



UP Launches Subsidy Scheme to Curb Stubble Burning | Uttar Pradesh | 25 Oct 2025

Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh government** has launched a scheme offering a **40-50% subsidy** on agricultural equipment that helps prevent **stubble burning**, a major contributor to **winter air pollution** across North India.

Key Points

- **About:** The subsidy applies to equipment such as **mulchers** and **treaders**, which enable farmers to **mix crop residue into the soil**, converting it into **organic matter** instead of waste.
- **Objective:** The initiative seeks to promote **eco-friendly residue management practices** and reduce air pollution caused by crop burning.
- **Implementation:** Farmers can apply for the benefit through the **Agriculture Department's online portal** or by visiting the **nearest departmental office**.
- **Token Payment System:** The government has also initiated a token payment system for farmers to ensure a transparent and secure application process.
 - No payment for equipment up to ₹10,000.
 - ₹2,500 for equipment costing between ₹10,000 and ₹50,000.
 - ₹5,000 for equipment costing lakhs of rupees.

Stubble Burning

- Stubble (parali) burning is a **method of removing paddy crop** residues from the field to sow wheat from the last week of September to November, coinciding with the withdrawal of the **southwest monsoon**.
- Stubble burning is a **process of setting on fire the straw stubble**, left after the harvesting of grains, like paddy, wheat, etc. It is usually required in areas that use the combined harvesting method, which leaves crop residue behind.
- It is a common practice in **October and November** across North West India, but primarily in Punjab, Haryana, and **Uttar Pradesh**.

UP to Open Satellite Investment Promotion Offices | Uttar Pradesh | 25 Oct 2025

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has announced the establishment of **satellite investment promotion**

offices in five metro cities to **attract capital investments directly from India’s major industrial hubs** and **connect investors with the state’s growing business opportunities**.

Key Points

- **About:** The initiative will be implemented under '[Invest U.P.](#)', the state’s **investment promotion and facilitation agency**.
 - It aims to channel **domestic capital investments** into Uttar Pradesh and promote the state’s **industrial and policy ecosystem**.
- **Satellite Offices:** Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, and New Delhi.
- **Staff Structure:** Each office will comprise a **General Manager, Assistant General Manager, two Udyami Mitras, two Executives, and two Office Assistants**.
- **Significance:**
 - Aims to **bridge the gap between investors and the state government, facilitating real-time engagement and project facilitation**.
 - Expected to **enhance Uttar Pradesh’s image as an investment-friendly destination** and improve its '[Ease of Doing Business](#)' rankings.
- **City-wise Focus Areas:** Each office will specialise in sectors aligned with the city’s industrial strengths:

City	Focus Sectors
Mumbai	Financial Services, Infrastructure, FinTech, ESG Funds
Bengaluru	Global Capability Centers (GCCs), Aerospace, Semiconductors, Electric Vehicles, DeepTech
Chennai	Automotive, Electronics, Textiles, Hardware Manufacturing
Hyderabad	Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology, IT & Emerging Technologies
New Delhi	Invest U.P. & Asia-European Union Facilitation Office

Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 | Uttar Pradesh | 25 Oct 2025

Why in News?

India has achieved a major milestone in global environmental conservation by climbing to the **ninth position worldwide** in terms of **total forest area**, according to the **Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025** released by the [Food and Agriculture Organisation \(FAO\)](#) in Bali, Indonesia.

- This marks an improvement from the **tenth position** in the previous assessment, reflecting the country’s growing commitment to sustainable forest management.

Key Points

- **About:** The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), conducted by the FAO, provides a **comprehensive overview** of the **world’s forest resources**—including their condition,

management, and uses—based on **country-submitted data** verified through an expert review process.

- The report helps monitor international commitments related to the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), the [Paris Agreement on Climate Change](#), the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, and the **United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (2017-2030)**.

▪ **Findings About India:**

- The report highlights that **India's total forest area** now stands at approximately **72.73 million hectares**, positioning the country **ninth globally**.
- India also continues to hold the **third position** in the world in terms of **annual forest area gain**, showcasing the success of its large-scale afforestation and conservation initiatives.
- The FAO report also highlights **India's large area under agroforestry**, noting that out of **55.4 million hectares** of global agroforestry land across **91 countries**, **India and Indonesia** together account for nearly **70% of the global total**.
 - India alone has **12.87 million hectares** under agroforestry, which plays a critical role in [carbon sequestration](#), **livelihood generation**, and **ecosystem restoration**.

▪ **Global Trends:**

- According to the FRA 2025, **forests currently cover about 4.14 billion hectares**, which is roughly **one-third of the Earth's total land area**.
- The report notes a **slowing of deforestation rates** worldwide, although the current rate of **10.9 million hectares per year** remains high.
- More than **half of the world's forests** are now covered by **long-term management plans**, and nearly **20%** fall within **legally established protected areas**.
- Globally, **Russia** tops the list with **832.6 million hectares of forest**, followed by **Brazil, Canada, the United States**, and **China**.