



India 'missing' 25.87 million hectares of forests: here's what CSE analysis said

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India is "missing" 25.87 million hectares of [forests](#), a new analysis of Centre for Science & Environment (CSE) said. The total area combined together would be equivalent to the state of Uttar Pradesh. This is a result of the difference between recorded forest and the forest cover as per official data, according to the Centre for Science & Environment (CSE) analysis.

This analysis had its basis on the India State of [Forest](#) Report 2021 (ISFR2021) that was published some weeks back.

What the analysis said?

"The State of the Forest Report does not explain what is the state of this forest land that India is 'missing' - as massive as 25.87 million Ha. This is the difference between what is 'recorded' as forest area and the actual forest cover on that recorded area. The recorded forest area is 77.53 million Ha but the forest cover on these lands is 51.66 million Ha. Which clearly means that as much as 34 per cent of the area classified as forests is missing in the assessment," said CSE Director General Sunita Narain.

Off the record, she said that a very senior forest official told her that 11 million Ha is accounted for, including 3 million Ha is encroached, 1 million Ha is inside villages and 2 million Ha is diverted.

"But all this does not figure in the report," she added.

"Of the total RFA, as much as 51.66 million Ha is forest cover (15.7% of India's geographical area), which leaves out 25.87 million Ha unexplained," she went on to say when she addressed the annual media conclave, Anil Agrawal Dialogue 2022.

Before 2015 forest boundaries were not digitised and there was a chance for such a miscalculation. But now the Forest Department has exact digital coordinates of the forest land. This established the fact that 28% of the forest cover in India lies on lands outside the department's control.

Source: <https://www.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-missing-25-million-hectares-of-forests-cse-analysis-563591.html>