately under the categories of natural,*

*man-made or any other reason (the reason may be specified);*

*(iii) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires;*

*(iv) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the*

*year 2025 and the following years;*

*(v) Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the*

*damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024 with details regarding adequacy*

*of the amount and modes of utilization.*

*(vi) Budget amount to be allocated for taking of remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2025 with details regarding adequacy of the amount and modes of utilization.*

**2. Compliance to the Direction:**

**2.1 Approach**

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has requested the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (hereinafter referred to as PCCF) / Chief Conservator of Forests (hereinafter referred to as CCF) of all States/Union Territories (UTs), vide letter dated 10-03-2025 and reminder dated 04-04-2025, to provide the required information in the prescribed format. (Copies of the letters along with the format are enclosed as **Annexure II**).

## 2.2 Status of information received from States/UTs

In response to CPCB's communication, a total of 28 States/UTs have responded. The information received from these 28 States/UTs has been compiled and is presented in the subsequent paragraphs of this report.

### 3. State-wise information received from PCCF/CCF:

Information has been received from 28 PCCFs/CCFs of the States and UTs regarding the number of forest fires, their causes, measures taken to address the resulting damage, and the budget allocated for remedial actions. The compiled state-wise information is presented in the table below

S. No.	States/UTs	Information received from PCCF/CCF (Yes /No)	Annexed as
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Yes	Annexure-III
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	No	-
3.	Assam	No	-
4.	Andaman & Nicobar	Yes	Annexure-IV
5.	Bihar	No	-
6.	Chandigarh	Yes	Annexure-V
7.	Chhattisgarh	Yes	Annexure-VI
8.	Daman, Diu & Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Yes	Annexure-VII
9.	Delhi	No	-
10.	Goa	Yes	Annexure-VIII
11.	Gujarat	Yes	Annexure-IX
12.	Haryana	No	-
13.	Himachal Pradesh	Yes	Annexure-X
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	Yes	Annexure-XI
15.	Jharkhand	Yes	Annexure-XII
16.	Karnataka	No	-
17.	Kerala	Yes	Annexures-XIII
18.	Ladakh	Yes	Annexures- XIV
19.	Lakshadweep	Yes	Annexures-XV
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Yes	Annexures-XVI
21.	Maharashtra	Yes	Annexures-XVII
22.	Manipur	No	-
23.	Meghalaya	Yes	Annexures-XVIII

24.	Mizoram	Yes	Annexures- XIX
25.	Nagaland	Yes	Annexures-XX
26.	Odisha	Yes	Annexures- XXI
27.	Puducherry	Yes	Annexures-XXII
28.	Punjab	Yes	Annexures- XXIII
29.	Rajasthan	Yes	Annexures-XXIV
30.	Sikkim	Yes	Annexures-XXV
31.	Tamil Nadu	Yes	Annexures-XXVI
32.	Telangana	No	-
33.	Tripura	Yes	Annexures- XXVII
34.	Uttar Pradesh	Yes	Annexures- XXVIII
35.	Uttarakhand	Yes	Annexures- XXIX
36.	West Bengal	Yes	Annexures- XXX

State-wise information has been compiled and is presented below:

### 3.1 Andhra Pradesh

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Andhra Pradesh vide Letter No 19034/1/2025/Vig-2(i), dated 23-03-2025 (**Copy enclosed at Annexure - III**):

- a) **Number of the forest fire:** 18144 Nos. of forest fire incident took place in the year 2023-24
- b) **Causes of the forest fire:**
  - i. The causes of most of the forest fires in Andhra Pradesh are accidental caused by persons collecting Non-timber forest products (NTFP) including Beedi leaf, fire spreading from burning of biomass in adjacent agriculture land, accidental fire by shepherds & graziers and to some extent with the intention to encroach forest land for cultivation purposes etc.
  - ii. The Boda Grass is the main cause of forest fires in NSTR and Rayalaseema regions.
  - iii. Invasive weeds like Parthenium, Lantana also contribute to fire hazard.
- c) **Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**

- i. Massive afforestation with public, departmental, and volunteer participation.
- ii. Seedlings distributed free to schools and public via nurseries under schemes like MGNREGS, CAMPA.
- iii. Plantation drives on roads, coasts, institutions, and in rural areas with awareness campaigns.

**d) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years are:**

- i. Forest Fire Monitoring Cells are set up at PCCF, CCF, DFO, and FRO levels to monitor FSI alerts and ensure quick response.
- ii. Fire Risk Zonation Maps are prepared by taking the data of fire incidences of the last five years, duly identifying the risk Zones, and communicated to alert the field staff.
- iii. Trainings and workshops are conducted to maintain preparedness.
- iv. Watch towers with 24/7 manpower are placed at key locations from January to May for fire vigilance.
- v. A dedicated toll-free number (1800-425-5909) is active for real-time fire information.
- vi. Fire control measures include fire line creation and maintenance, controlled burning, and use of firefighting equipment.

**e) Funds allocated:**

- During 2023-24, an amount of ₹ 223.756 Lakh was allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage cause by forest fires.
- An amount of ₹ 1300.00 Lakh is proposed to be allocated in 2025-26 for taking up remedial measures to address the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2025.

**3.2 Andaman & Nicobar**

As per the information provided by the office of the Chief Conservator of Forests of Andaman & Nicobar vide Letter F. No

CCF/T/G/4-24/2024/1087 dt.25-03-2025 (Copy enclosed at Annexure - IV):

- a) **Number of the forest fire:** 19 Nos. of forest fire incident took place in the year 2024 in which 01 is due to natural reason and 18 are due to manmade reasons.
- b) **Causes of the forest fire:** Causes of the manmade forest fire is mostly accidental spread in forest area from adjacent habitation.
- c) **Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**
  - i. Forest fires are extinguished using water and beating by village manpower, Forest Department teams, and fire services.
  - ii. Affected areas are measured and will be included in the Annual Plan of Operations (APO) for the next financial year under CAMPA and State Plan for restoration.
  - iii. Restoration is carried out through afforestation using native and endemic species.
- d) **Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years are:**
  - i. Fire lines are created and maintained in fire-prone areas.
  - ii. Strict watch and ward are engaged during the fire season.
  - iii. Awareness activities are conducted for forest fringe villagers, students, youth, and line departments.
  - iv. Mock drills are organized for frontline staff; local villagers are involved in fire prevention, monitoring, and control.
  - v. The VAN AGNI Geo-Portal is also being actively monitored to anticipate and mitigate potential fire risks.
- e) **Funds allocated:**
  - A total amount of ₹ 19.36 Lakh was allocated in the first instalment for undertaking remedial measures to address the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024 wherein ₹ 18.96 Lakh are the revalidated unutilized amount from the previous allocation, while ₹ 0.39 Lakh are yet to be released by the Ministry.

The allocated amount is transferred to the Division Heads for further utilization of funds.

- No budget amount has been allocated for the year 2025 yet. APO to the tune of ₹ 3.04 Cr has been proposed for the year 2025-26 under the Central Sponsored Scheme (CSS)-Forest Fire Prevention and Management for the UT of A&N Islands.

### 3.3 Chandigarh

As per the information provided by the office department of forest & wildlife Chandigarh Administration vide Letter No. FOR/2025/176, dated 08-04-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure-V**):

- a) **Number of the forest fire:** No forest fire incidents have taken place during the year 2024.
- b) **Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:** Measures taken to prevent the forest fires are creation of fire lines and regular patrolling.
- c) **Funds allocated:** No information has been provided about fund allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires.

### 3.4 Chhattisgarh

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Chhattisgarh vide Letter No./Protection/Forest Fire/668, dated 03-04-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure - VI**):

- a) **Number of the forest fire:** 13018 Nos. of forest fire incidents took place during the financial year 2024 and 33.72 sq. km. area has been affected in the Chhattisgarh state.
- b) **Causes of the forest fire:**
  - i. Fires occur due to lightning or bamboo trees colliding with each other.
  - ii. Fire set for the purpose of cleaning agriculture land by villagers during the collection of the tendu leaves and mahua.
  - iii. Due to strong wind during the burning work of forest fire line cleaning control burning of forest fire line before fire season.

**c) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**

Chhattisgarh Forest fires are mainly surface forest fires in which dried leaves and grasses, etc. are generally burnt and forests wealth is not damaged. However, to retain the forest health following steps are taken up to remedy the damage caused by the forest fire.

- i. Fire lines are cleared in forest areas pre-fire season as per the prescription working plan in designated fire lines.
- ii. Soil moisture conservation works.
- iii. Activities like assisted natural regeneration and rehabilitation of degraded forest land is taken up.
- iv. A robust fire alert system has been developed by state of Chhattisgarh in addition to fire alert system of FSI. Through this ESRI's ArcGIS system, automated SMS is sent to the field staff, JFMC's and Panchayat members and front line fire watchers resulting in quick response against fire and dousing of fire in nominal time.
- v. As fire is often caused by mahua & tendupatta collectors. Responsibility is set upon the phad munshi & legal action is taken against such law breakers. Same is with any person who sets fire in forest areas.
- vi. Regular seminar/workshop, mock drills are organised pre fire season.

**d) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**

- i. Fire watchers are deployed in every beat in forest area during fire season.
- ii. Motivating/Training of staffs and members of JFMC/ Panchayats Officials for forest fire control.
- iii. Providing forest fire fighting equipment's in field.
- iv. Fire alert system has been used to inform location of fire to the front line field staff JFMC members/ Panchayat members on their mobile through SMS for controlling fire on time; feedback is also taken regarding extinguishing of fire within 24 hours.

**e) Funds allocated:**

- In the financial year 2024, an allocation ₹ 981.30 Lakh from the state budget, ₹ 116.67 Lakh from the central budget and ₹ 1634.99 Lakh from the CAMPA budget has

been made for forest fire protection. (Total allocation is ₹ 2732.96 Lakh).

- Information regarding the funds to be allocated during the year 2025 has not been provided.

### 3.5 Daman, Diu & Dadra & Nagar Haveli

As per the information provided by the office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman vide Letter F. No. 8-1/139/FD/Devp/2024/489 dated 21-03-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure - VII**):

- a) **Number of the forest fire:** 17 Nos. of forest fire incident took place in the year 2024.
- b) **Causes of the forest fire:** Rabb Burning is the cause of forest Fire.
- c) **Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by forest fires:**
  - i. Creation of Fire lines.
  - ii. Awareness programs among villager.
- d) **Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**
  - i. Deployment of fire watchers, creation of fire lines.
  - ii. Removal of weeds, awareness programs.
  - iii. Soil moisture conservation works like check dams and gully plugs to retain and maintain ground moisture.
- e) **Funds allocated:**  
No specific budget allotted for forest fire management. Fire prevention and management works are carried out along with annual plantation activities.

### 3.6 Goa

As per the information provided by the office of the Dy. Conservator of Forests, Working Plan Division of Goa, vide Letter No. DCF (WP)/F-Fire/2024-25/Part File/06, dated 01-04-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure- VIII**).

- a) **Number of the forest fire:** 11 Nos. of forest fire incident took place in the year 2024.
- b) **Causes of the forest fire:** Exact causes of the Forest fire are not known.

**c) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by forest fires:**

- i. Goa has a State Action Plan for forest fire prevention and control.
- ii. Pre-fire season actions include fire line cutting, controlled burning, fire watcher deployment, and setting up watchtowers and camps.
- iii. Integrated with FSI's real-time Forest Fire Alert System for accurate alerts and quick response.
- iv. A 24x7 Fire Control Room operates during fire season. Toll-free helpline (1926) is available for public reporting and rescue support.

**d) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**

- i. Automatic Weather Stations installed to monitor fire-prone climatic conditions.
- ii. Mock drills conducted with key departments for fire preparedness.
- iii. SOPs shared in local languages with cashew growers near forests.
- iv. Public awareness campaigns promote fire prevention and management

**e) Funds allocated:**

- Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2023-24 are ₹ 415.35 Lakh.
- Budget amount to be allocated for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024-25 is ₹ 313.465 Lakh.

### 3.7 Gujarat

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Gujarat vide Letter No Protection/A/36-7/3-4, dated 15-04-2025 (Copy enclosed at Annexure-IX):

- a) **Number of the forest fire:** 969 Nos. of forest fire incident took place in the year 2024.
- b) **Causes of the forest fire:** Causes of the forest fire are burning debris, Traditional beliefs, Negligence (naked flame/cigarette/electric spark etc.).

**c) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by forest fires:**

- i. Burnt area assessment.
- ii. Action as per IFA-1927 and Wildlife Protection Act-1972.
- iii. Construction/renovation of water storage.
- iv. Livelihood support.

**d) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**

- i. Fuel Management.
- ii. Clearing of fire lines/controlled burning.
- iii. Arrangements of adequate man power in fire prone forest.
- iv. Moist & Water Conservation
- v. Local People awareness/signage & posters.
- vi. Identification of fire hotspots.
- vii. Arrangements of adequate man power in fire prone forest.

**e) Funds allocated:**

- Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024 is ₹ 1198 Lakh. Mode of utilization of this fund is engagement of fire watches, Creation/maintenance of fire lines, Training and capacity building, organising awareness camps and incentivization, Creation of infrastructures (watch tower/water storage etc.)
- Budget amount to be allocated for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2025 are ₹ 1550 Lakh.

### **3.8Himachal Pradesh**

As per the information provided by the office of the Chief Conservator of Forests of Himachal Pradesh vide letter No. Fts. (BLP)/NGTOA No. 425/2023-370, dated 26-03-2025: **(Copy enclosed at Annexure - X):**

**a) Number of the forest fire:** 2464 Nos. of forest fire incident took place in the year 2024.

**b) Causes of the forest fire:**

- i. Accidental forest fires, carelessness of visitors, for want of green grasses, spreading of fires on stubble burning from agriculture fields.
- ii. Rubbing of dry bamboos with each other.
- iii. Falling of dry pine needles or leaves on electric poles giving out sparks.
- iv. Escape of fires to forests from burning of stubble in the fields or homestead or burning of the grasslands adjacent to the forests.
- v. Accidental spread of fire in the forest while burning fire lines departmentally.
- vi. Making the collection of NTFP easy by burning the undergrowth and dry grass.

**c) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by forest fires:**

- i. Forest Department has also cleared fire lines of about 1096 Km to prevent the spread of fires in different parts of the state.
- ii. All field staff on Fire Alert Messaging System by Forest Survey of India to reduce response time to mitigate Forest fire
- iii. Fire vulnerability mapping of beats help us prioritize our time and other resources to mitigate fire.
- iv. The State Disaster Control Room Toll Free No. of 1077 at State Level and 1070 at District Level Control Room are operational for reporting of forest fires incidences reported by the local people.
- v. Industries that use chir pine needles that make briquettes are being promoted.

**d) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**

- i. In each Forest Division, a Forest task force at Range level shall be constituted by 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2025 to prevent and fight the forest fires.
- ii. Forest Fire Alert Messaging System (FAMS) be updated quarterly by sending the fresh list of Nodal officer of Forest Fires depicting their name, mobile number and e-mail ids directly to APCCF (GIS) Cell, Mist Chamber, Khalini Shimla and this office.

- iii. The DFOs shall get the pamphlets prepared on Forest fires and distribute to people on this Gram Sabha day.
- iv. The ROS, BOs and Forest Guards shall hold meeting in all the Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), especially in the Chil zone forest fire prone/sensitive areas, and set up fire control teams of the local people also.
- v. The Forest Fire immediate loss assessment and after-rainy season loss assessment be calculated as per procedure laid down in the Forest Fire Manual, 2018 & inspection reports be uploaded in the Fire Engine of HPFD in the prescribed format circulated by worthy Pr. C.C.F. (HoFF), H.P. Shimla vide his office memo No. FL1-1/2014 (Fire) (P & L) Vol.-IV dated 14-01-2021.

**e) Funds allocated:**

- The budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024 are ₹ 564.42 Lakh.
- The budget amount to be allocated for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2025, are ₹ 1280.21 Lakh.

**3.9 Jammu & Kashmir**

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Jammu & Kashmir vide Letter No PCCF/Plg/217/5291-93 dated, 19-03-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure- XI**):

- a) **Number of the forest fire:** 1243 Nos. of forest fire incidents took place during the year 2024-25.
- b) **Causes of the forest fire:**
  - i. Careless disposal of matchsticks, cigarettes, and bidis, cooking fires from temporary shelters.
  - ii. Sparks from high-tension lines.
  - iii. Fires spreading from stubble, weed, or bush burning near forests.
  - iv. Use of fire as an input to fodder production, including new shoots of grass in summer by burning the dry grass.

**c) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires and Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**

All the forest fires reported in J&K are surface fires and have no major adverse impact on the flora that needs active management interventions.

- i. Controlled burning and creation of fire lines/fire breaks.
- ii. Annual forest fire awareness campaigns and capacity building of staff and communities.
- iii. Mock drills for field staff and local residents.
- iv. Deployment of fire watchers with proper gear, tools, and equipment.

**d) Funds allocated:** Information regarding the funds allocated during the years 2024 and 2025 has not been provided.

### 3.10 Jharkhand

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Jharkhand vide Letter 20(वि.को.)-1-05/2025, dated.17-04-2025 (Copy enclosed at Annexure-XII);

**a) Number of the forest fire:** 7668 Nos. of forest fire incident took place in the year 2024

**b) Causes of the forest fire:**

- i. Atmospheric electric discharge due to lightning during summer and pre-monsoon thunder storms.
- ii. Friction among congested dry bamboo culms of bamboo brakes during the extremely hot season and very rarely natural forest fires also caused by auto-oxidation of exposed coal seams in forest lands bearing coal reserves.
- iii. During summer, at the onset of Mahua (*Madhuca indica*) flowering, locals and villagers burn the leaf litter on the forest floor around Mahua trees.
- iv. People use fire as a method to control weeds, which can accidentally cause forest fires.
- v. Activities associated with illegal coal mining, including ignition sources, can start forest fires.

- vi. The dumping of overburden material from opencast mining can also lead to fire incidents in nearby forest areas.
- c) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**
- i. Weed removal.
  - ii. Soil and moisture conservation measures like Conservation measures like land levelling, field bunding, terracing, Water absorption trenches etc.
  - iii. Gap-planting like rehabilitation of degraded forests, assisted natural regeneration, planting fire resistant fire hardy indigenous trees etc.
- d) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years are:**
- i. Forest fire management plans will be prepared to respond to forest fire risks and incidences.
  - ii. Pre-forest fire seasons preparatory activities such as the creation and maintenance of fire lines, removing excess forest floor biomass (weed removal), fire tracing i.e. removing the grasses and weeds around sensitive areas like forest paths and roads, maintenance and procurement of the firefighting equipments, etc. are carried out.
  - iii. Engagement of forest fire watchers, regular patrolling, deployment of Quick response teams i.e. mobile squad units, construction of watch towers in sensitive areas are carried out to keep a constant vigil.
  - iv. Capacity building of field staff through training, provisioning firefighting equipment for forest fire prevention and management are also carried out.
  - v. Community participation through Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) and Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) is promoted in forest fire management and control.
  - vi. Advanced detection and monitoring technology like the Drones, Artificial Intelligence Cameras or Sensors, etc are being applied in sensitive areas.
- e) Funds allocated**
- Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by

forest fires during the year 2024 is ₹ 793.34 lakh. As informed the amount allocated is adequate. Forest fire funds are used for awareness, training, and prevention works like fire lines and trenches. Equipment and vehicles are provided, and quick response teams are formed. JFMC members are hired as fire fighters. Post-fire, damaged areas are assessed and restored through conservation and afforestation with fire-resistant native species.

- The total budgetary allotment for controlling forest fires during 2025 is informed same as 2024.

### 3.11 Kerala

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Kerala vide Letter Pro(12)-76/2024, dated 07-04-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure-XIII**);

- a) **Number of the forest fire:** 384 Nos. of forest fire incidents took place in the year 2024 out of which 19 incidents are natural and 365 incidents are manmade affecting the total area around 569 Ha.
- b) **Causes of the forest fire:**
  - i. Atmospheric electric discharge due to lightning.
  - ii. Activities associated with retaliation fires, throwing away butts after smoking, undoused campfires, land clearing and careless transit habits.
- c) **Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**
  - i. GIS-enabled Fire plan is prepared and implemented every year at all levels.
  - ii. Soil Moisture conservation, assisted regeneration, eco restoration & habitat development, afforestation and weed removal,
  - iii. Community-led efforts (VSS/EDC) are also made for habitat restoration.
- d) **Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years are:**

- i. GIS-based fire planning, risk zonation, and catchment-based management are done annually.
- ii. Risk zonation, ecological monitoring and early warning systems are established to assess and respond to risks.
- iii. Community training, awareness programs, and watcher deployment ensure ground-level vigilance.
- iv. Fire line clearing and early burning are carried out.

**e) Funds allocated:**

- Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024 is ₹ 1200 lakh. As informed, the amount allocated is almost adequate. Forest fire funds are used for Creation of fire lines, control burning, VSS/EDC assistance, awareness, equipment procurement, employing local watchers for patrol and immediate response.
- Budget amount to be allocated for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2025-26, is ₹ 1000 Lakh. As informed, the amount is almost adequate.

**3.12 Ladakh**

As per the information provided by the office of Ladakh Pollution Control Committee vide Letter No. LPCC/UTL/2025/702-703 dated 17-03-2025 (Copy enclosed at Annexure – XIV):

- a) **Number of the forest fire:** 01 case of forest fire took place in the year 2024.
- b) **Causes of the forest fire:** The exact cause of the fire incident was unknown. As reported the possible cause of fire was ignition of dry grasses resulting from burring of biomass.
- c) **Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by forest fires:**  
The area damaged by forest fire is being fenced and plantation and soil moisture conservation works are being undertaken.

**d) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**

- i. Creation of fire lines in vulnerable areas.
- ii. All range offices have been equipped with latest firefighting equipment. One forest fire control room has been established at Leh H/Q for coordination with all Range H/Qs.

**e) Funds allocated:**

- Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024 is ₹ 47.28 Lakh.
- Budget amount to be allocated for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2025 is ₹ 58.6 Lakh (₹ 25.6 Lakh for Leh Division and ₹ 33 Lakh for Kargil Division).

### 3.13 Lakshadweep

As per the information provided by the office of Lakshadweep Department of Environment & Forest, vide Letter F. No. 72/2/2023-E&F, dated 20-03-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure - XV**):

**a) Number of the forest fire:** No forest fire incidents have taken place during the year 2024.

**b) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**

In Lakshadweep forest fire Incidences are negligible However, regular patrolling is conducted to monitor the incidents of fires, awareness generation programs on important days like Environment Day, Wildlife week etc. for communities are conducted to educate the locals to mitigate forest fire.

**c) Funds Allocated:**

Nil in 2024 & 2025

### 3.14 Madhya Pradesh

As per the information received from the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Madhya Pradesh through CPCB Regional Directorate, Bhopal vide email dated 22-04-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure -XVI**):

- a) During the year 2024, a total of 14,789 forest fire incidents were reported, of which 1400-1800 were due to natural causes, 12000-13000 were man-made, and around 500 were attributed to other causes.
- b) Causes of the forest fire:**
- i. Lightning and spontaneous combustion are natural causes of forest fires.
  - ii. Slash-and-burn practices and Mahua flower collection contribute to agricultural and collection-related fires.
  - iii. Careless burning of forest material, deforestation, unattended campfires, and improper disposal of cigarette butts are common examples of human negligence causing forest fires.
- c) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**
- i. The Forest Department introduced the Forest Fire Alert Messaging System (FAMS) to enhance real-time detection and communication of fire incidents, enabling quicker responses to reduce both the average area affected by fires and response time.
  - ii. Ecological monitoring, fire-resistant landscaping, and soil erosion control prevent further damage.
  - iii. Community engagement, incentives, and infrastructure aid fire prevention.
  - iv. Forest restoration efforts made to rehabilitate fire-affected areas.
- d) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**
- i. Improve water bodies, create check dams, and other water sources for fire response.
  - ii. Engage Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) in forest fire protection through fire surveillance, drones, and local patrolling.
  - iii. Involve Tribal Councils, Panchayats, JFMCs, EDCS, BMCs in fire prevention, empowerment, and incentivization.
  - iv. Implement controlled burns and fire-resistant landscaping.
- e) Funds allocated:**

- In the year 2024, ₹ 32.54 Cr allotted and utilized for fire watchers, fire line maintenance, 2 watch towers, monitoring and reviews, research, drones, and fire fighting equipment (fire beater, brushwood cutter, blower, gum boots, blankets, etc.)
- Budget amount proposed for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2025-26, is ₹ 70.00 Cr.

### 3.15 Maharashtra

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Maharashtra vide Letter No. APCCF (Protection)/Desk-18/C.R.No.57/751/24-25 dated 19-03-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure - XVII**) :

- a) Number of forest fires:** 22874 Nos. of forest fire incidents took place in the year 2024.
- b) Causes of the forest fire:**
  - i. High atmospheric temperatures, rubbing of trees/bamboo and lightning.
  - ii. Tendu/mahua collection
  - iii. Campfires and cigarettes
  - iv. Agricultural waste burning near forests
- c) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by forest fires:**
  - i. Habitat management interventions.
  - ii. State Action Plan implementation.
  - iii. Fire risk zonation mapping.
  - iv. Awareness and capacity building of JFM/VEDC.
  - v. Fire line maintenance.
- d) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**
  - i. Forest Fire Control Rooms have been set up at the state level with the Conservator of Forest (Forest Regulation) as Nodal Officer, Circle level, and Divisional level.
  - ii. All fire cell personnel and field staff registered on the Forest Survey of India (FSI) site for real-time alerts.
  - iii. Fires are monitored until fully extinguished; burnt areas are assessed using drones and Global Positioning System (GPS).

- iv. Fire lines maintenance; controlled burning being conducted regularly.
- v. Infrastructure developed: watchtowers, huts, water storage, communication systems, and patrol vehicles.
- vi. Firefighting equipment provided: blowers, beaters, rakers, protective gear, and water tankers.
- vii. *Angar Mukh Abhiyan* campaign run in fire-prone villages with awards and cash prizes for fire prevention.
- viii. Procurement of modern forest fire equipment and technology like forest fire detection systems, fire suppressants gel

**e) Funds allocated:**

- Budget amount released for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2023-24 is ₹ 4387.38 Lakh and ₹ 3249.3 Lakh for year 2024-25.
- Budget amount to be allocated for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2025-26, is ₹ 15,970.26 Lakh.

### 3.16 Meghalaya

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Meghalaya vide Letter No MFG.79/21/Pt IX (A)/18002 dated, 21-03-2025 (**Copy enclosed at Annexure - XVIII**):

**a) Number of the forest fires:** 721 Nos. of forest fire incidents took place during the year 2024.

**b) Causes of the forest fire:**

Forest fire reported in the state of Meghalaya is mainly anthropogenic in nature and most of these fires are ground and surface burning attributed to traditional practice of Jhum Cultivation and broom stick cultivation. However the occurrence of Forest fire during summer season is less due to abundance of rainfall in the state.

**c) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**

- i. Meghalaya Forest & Environment Department uses Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun's technology for forest fire alerts and early warning systems.

- ii. Mass awareness campaigns launched.
- iii. Involves village communities, headmen, and local chiefs to restrict forest fires in their jurisdictions.
- iv. Collaboration with District Magistrates, Disaster Management Authorities, and Crisis Management Groups for better response and action.

**d) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**

- i. Creation and maintenance of fire line.
- ii. Creation of infrastructure (Watch towers, water storage structures, control rooms, inspection huts etc.)
- iii. Training and awareness program for frontline staff for forest fire control.
- iv. Incentivizing Villages/communities for protection against forest fires.
- v. Providing forest firefighting equipment (Head Lamps, Camping Tents, Portable solar lights) in the field.
- vi. Short term survey/ research on forest fire-related issues.

**e) Funds allocated:**

- Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2023-24 is ₹ 51.91 lakh.
- Sanction is awaited for budget amount to be allocated for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024-25.

**3.17 Mizoram**

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Mizoram vide e mail dated, 17-04-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure - XIX**):

**a) Number of the forest fire:** 3612 Nos. of forest fire incidents took place during the year 2024.

**b) Causes of the forest fire:** Jhum cultivations, Agriculture activities.

**c) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**

Most of the Forest fires are caused due to Jhum Cultivation, there is no requirement of any specific remedial measure to be undertaken since the area is utilized for raising crops, etc.

**d) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**

- i. Organising meetings of the level Sub-Committee on fire prevention to decide various prevention activities.
- ii. Engagement of NGOs to carry out evaluation of activities of fire prevention.
- iii. Provision of prize for the communities participating in fire prevention activities.
- iv. Observing mock drills.
- v. Workshops for co-ordination among line Departments and elected bodies of NGOs
- vi. Construction of Check Dam Loose Boulder
- vii. Engagement of fire watcher for 3 months during the fire season
- viii. Maintenance of fire lines
- ix. Observation of Fire Prevention Week and awareness campaign through social media, on the detrimental effects of Forest Fire and its preventive measures was carried out.
- x. In order to avoid fire incidents and to curtail fire incidence due to Jhum burning, Jhum burning culminated on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 throughout the State after which no Jhumming is permissible.
- xi. A 24X7 fire control room is functioning actively to monitor and disseminate fire alerts promptly.
- xii. A 5 year Action Plan i.e Mizoram Forest Fire Management Plan has been formulated and is being utilized to tackle issues relating to Forest Fires including Post Fire Management.

**e) Funds allocated:**

- Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024 is ₹ 88.50852 Lakh. The budget utilized for procurement of Tata Yodha, construction of water storage tank, organizing workshops, construction of Check Dam Loose Boulder, engagement of fire watchers, maintenance of fire lines etc.
- Budget amount to be allocated for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest

fires during the year 2025, is ₹ 87.70 Lakh. The budget to be utilized for organising awareness campaigns & training programs, construction & maintenance of fire lines, engagement of fire watchers, etc.

### 3.18 Nagaland

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Nagaland vide Letter No. FG-3/10/95(Part-IV) 8012, dated 24-03-2025 (Copy enclosed at Annexure - XX):

- a) **Number of the forest fire:** No forest fire incident took place in the year 2024.
- b) **Causes of the forest fire:** Cause of forest fire may be Slash-and-burn agriculture, Hunting or natural cause like lightning, high temperatures and dry weather.
- c) **Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by forest fires:**
  - i. Creation of fire lines,
  - ii. Awareness and training programme to seek Public co-operation and create awareness.
- d) **Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**  
Ensure regular patrolling in fire prone areas for early warning, activate all JFMC'S and CCA Committees for prompt response to combat forest fires along with village Council, engage with local communities, stakeholders, firefighting agencies to enhance collaboration and coordination.
- e) **Funds allocated:**
  - Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2023-24 is ₹ 320.41 Lakh.
  - Budget amount to be allocated for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024-25 is ₹ 109.98 Lakh.

### 3.19 Odisha

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Odisha vide Letter No 7172 1F(FU&FP) FP-103/2023 dated, 27-03-2025 (Copy enclosed at Annexure - XXI):

**a) Number of the forest fire:** 22868 Nos. of forest fire incidents took place during the year 2024.

**b) Causes of the forest fire:**

Podu Cultivation, stubble burning, Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Collection by burning forest floor etc.

**c) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**

No specific remedial measure is needed for the fire affected area as the forest fire in Odisha is of ground Fire where the ground flora is brunt and rejuvenates after rainy season.

**d) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**

- i. Creation and maintenance of fire line over 28465 Km.
- ii. Training and awareness programme for frontline staff for forest fire control.
- iii. Providing forest fire fighting equipment's in field.
- iv. Providing incentives to villages.
- v. The District Action Plan for 30 districts have been approved.

**e) Funds allocated:**

- Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires in the year 2024, is ₹ 5248.07 Lakh under the budget heads are FCDR (state Plan), CSS-FPM, CAMPA, SRC. As informed, budget amount allocated is adequate.
- Budget amount to be allocated for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires in the year 2025, is ₹ 5172.45 Lakh under the budget heads are FCDR (State Plan), CSS-FPM, CAMPA, SRC. As informed, budget amount allocated is adequate.

### **3.20 Puducherry**

As per the information provided by the office of the Chief Conservator of Forests of Puducherry vide e mail, dated 21-03-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure - XXII**):

**a) Number of the forest fire:** No forest fire incident took place in the year 2024.

**b) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**

- i. Selection and planting of fire-tolerant tree species.
- ii. Micro-watershed-based plantation, creation of fire lines and fire protection roads.
- iii. Deployment of fire watchers, establishment of watchtowers, and regular awareness programs.

**c) Funds allocated:**

- Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2023-24 is ₹ 50.40 Lakh.
- ₹ 151.18 Lakh proposed for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2025-26.

**3.21 Punjab**

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Wildlife Preservation of Punjab vide Letter No 8/293/25/FW-3/ Meeting/I/ 1075042/2025 dated 11-04-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure - XXIII**):

**a) Number of the forest fire:** 366 Nos. of forest fire incident took place in the year 2024

**b) Causes of the forest fire:**

- i. Lighting, High temperature- Low humidity.
- ii. Burning of leaves along forest area, stubble burning by farmers adjoining forest area.

**c) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires and Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years are:**

The steps taken by the Government to prevent forest fire and to protect the country's forest and wildlife in the State of Punjab are as under: -

- i. State Level Monitoring Committee of Forest Fires for effective Implementation of the National Action Plan on Forest Fire (NAPFF) has been constituted.
- ii. Fire Zone Maps have been created to analyse forest fire vulnerability.

- iii. The mobile numbers of the officers and field staff have been registered on FSI website. Immediately on the receipt of SMS alerts from FSI Dehradun, action is taken by the concerned field staff on the field.
- iv. Forest fire control room have been set up in each Division including Head Office of the department. Toll free Helpline No. 1800-180-2323 (24x7) has been created by the Department.

**d) Funds allocated:**

- During 2023-24, an amount of ₹ 61.32 Lakh was allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage cause by forest fires.
- During 2024-25, an amount of ₹ 17.88 Lakh was allocated for the awareness campaign and Training & capacity building on firefighting methods for Frontline staff, NGOs and village communities.

### 3.22 Rajasthan

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Rajasthan vide letter RajKaj Ref No 14547307, received on 11-04-2025 (Copy enclosed at Annexure - XXIV):

**a) Number of the forest fire:** 5025 Nos. of forest fire events have been observed in the year 2024.

**b) Causes of the forest fire:**

Most of the forest fire in Rajasthan are ground/surface fire in which ground vegetation get burned.

**c) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires & Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years are:**

- i. Creation and maintenance of fire Lines,
- ii. Engagement of fire watcher,
- iii. Purchase of firefighting equipment, training of staff and local people.

**d) Funds allocated:**

- Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024-25 is ₹ 933.24 Lakh. As informed the budget is adequate.

- It has been informed that ₹ 1000 Lakh may be allocated for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2025-26.

### 3.23 Sikkim

As per the information provided by the office of the Conservator of Forests of Sikkim Forest and Environment Department vide Ref. No /GoS/FED/FTC/105, dated 28-04-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure - XXV**);

- a) Number of the forest fire:** A total of 93 forest fire incidents took place during the year 2024.
- b) Causes of the forest fire:**

- Lightning, rolling of boulders (friction), dry leaf litter, extremely hot dry spell, prolonged dry season etc.
- Cigarette butts discarded from moving Vehicles, Slash burning in private holding adjoining to forest areas in one such human activity, irresponsible Picnics and Campfires.

- c) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires and preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**

- Implementation of the Forest Fire Alert System (developed by FSI) for early detection and monitoring of forest fires.
- Use of controlled burning techniques and deployment of fire watchers with active community participation.
- Availability of fire tender vehicles through convergence with agencies like the Police, Army, and ITBP, and formation of trained Quick Response Teams in every district up to the block level.
- Conducting awareness campaigns for taxi drivers, tourists, students, Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), Eco-Development Committees (EDCs), and local communities in coordination with SSDMA.
- Operation of wireless control rooms at district headquarters for 24/7 communication and quick response with frontline staff.

- d) Funds allocated:**

- Budget amount received for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024-25 is ₹ 6.455 Lakh. As informed by the state that fund provided is not adequate.
- Budget amount yet to be allocated for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2025-26.

### 3.24 Tamil Nadu

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Tamil Nadu Forest Department vide Letter No 669480/2025/TNSFFCC\_HO\_TNFD, dated 11-04-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure - XXVI**);

**a) Number of the forest fire:** A total of 1546 forest fire incidents took place during the year 2024.

**b) Causes of the forest fire:**

- Tourism and recreational activities.
- Careless disposal of cigarettes and matchsticks, unplanned agricultural management, MFP collections, fireworks and religious rituals, trespassing, electricity lines, settlements, unattended burning of waste.
- Invasive species management and controlled burning.
- Climate change, rising temperature, heat wave and prolonged dry spells.

**c) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**

With respect to the state of Tamil Nadu, the majority of forest fires are surface fires, primarily burning grasses. With each rainfall, new shoots emerge naturally; hence, no special remedial measures are taken.

The basic measures undertaken are as follows:

- Monitoring and assessment.
- Restoring damaged power lines.
- Construction of check dams and ponds at strategic locations to restore water sources.
- Soil conservation.
- Invasive species management like Lantana camara and wattle.

**d) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**

- i. Creation of fire lines, Controlled burning of dry vegetation to reduce fuel load.
- ii. Adequate supply of firefighting equipment, advanced tools, drones, etc.
- iii. Community awareness programs.
- iv. Stricter regulations and enforcement - implementing laws to prevent illegal burning, deforestation, and careless human activities.
- v. Regular inspections and underground cabling in fire-prone areas to prevent electrical sparks.

**e) Funds allocated:**

- Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024 is ₹ 390.182 Lakh. The funding provided was adequate to support fire prevention activities and to be utilized for purchase and maintenance of firefighting equipment, controlled burning of fuel load in fire prone region, fire line creation in vulnerable areas, and creation of Infrastructure and soil moisture conservation work in high-risk areas.
- Information regarding the funds allocated during the year 2025 has not been provided.

### 3.25 Tripura

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Tripura vide Letter No F.19(4)/Legal/HQ-For-22/Loose/914, dated 19-03-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure - XXVII**);

- a) **Number of the forest fire:** The number of fire alerts received from FSI Portal for Tripura is around 2383 for year 2024 and the number of locations after analyzing in GIS domain found to be 321. All are manmade forest fires.
- b) **Causes of the forest fire:** Shifting cultivation is considered to be the main cause for Forest fire incident.
- c) **Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by forest fires:**
  - i. Firefighting equipment has been provided in field offices, and officials are registered with FSI's alert system for real-time fire updates.
  - ii. Fire lines are maintained in fire-prone zones before and during the fire season.

- iii. Fire Watchers/Van Mitras are deployed in GPs/VCs for monitoring.
  - iv. Regular awareness programs are conducted with JFMCs and villagers, and pamphlets on fire safety are distributed.
- d) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**
- i. Emphasis will be given for creating fire lines and maintenance of older fire lines around the vulnerable areas.
  - ii. No. of registered users in the FSI Portal will be increased.
  - iii. Disseminating pre-fire alerts on a timely bound manner will be given more importance.
  - iv. Increasing soil and moisture conservation regime by creating more check dams in the forest areas will be the priority.
  - v. Control burning to reduce forest floor biomass will be taken up before the onset of fire season.
  - vi. Integration of FIRM app with FSI Alert System will be made.
- e) Funds allocated:**
- Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024-25 are ₹ 41.71 Lakh. As informed, the amount allocated is not Adequate.
  - Budget amount likely to be allocated for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2025-26 is ₹ 426.22 Lakh.

### 3.26 Uttar Pradesh

As per the information provided by the office of the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Uttar Pradesh vide Letter No. पी-896/36-टी-3, dated 17-04-2025 (Copy enclosed at Annexure - XXVIII);

- a) Number of the forest fire:** A total of 4895 forest fire incidents took place during the year 2023-24

- b) **Causes of the forest fire:** In the state of Uttar Pradesh, forest fires are mainly sporadic surface forest fire which is controlled.
- c) **Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by forest fires:**
- i. Fire lines are created in fire-prone zones
  - ii. Fire Watchers are deployed.
  - iii. Water storage tanks are available.
- d) **Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:** Information has not been provided.
- e) **Funds allocated:**
- Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2023-24 is ₹ 73.36 Lakh.
  - Budget amount to be allocated for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2025-26 is ₹ 63.47 Lakh.

### 3.27 Uttarakhand

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Uttarakhand vide Letter No 828/29-3 Dehradun, dated 17-04-2025 (Copy enclosed at Annexure-XXIX);

- a) **Number of the forest fire:** A total of 1276 forest fire incidents took place during the year 2023-24.
- b) **Causes of the forest fire:** Human negligence is the main cause.
- c) **Measure taken to remedy the damage caused by forest fires:**
- Action was taken by filing H2 cases against the persons responsible for the forest fire
- d) **Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:** Information has not been provided.
- e) **Funds allocated:**

- Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024 are ₹ 3430.44 Lakh.
- Budget amount to be allocated for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2025-26 are ₹ 4700 Lakh.

### 3.28 West Bengal

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of West Bengal vide Letter No 613/CS/LAW/7R-2(851)/2025, dated 28-04-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure - XXX**);

**a) Number of the forest fire:** A total of 1260 forest fire incidents took place during the year 2024.

**b) Causes of the forest fire:**

- i. Clearing of forest floor for NTFP collection specially Mahua flower collection.
- ii. Cattle Grazers lit fire to promote grass Growth for grazing.
- iii. It is made by illegal poachers and hunters to drive the animals.

**c) Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**

- i. Awareness generation programme among fringe population.
- ii. Satellite based information system and GIS Lab coordination and monitoring on daily basis.
- iii. Rotational Burning/controlled burning of forest floor litter as per the field conditions.
- iv. Cleaning of Fire-lines in the forests and plantations as a part of regular maintenance activity before fire season.
- v. Establishment of Watch Towers at strategic locations.
- vi. Wireless communication network/Mobile group communication exists.
- vii. Provision of efficient fire-fighting tools in the Divisions and at local levels in Ranges and Beats.

- viii. Hiring of vehicles for movement of forest fire fighting teams
- ix. Field visits of officers for ground truthing of the damage in the field due to the forest fires and interpretation and analysis.
- x. Engagement of seasonal fire watchers in the Divisions, as and where required.
- xi. Establishing coordination with other Departments viz. Fire Services, Police, District Administration, Health and Local Bodies.
- xii. Leaf litter is collected by JFMCs to reduce forest fuel load.

**d) Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years:**

- i. Weekly awareness meetings are conducted with JFMC members, supported by miking, posters, and information campaigns discouraging fire-setting in forest areas.
- ii. Regular coordination meetings are held at the block level with civic authorities and stakeholders, involving the Disaster Management Unit and fire brigade for fire control and mock drills.
- iii. Fire-watchers are deployed to monitor and report fire incidents in forest areas.
- iv. Fire alerts are received from the Forest Survey of India (FSI) through headquarters for timely response.
- v. Procurement of fire blowers and other fire-fighting equipment is planned, subject to availability of funds.

**e) Funds allocated:**

- As informed, no budget amount was allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024.
- Budget amount to be allocated for taking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2025 is under process.

**4. Conclusion:**

**4.1** Information was received from 28 States/UTs and out of which 24 States/UTs reported forest fire incidents during the year

2024. These include; Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar, Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal .

**4.2**The total cumulative number of reported incidents across these 24 States/UTs is 125646 during 2024.

**4.3**States with the highest number of forest fire incidents during 2024 include:

- a) Maharashtra (22874)
- b) Odisha (22868)
- c) Andhra Pradesh (18144)
- d) Madhya Pradesh (14789)
- e) Chhattisgarh (13018)

**4.4**No forest fire incidents were reported in the following States/UTs during 2024: Chandigarh, Lakshadweep, Nagaland, and Puducherry.

**4.5**Causes of the forest fire as per information provided:

- The majority of forest fires were man-made, caused by activities like Non-timber forest products (NTFP) collection (e.g., tendu, mahua), agricultural stubble burning, shifting cultivation, and negligence (campfires, cigarette disposal etc.).
- Natural causes like lightning & high temperatures were also reported but to a lesser extent.
- Other factors like invasive weeds, encroachment & traditional practices were also reported.

**4.6**Remedial Measures taken by most of the states as per information provided:

States/UTs undertook measures such as:

- i. Creation and maintenance of fire lines.
- ii. Controlled burning and fire suppression activities.
- iii. Afforestation and ecological restoration, especially in affected zones.
- iv. Awareness campaigns involving communities and schools
- v. Deployment of fire watchers and patrolling teams during the fire season.

- vi. Soil moisture conservation
- vii. Restoration with native species
- viii. Infrastructure like watchtowers and control rooms
- ix. Integration with FSI forest fire alert systems
  - x. Mobile-based alerts
  - xi. GIS fire mapping, to improve early detection and quick response
- xii. Use of drones and AI sensors

#### **4.7 Preventive Plans for 2025:**

States/UTs proposed preventive plan for 2025 are:

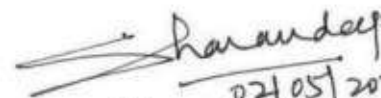
- i. Early Detection and Monitoring.
- ii. Use of Forest Fire Alert Systems (FSI), mobile alerts, GIS-based fire mapping, drones, and AI sensors.
- iii. Establishment of 24/7 fire control rooms, watchtowers, fire surveillance teams, and integration with weather monitoring systems.
- iv. Physical Fire Prevention Infrastructure.
- v. Creation and maintenance of fire lines, controlled burning, construction of water storage structures (check dams, ponds), and soil/moisture conservation works.
- vi. Installation of fire protection infrastructure such as control roads, watch huts, and fire towers.
- vii. Manpower and Equipment Deployment.
- viii. Deployment of fire watchers, Quick Response Teams (QRTs), beat patrols, and community volunteers.
- ix. Provision of firefighting equipment like blowers, beaters, protective gear, water tankers, etc.
- x. Community Involvement and Awareness training campaigns, mock drills with villagers, JFMCs/EDCs, NGOs, schools, and other stakeholders.
- xi. Incentive schemes and awards to fire-prone villages for fire prevention efforts.
- xii. Policy, Planning, and Coordination.
- xiii. Preparation of fire risk zonation maps, forest fire management plans, and state/district-level action plans.
- xiv. Coordination with line departments, disaster management authorities, police, and armed forces.

The information received from 28 States/UTs has been summarised in table given below;

#	Name of the State/UT	Number of Forest Fire Incidents (2024)	Causes for Forest Fires	Budget Allocated for 2024 (₹ Lakh)	Budget Proposed for 2025 (₹ Lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18144	Accidental (NTFP collectors, agriculture fires, shepherds, encroachment); Boda grass; Invasive weeds	223.756	1300
2.	Andaman & Nicobar	19	Mostly accidental from adjacent habitation	19.36	304 (proposed for 2025-26)
3.	Chandigarh	0	-	Not mentioned	Not mentioned
4.	Chhattisgarh	13018	Lightning, bamboo friction, tendu/mahua collection	2732.96	Not mentioned
5.	Daman, Diu & Dadra & Nagar Haveli	17	Rabb burning	Not specified	Not specified
6.	Goa	11	Not exactly known	415.35	313.465
7.	Gujarat	969	Debris burning, negligence, traditions	1198	1550
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2464	Accidents, careless visitors, electric sparks, agriculture burning	564.42	1280.21
9.	Jammu &	1243	Careless disposal, sparks, stubble	Not	Not

	Kashmir		fires, fodder production burning	mentioned	mentioned
10	Jharkhand	7668	Lightning, bamboo friction, Mahua collection, mining	793.34	793.34
11	Kerla	384	Lightning, retaliation fires, cigarette butts, land clearing.	1200	1000
12	Ladakh	1	Ignition of dry grass/biomass burning	47.28	58.6
13	Lakshadweep	0	-	Nil	Nil
14	Madhya Pradesh	14789	Natural (lightning), Man-made (slash & burn, Mahua), negligence	3254	7000
15	Maharashtra	22874	High temp, lightning, agriculture burning, tendu/mahua collection, campfires	4387.38 (2023-24)  3249.30 (2024-25)	15970.26
16	Meghalaya	721	Jhum cultivation, broom cultivation	51.91	Awaited
17	Mizoram	3612	Jhum cultivation	88.51	87.70
18	Nagaland	0	Slash-and-burn, hunting, natural	320.41	109.98
19	Odisha	22868	Podu cultivation, stubble burning, MFP collection fires	5248.07	5172.45
20	Puducherry	0	-	50.40	151.18

21	Punjab	366	Lightning, burning leaves, stubble burning	61.32	17.88
22	Rajasthan	5025	Ground vegetation burning	933.24	1000 proposed to be allocated
23	Sikkim	93	Lightning, rolling of boulders (friction), irresponsible Picnics and Campfires.	6.455	Yet to be allocated
24	Tamil Nadu	1546	Tourism, negligence, agriculture, climate change	390.182	Not mentioned
25	Tripura	2383	Shifting cultivation	41.71	426.22
26	Uttar Pradesh	4895	Surface forest fire	73.36	63.47
27	Uttarakhand	1276	Human negligence	3430.44	4700
28	West Bengal	1260	NTFP/Mahua collection, cattle grazing, poaching	NIL	Under process

  
02/05/2015  
Sharandeep Singh  
Scientist 'E'

Central Pollution Control Board

**Report in compliance to the Hon'ble NGT Order dated 05-05-2025  
in Original Application No. 425/2023 titled Deepika Khari Applicant  
Versus State of U.P. & Ors.**

**1. Background:**

- a. In OA No. 425/2023, *Deepika Khari v. State of U.P. & Others*, the applicant raised the issue of burning of dry leaves at multiple locations in the Badkot Forest Range along the Rishikesh-Dehradun Road, and the inaction on the part of forest and police officials despite complaints made to them.

In the said matter, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (hereinafter referred as 'NGT'), vide its order dated 17.02.2025 (**Annexure-A**), directed as follows:

*Para 13. "The CPCB is directed to obtain, compile and include in its reply/response the information with respect to the following aspects:*

- i. *State/U.T. wise number of forest fire incidents which took place in the year 2024 in entire India;*
- ii. *Causes for the forest fires specified separately under the categories of natural, man-made or any other reason (the reason may be specified);*
- iii. *Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires;*
- iv. *Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years;*
- v. *Budget amount allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2024 with details regarding adequacy of the amount and modes of utilization.*

- vi. *Budget amount to be allocated for taking of remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires during the year 2025 with details regarding adequacy of the amount and modes of utilization.*

In compliance with the above directions, the CPCB submitted a report dated 02.05.2025 (**Annexure-B**) to the Hon'ble NGT, after compiling information received from 28 States and Union Territories (UTs), namely:

Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal.

- b. Subsequently, in the same matter, the Hon'ble NGT, vide its order dated 05.05.2025 (**Annexure-C**), directed the CPCB as follows;

*“Respondent No. 7-CPCB is directed to obtain information from the remaining States and U.Ts. which had not supplied the same and file additional response within two months by compiling the information so received.”*

## **2. Compliance with the order dated 05.05.2025:**

To comply with the aforesaid order of the Hon'ble NGT, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) requested the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) / Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) of the remaining States and Union Territories (UTs) vide letters dated 21.05.2025, 19.06.2025, and 08.07.2025 (copies enclosed at **Annexure-D**).

### 3. Compilation of information received from remaining States/UTs:

In response to CPCB's communications, information has been received from all the remaining States/UTs, namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Manipur, and Telangana. The status of information received from the PCCFs/CCFs is as follows;

S. No.	States/UTs	Information received from PCCF/CCF annexed as
1	Arunachal Pradesh	Annexure-E
2	Assam	Annexure-F
3	Bihar	Annexure-G
4	Delhi	Annexure-H
5	Haryana	Annexure-I
6	Karnataka	Annexure-J
7	Manipur	Annexure-K
8	Telangana	Annexure-L

The information received regarding the number of forest fires, their causes, the measures taken to remedy the damage caused, preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires and the budget allocated for remedial measures have been compiled and are described below:

#### 3.1 Arunachal Pradesh:

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Arunachal Pradesh, vide letter no. 10/Pro/2017/Pt-11/12, 9310-11 dated 25.04.2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure-E**):

**a. Number of the forest fire:** 2772 forest fire incidents took place in the year 2024.

**b. Causes of the forest fire:**

In Arunachal Pradesh, natural forest fire is almost nil and most of the forest fire incidents are man-made i.e. due to burning of jhum lands for shifting cultivation and burning to clear the dry bamboos.

**c. Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**

Divisional Forest Officer identify and demarcate the area burnt due to forest fire. Remedial measures like aided natural regeneration, artificial regeneration, soil and moisture conservation are taken as per the severity of the damage. Fire affected areas are included for restoration in annual plan of different schemes like Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Centrally Sponsored Scheme- Forest Fire Prevention and Management (CSS-FPM), Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) etc.

**d. Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years are:**

- i.** Effective communication and awareness programmes are conducted to sensitize local communities about the causes, risks, and prevention of forest fires. Fire lines are strategically created in fire-prone areas to act as barriers and contain the spread of fire.
- ii.** Regular maintenance of old fire lines and deployment of fire watchers for early detection and prompt reporting of fire incidents is being practiced.
- iii.** Accumulated dry biomass, such as grasses and leaf litter, is systematically removed to reduce fuel load.

- iv. Watch towers have been established at critical locations to improve surveillance and early fire detection.
- v. Wireless network has been proposed in few divisions to enhance communication and coordination during fire emergencies.
- vi. Controlled burning is undertaken under supervised conditions.

**e. Budget allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires:**

- i. ₹ 206.80 lakh was allocated during the year 2024-25 for implementation Forest Fire Prevention and Management (FPM). Additionally, ₹19.55 lakh was allocated during the year 2024-25 for forest fire prevention under CAMPA.
- ii. Funds under CSS-FPM are released to the implementing divisions through Public Financial Management System (PFMS) with sanction order.
- iii. Funds under CAMPA are released to the implementing unit through letter of credit by obtaining necessary approval from the Finance Department.
- iv. Budget allocation for the FY 2025-26 is yet to be approved.

**3.2 Assam:**

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Assam, vide letter no. FG.27/forest Fire/2022 dated 23.05.2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure - F**):

- a. **Number of the forest fire:** 2410 forest fire incidents occurred in the year 2024.

**b. Causes of the forest fire:** 2405 fire incidents were attributed to manmade causes, primarily due to sporadic fire (fire incidents that occur irregularly, at scattered or infrequent intervals) activities linked to Jhum cultivation and rubber plantation practices among local tribal communities in forest areas of Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao & regions along the Assam-Mizoram and Assam-Meghalaya border areas and accidental fires resulting from extreme anthropogenic pressure. 05 fire incidents were caused due to gardening activities in private areas.

**c. Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**

- i. Regular routine patrolling duty are being conducted by the frontline staff in the vulnerable areas.
- ii. Fire line cutting in the fire prone areas.

**d. Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years are:**

- i. Organising pre-fire season workshops, training & capacity building and community-based Awareness campaigns and regular patrolling in vulnerable areas.
- ii. Creation and maintenance of fire lines and construction of watch towers.
- iii. Reforestation to restore affected forest areas.
- iv. Distribution of economically important species to public under *Amrit Brikshya Andolan* since 2023.
- v. Procurement of firefighting equipment and field vehicles.
- vi. Mapping of fire-prone areas for strategic fire line planning.

- vii. Creation of Infrastructure which includes communication systems, management information system, forest roads, water storage, fire lines, procurement of field vehicle and control rooms at Division & Range level.
- viii. Implementation of Soil & Moisture Conservation (SMC) works in high-risk zones.

**e. Budget allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires:**

- i. No budget was allocated for the year 2024.
- ii. For the year 2025, a total amount of ₹ 1175 lakh has been proposed for allocation for the procurement of goods and execution of works, as per the nature of the activities. Out of which ₹139 lakh has been proposed for natural forest fires, ₹1023 lakh for man-made forest fires, and ₹ 13 lakh for other types of forest fires. As informed, the fund will be adequate. The funds proposed for man-made forest fires are to be utilised for the procurement of goods and works, as per the nature of the activity.

**3.3 Bihar:**

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Bihar, vide पत्रांक-पर्यां/जलं/परिं(मुं)-39/2025-51, dated 02.05.2025 (Copy enclosed at Annexure - G):

- a. **Number of the forest fire:** From April to December 2024, a total of 527 forest fire incidents were reported in Bihar, affecting an area of approximately 1227.87 hectares.
- b. **Causes of the forest fire:**

- i. The forest fires in Bihar are predominantly ground fires, primarily burning shrubs and bushes without damaging trees.
  - ii. Fires are largely man-made, with the main causes being:
    - a. Setting fire beneath Mahua trees to collect fallen fruits.
    - b. Shepherds burning forest floors to promote new grass growth for cattle.
- c. Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**
- i. Only ground vegetation is affected and due to this no significant damage to trees has been reported. With the onset of rains, burnt shrubs regenerate, restoring the forest floor.
  - ii. Degraded forest areas are being restored through forestry practices and continued protection efforts.
  - iii. The areas sensitive to forest fires are identified and soil & moisture conservation work is taken up in large scale so that during fire season suppression of fire becomes easy.
- d. Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years are:**
- i. Controlled burning of dry leaf litter and clearing of fire lines before fire season.
  - ii. Identification of fire-prone areas and deployment of fire watchers at vulnerable locations.
  - iii. Quick Response Teams (QRTs) mobilized in sensitive zones to assist in fire control.
  - iv. Field staff registered on the Forest Fire Alert System for prompt action.
  - v. Establishment of Fire Control Rooms for coordination and direction to QRT to reach the destination for reinforcement.

- vi. Mechanical blowers and fire suppression tools procured for frontline staff.
- vii. As per direction of MoEF&CC, the Eco Development Committee (EDC) comprising the forest fringe villagers residing near the forest areas have been registered on fire alert system.
- viii. Fire Brigade support is provided by district administration.
- ix. It has been planned to take the help of State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) in future.

**e. Budget allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires:**

- i. In FY 2023-24, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) GOI sanctioned ₹ 146.16 lakh for forest fire protection activities but the State Government could not sanction the matching share that the said amount could not be utilized for the forest fire prevention activities.
- ii. For the prevention of forest fire in the year 2024-25 the last year sanctioned amount of ₹ 146.16 lakh from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India was revalidated and State Share of ₹ 97.44 lakh was sanctioned, bringing the total sanctioned amount of ₹ 243.60 lakh for forest fire prevention.
- iii. Furthermore, the State Government has sanctioned an additional amount of ₹ 222.06 lakh from the State Plan Head for the Valmiki Tiger Reserve for the year 2024-25. However, this sanctioned amount is inadequate to effectively carry out comprehensive fire prevention and control activities in the State.

- iv. The sanctioned amount is allocated to the respective Forest Divisions and disbursed to the bank accounts of the respective Range Officers of Forest (RoF) through the online Public Financial Management System (PFMS) developed by the Government of India, and the Comprehensive Financial Management System (CFMS) of the State Government.
- v. Information regarding budget for year 2025-26 has not been provided.

### 3.4 Delhi:

As per the information provided by the Department of Forest and Wildlife Delhi, vide letter no. F.8(41)/Forest/HQ/Plg./DisasterMgt./2020-21/3969-73, dated 20.06.2025 (copy enclosed at **Annexure - H**):

- a. **Number of the forest fire:** 06 numbers of forest fire incidents occurred in 2024-25 under West Forest Division, DoFW, GNCTD
- b. **Causes of the forest fire:**  
Forest fire incidents occurred due to short circuit, open burning and dry biomass accumulation.
- c. **Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**  
Immediate response involved containment measures through coordination with other agencies such as Delhi-Fire Department and Delhi police.
- d. **Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years are:**
  - i. The regular monitoring /surveillance of the plantation areas are being carried out by the field officials for ensuring protection and watch & ward.
  - ii. Fire-fighting training is provided time to time.

- iii. Application of technology such as Drone and GIS are used for regular monitoring of fire-prone areas.
  - iv. Water storage points and access points are created to aid in forest fire prevention.
  - v. Digitization of fire lines and maintenance of existing fire lines is carried out.
  - vi. Annual removal of fuel loads, including invasive species and dry biomass, is conducted.
- e. Budget allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires:**

As per information provided, no budget has been allocated during year 2024 and 2025.

### **3.5 Haryana:**

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Haryana, vide letter no. Forestry/NT/219; Dated 17-07-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure - I**):

- a. Number of the forest fire:** 360 forest fire incidents occurred in the year 2024.
- b. Causes of the forest fire:** Forest fires occurred due to hot weather or electric short circuits
- c. Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**
  - i. Organising awareness campaign.
  - ii. Fire lines maintenance.
  - iii. Establishment of watch tower and deployment of fire watcher.
- d. Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years are:**

- i. Clearance of fire lines in block forests and patrolling by fire protection watchers.
  - ii. Publicity through *Sarpanches* in villages.
  - iii. Messaging through the Fire Alert System of Forest Research Institute (FRI) Dehradun.
  - iv. Establishment of control rooms at the Range level.
- e. Budget allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires:**
- i. As informed, in the year 2024, a budget of ₹147.15853 lakh was allocated under the State Scheme, and ₹ 13.93 lakh under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. However, it has been informed that the allocated budget for 2024 was not adequate.
  - ii. The budget is utilised through treasury & PFMS.
  - iii. For the year 2025, a budget of ₹543.6 lakh to be allocated.

### **3.6 Karnataka:**

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Karnataka, vide letter no. APCCF (FRM)B5/WP/CR-137/2016-17, Dated 28-04-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure-J**):

- a. Number of the forest fire:** A total of 3721 forest fire incidents occurred in the year- 2024.
- b. Causes of the forest fire:**
  - i. Spread of fire from adjacent private land due to wind.
  - ii. Fire set in forest with the intent to get new sprout of grass required for grazing livestock.

- iii. Accidental fire caused due to ignorant disposal of inflammation materials such as bidi cigarette, etc. by travelers/public gathering, etc.
- iv. Fires set for wildlife poaching purposes.
- v. Kindling of fire after booking forest offense cases with the intent of revenge.
- vi. Electrical line tripping and related faults.

**c. Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**

Study on pace of recovery after single incident forest fire has been initiated. More measures can be taken up if funds are made available.

**d. Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years are:**

- i. Creation and maintenance of fire lines.
- ii. Deployment of fire watchers in vulnerable areas.
- iii. Awareness campaigns among local communities.
- iv. Procurement of firefighting equipment for field use.

**e. Budget allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires:**

- i. For the year 2024, it has been informed that the budget allocated only for preventive and control measures of forest fire management. However, information about budget amount has not been provided.
- ii. For 2025, requirement of budget to be allocated for taking remedial measures is ₹2000 lakh. Further it has been informed that the present budget allocated is inadequate and untimely. Therefore, planning and budget requirement

undertaking remedial measures should be taken up after streamlining budget allocation for prevention and control of forest fire management.

- iii. The budget is utilised through the field unit of the District/Division.

### 3.7 Manipur:

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF Sanjenthong: Imphal vide letter No. 8/3/2025/Forests, dated 02-05-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure - K**):

- a. **Number of the forest fire:** 5396 forest fire incidents took place in the year 2024.
- b. **Causes of the forest fire:** Jhum, poppy Cultivation, burning of garbage nearby forest area, hunting of wild-animals, collection of honey bees etc. are the main cause of the forest fire.
- c. **Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:** Prompt action for dousing of fire with the help of local volunteers/community and reclamation of the area with plantation.
- d. **Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years are:**

Creation and maintenance of fire lines, awareness campaigns during fire season, conduct of mock drills, strengthening of wireless communication, regular patrolling in reserved and protected forest areas, and supply of firefighting tools and equipment.

- e. **Budget allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires:**

- i. In the year 2024, ₹102.74445 lakh has been allocated under CSS-FFPMS, it has been utilized for fire line creation, engagement of fire watchers, awareness campaign, construction of infrastructure and short term research work. Information about the adequacy of the budget has not been provided.
- ii. In the year 2025-26, ₹578.6 lakh has been proposed under CSS-FFPMS, it shall be utilized for procurement of equipments, fire line creation, construction of infrastructures, procurement of vehicles, engagement of firewatchers, training, awareness campaign, incentivizing large & small villages, short term research etc. However, it has been informed that more fund is required.

### 3.8 Telangana:

As per the information provided by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Telangana, vide Rc. No. 756356/2024/IT-1, dated 28-06-2025 (Copy enclosed at **Annexure - L**):

- a. **Number of the forest fire:** The total number of Forest Fires in Telangana state for the fire season 2024 is 14028 Pixels.
- b. **Causes of the forest fire:**
  - i. Causes of Natural Causes (232 fire incidents):
    - a. Lightning is a common natural ignition source, especially during dry conditions.
    - b. Volcanic eruptions, though rare, can ignite surrounding vegetation.
  - ii. Manmade Causes (10894 fire incidents):

- a. Unattended campfires, discarded cigarettes, and sparks from machinery.
- b. Deliberate burning for land clearing, often by Beedi leaf collectors.
- c. Controlled burns that escaped intended boundaries and became wildfires.

**iii. Other Causes (2902 fire incidents)**

**c. Measures taken to remedy the damage caused by the forest fires:**

- i. The nature of forest fire in Telangana state is ground fire not causing damage to the standing crop, however it damages the natural regeneration.
- ii. It is being rejuvenated by taking up the soil and moisture conservation activities at burnt areas.
- iii. It is also being taking up the gap planting and silvicultural operations at burnt areas for improving the forest growth.

**d. Preventive measures proposed to be taken for preventing forest fires during the year 2025 and the following years are:**

- i. Fire lines: About 21739 km length of fire lines are created and being maintained.
- ii. 11000 km of Peripheral trench is dug which also prevents spread of fire, besides harvesting of water.
- iii. 73 No's of Watch towers have been constructed at vantage points for better view.
- iv. Procured firefighting equipment like blowers, Rakes, spades, Fire beaters etc. Safety clothing, boots and helmets also procured.
- v. Deployed (45) No's Quick Response Teams during peak season with vehicle in vulnerable ranges.

- vi. Using about 174 (@5 members) Base Camp watchers for prevention and control of the fire.
- vii. More than 200 animal trackers are also working on forest fire preventions in wildlife areas.
- viii. About 850 fire blowers being used in control of the fire.
- ix. Involvement of all the field level staff from Conservator of Forests, Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Range Officer, Deputy Range Officer, Forest Section Officer, and Forest Beat Officer for control of fire round the clock.
- x. To enhance forest resilience, Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) works have been undertaken, along with weed management and the promotion of fire-resistant species.
- xi. Fire risk zonation mapping has been carried out for better planning in highly fire-prone areas, and forest road networks are being developed to improve access to fire locations.
- xii. For effective coordination, the Telangana State Forest Department has established a State Fire Monitoring and Control Cell, which operates 24x7.
- xiii. Public complaints are received via a toll-free number (1400 425 5364), a helpline (1926), and a WhatsApp number (9803338666) for quick action and response.

**e. Budget allocated for undertaking remedial measures for remedying the damage caused by forest fires:**

- i. During the year 2024, budget amount of ₹ 358.15 lakh has been allocated for undertaking remedial measures for the damage caused by forest fires.
- ii. For the financial year 2025-26, the MoEF & CC, GoI, has released (Ad-hoc) ₹ 35.00 lakh in May 2025 to the State government under Forest Fire Prevention

and Management Scheme (FFPMS). However, the Budget Release Order (BRO) is yet to be released.

- iii. Information about the adequacy and mode of utilisation has not been provided.

#### **4. Conclusion:**

**4.1** Information has been received from all the States/UTs.

**4.2** Earlier, details from 28 States/UTs-Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal - were compiled. The CPCB submitted the compiled information to the Hon'ble NGT in May 2025, in compliance with the Hon'ble NGT order dated 17.02.2025 in the matter.

**4.3** In continuation of that submission, information from the remaining 8 States/UTs have been received. The conclusions presented herein are based on data from all 36 States/UTs.

**4.4** All 36 States/UTs have shared the information. No forest fire incidents were reported in 4 States/UTs during 2024 are Chandigarh, Lakshadweep, Nagaland, and Puducherry.

**4.5** The remaining 32 States/UTs reported forest fire incidents during 2024. These include: Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur,

Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal.

4.6 The information received from all 36 States/UTs have been summarised in table given below; (N - Natural cause, M - Man made cause, O - Other cause)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of Forest Fire Incidents (2024)	Major Causes for Forest Fires	Budget Allocated for 2024-25 (₹ Lakh)	Budget Proposed for 2025-26 (₹ Lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18144 (Cause specific number not mentioned)	Accidental (NTFP collectors, agriculture fires, shepherds, encroachment); Boda grass; Invasive weeds	482.39	1300
2.	Andaman & Nicobar	19 (N-01, M-18, O-0)	Mostly accidental from adjacent habitation	19.36	304
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2772 (Cause	Man-made (shifting	226.35	Yet to be approved

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of Forest Fire Incidents (2024)	Major Causes for Forest Fires	Budget Allocated for 2024-25 (₹ Lakh)	Budget Proposed for 2025-26 (₹ Lakh)
		specific number not mentioned)	cultivation, burning dry bamboo)		
4.	Assam	2410 (N-0, M-2405, O-5)	Man-made (jhum cultivation, rubber plantation, accidental fires)	Nil	1175
5.	Bihar	527 (N-0, M-527, O-0)	Man-made (Mahua fruit collection, shepherds burning grass)	465.66 (last year unutilised 146.16 + 97.44 state share +222.06 from Stat plan).	Not mentioned
6.	Chandigarh	0	-	Not mentioned	Not mentioned
7.	Chhattisgarh	13018 (Cause	Lightning, bamboo	2732.96	Not mentioned

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of Forest Fire Incidents (2024)	Major Causes for Forest Fires	Budget Allocated for 2024-25 (₹ Lakh)	Budget Proposed for 2025-26 (₹ Lakh)
		specific number not mentioned)	friction, tendu/mahua collection		
8.	Daman, Diu & Dadra & Nagar Haveli	17 (N-0, M-17, O- 0)	Rabb burning	No specific budget allocated	Not mentioned
9.	Goa	11 (N-0, M-0, O- 11)	Not exactly known	313.465	Not mentioned
10.	Delhi	6 (N-0, M-0, O- 06)	Short circuit, open burning, dry biomass accumulation	Nil	Nil
11.	Gujarat	969 (N-0, M-969, O- 0)	Debris burning, negligence, traditions	1198	1550
12.	Haryana	360 (N-219,	Hot weather, electric short	161.08	543.60

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of Forest Fire Incidents (2024)	Major Causes for Forest Fires	Budget Allocated for 2024-25 (₹ Lakh)	Budget Proposed for 2025-26 (₹ Lakh)
		M-50, O-91)	circuit		
13.	Himachal Pradesh	2464 (N-0, M-2464, O-0)	Accidents, careless visitors, electric sparks, agriculture burning	564.42	1280.21
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	1243 (N-0, M-1243, O-0)	Careless disposal, sparks, stubble fires, fodder production burning	Not mentioned	Not mentioned
15.	Jharkhand	7668 (N-0, M-7668, O-0)	Lightning, bamboo friction, Mahua collection, mining	793.34	793.34
16.	Karnataka	3721 (Cause	Spread of fire due to wind,	Not mentioned	2000

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of Forest Fire Incidents (2024)	Major Causes for Forest Fires	Budget Allocated for 2024-25 (₹ Lakh)	Budget Proposed for 2025-26 (₹ Lakh)
		specific number not mentioned)	grazing, poaching, accidental fires due to ignorance, electrical faults		
17.	Kerala	384 (N-19, M-365, O-0)	Lightning, retaliation fires, cigarette butts, land clearing.	1200	1000
18.	Ladakh	1 (N-0, M-1, O-0)	Ignition of dry grass/biomass burning	47.28	58.6
19.	Lakshadweep	0	-	Nil	Nil
20.	Madhya Pradesh	14789 (N-1600, M- 12689, O-500)	Natural (lightning), Man-made (slash & burn, Mahua),	3254	7000

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of Forest Fire Incidents (2024)	Major Causes for Forest Fires	Budget Allocated for 2024-25 (₹ Lakh)	Budget Proposed for 2025-26 (₹ Lakh)
			negligence		
21.	Maharashtra	22874 (Cause specific number not mentioned)	High temp, lightning, agriculture burning, tendu/mahua collection, campfires	3249.30	15970.26
22.	Manipur	5396 (N-0, M-5396, O-0)	Jhum, poppy cultivation, garbage burning, hunting, honey collection	102.74445	578.60
23.	Meghalaya	721 (N-0, M-721, O-0)	Jhum cultivation, broom cultivation	51.91 (2023-24)  No information has been provided for 2024-25	Sanction awaited

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of Forest Fire Incidents (2024)	Major Causes for Forest Fires	Budget Allocated for 2024-25 (₹ Lakh)	Budget Proposed for 2025-26 (₹ Lakh)
24.	Mizoram	3612 (N-0, M-3612, O-0)	Jhum cultivation	88.51 (2023-24) No information has been provided for 2024-25	87.70
25.	Nagaland	0	Slash-and-burn, hunting, natural	109.98	Not mentioned
26.	Odisha	22868 (N-0, M-22868, O-0)	Podu cultivation, stubble burning, MFP collection fires	5248.07	5172.45
27.	Pondicherry	0	-	Nil	151.18
28.	Punjab	366 (Cause specific number not mentioned)	Lightning, burning leaves, stubble burning	17.88	Not mentioned
29.	Rajasthan	5025 (Cause	Ground vegetation	933.24	1000

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of Forest Fire Incidents (2024)	Major Causes for Forest Fires	Budget Allocated for 2024-25 (₹ Lakh)	Budget Proposed for 2025-26 (₹ Lakh)
		specific number not mentioned)	burning		
30.	Sikkim	93 (N-27, M-66, O-0)	Lightning, rolling of boulders (friction), irresponsible Picnics and Campfires.	6.455	Yet to be allocated
31.	Tamil Nadu	1546 (Cause specific number not mentioned)	Tourism, negligence, agriculture, climate change	390.182	Not mentioned
32.	Telangana	14028 (N-232, M-10894, O-2902)	Lightning, campfires, land clearing and climatic factors	358.15	35.00 (Ad-hoc by Central Govt. for year 2025-

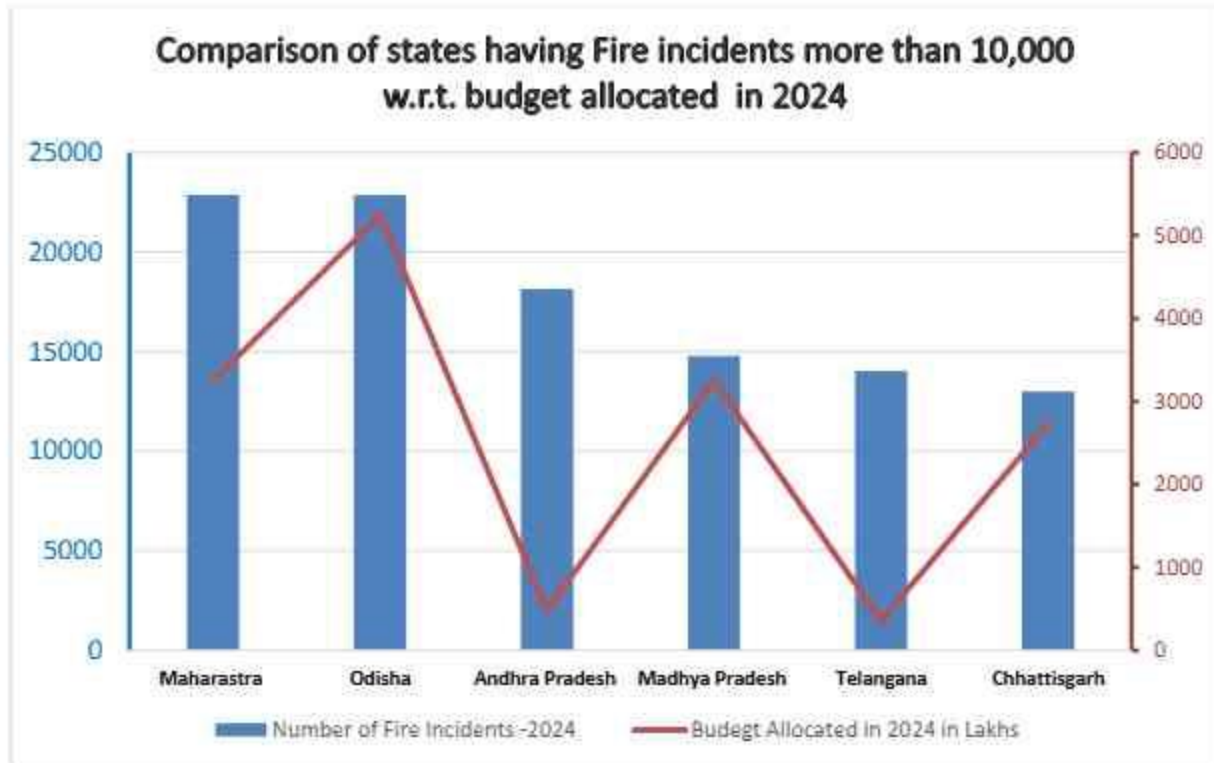
S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of Forest Fire Incidents (2024)	Major Causes for Forest Fires	Budget Allocated for 2024-25 (₹ Lakh)	Budget Proposed for 2025-26 (₹ Lakh)
					26), Budget Release Order (BRO) pending)
33.	Tripura	2383 (N-0, M-2383, O-0)	Shifting cultivation	41.71	426.22
34.	Uttar Pradesh	4895 (N-0, M-4895, O-0)	Surface forest fire	63.47	96.69 (33.22 Remainder of 2023-24 +63.47 Unspent of 2024-25
35.	Uttarakhand	1276 (N-0, M-1276, O-0)	Human negligence	3430.44	4700

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of Forest Fire Incidents (2024)	Major Causes for Forest Fires	Budget Allocated for 2024-25 (₹ Lakh)	Budget Proposed for 2025-26 (₹ Lakh)
36.	West Bengal	1260 (N-0, M-1260, O-0)	NTFP/Mahua collection, cattle grazing, poaching	NIL	Under process

**4.7** The total cumulative number of reported fire incidents across 32 States/UTs is 154866 during 2024.

**4.8** States with forest fire incidents more than 10000 during 2024 include:

- a. Maharashtra (22874)
- b. Odisha (22868)
- c. Andhra Pradesh (18144)
- d. Madhya Pradesh (14789)
- e. Telangana (14028)
- f. Chhattisgarh (13018)



**4.9** Out of the 32 States/UTs, 28 States/UTs - Andaman & Nicobar, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Puducherry, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal have provided data on the causes of forest fires. These causes were grouped as natural, manmade, or other.

From the data received:

- a. 2,098 forest fires were caused by natural reasons (like lightning or extreme heat etc.),
- b. 81,787 forest fires were caused by human activities,
- c. 3,515 forest fires were due to other reasons, and
- d. For 67,466 forest fire incidents, the cause was not mentioned.

**4.10 Major Causes of the forest fire as per information provided:**

- a. The majority of forest fires were man-made, caused by activities like Non-timber forest products (NTFP) collection (e.g., tendu, mahua), agricultural stubble burning, shifting cultivation, deliberate burning for grazing or land clearing and negligence (campfires, cigarette disposal etc.)
- b. Natural causes like lightning, Strong winds, Volcanic eruption, and high temperatures were also reported but to a lesser extent.
- c. Other factors like invasive weeds, encroachment & traditional practices were also reported.

**4.11 Remedial Measures taken by most of the states as per information provided:**

States/UTs undertook measures such as:

- a. Creation and maintenance of fire lines.
- b. Controlled burning and fire suppression activities.
- c. Afforestation and ecological restoration, especially in affected zones.
- d. Awareness campaigns involving communities and schools
- e. Deployment of fire watchers and patrolling teams during the fire season.
- f. Soil moisture conservation
- g. Restoration with native species
- h. Infrastructure like watchtowers and control rooms
- i. Integration with FSI forest fire alert systems
- j. Mobile-based alerts
- k. GIS fire mapping, to improve early detection and quick response
- l. Use of drones and AI sensors

#### 4.12 Preventive Plans for 2025:

Preventive plan proposed by States/UTs for 2025 are:

- a. Early Detection and Monitoring.
- b. Use of Forest Fire Alert Systems (FSI), mobile alerts, GIS-based fire mapping, drones, and AI sensors.
- c. Establishment of 24/7 fire control rooms, watchtowers, fire surveillance teams, and integration with weather monitoring systems. Enhancing surveillance with drones and GIS monitoring.
- d. Physical Fire Prevention Infrastructure.
- e. Creation and maintenance of fire lines, controlled burning, construction of water storage structures (check dams, ponds), and soil/moisture conservation works.
- f. Installation of fire protection infrastructure such as control roads, watch huts, and fire towers.
- g. Manpower and Equipment Deployment.
- h. Deployment of fire watchers, Quick Response Teams (QRTs), beat patrols, and community volunteers.
- i. Provision of firefighting equipment like blowers, beaters, protective gear, water tankers, etc.
- j. Community Involvement and Awareness training campaigns, mock drills with villagers, JFMCs/EDCs, NGOs, schools, and other stakeholders.
- k. Incentive schemes and awards to fire-prone villages for fire prevention efforts.
- l. Policy, Planning, and Coordination.
- m. Promoting the use of fire-resistant species and weed management in fire-prone zones.

- n. Preparation of fire risk zonation maps, forest fire management plans, and state/district-level action plans.
- o. Coordination with line departments, disaster management authorities, police, and armed forces.



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05.08.2025