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New Study Maps India's Diverging Fire Regimes Across Wildlife Reserves

A recent scientific study evaluated changing fire regimes in wildlife reserves across three Indian landscapes, highlighting a sharp increase in burned areas in the Eastern Ghats.

It is an environmental study analyzing the impact of human activities, climate change, and vegetation on forest fire frequencies across protected reserves in India.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Burned areas in the Eastern Ghats rose most steeply between **2002 and 2022** at a rate of **9.3%** per year.
- The research was conducted by the **Centre for Wildlife Studies** across 13 protected forest reserves covering roughly **20,000 square kilometres**.
- Human and climate factors accounted for between **21% and 77%** of annual fire activity across individual reserves.
- High human population density was strongly linked with frequent fires in **Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve**.
- In contrast, similar human population conditions in **Nagarahole and Bandipur National Parks** were linked with fewer fires.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Wildlife Protection Act was enacted in India in the year **1972** to protect wild animals, birds, and plants.

Project Tiger was launched in India in **April 1973** as a centrally sponsored scheme under the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Article 48A of the Indian Constitution directs the State to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wildlife.

Forest Conservation Act was enacted by the Parliament of India in the year **1980** to check deforestation.

Bandipur National Park, located in **Karnataka**, was established as a tiger reserve in 1973 under Project Tiger.

The **Eastern Ghats** spread across the states of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, featuring distinct tropical dry deciduous forests.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Eastern Ghats saw the steepest rise in burned areas at 9.3% per year between 2002 and 2022.

Syllabus Relevance: Essential for Unit 1 (Environment and Ecology) and Unit 2 (Current National Science developments) of TNPSC Group exams.

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