

Study Reveals Severe Impact of Invasive Alien Species in Global South

A new global study published in 'Science' journal revealed that the severity of environmental impacts caused by invasive alien species is higher in the Global South.

Invasive alien species are non-native organisms introduced outside their natural range that spread rapidly, displacing native biodiversity and degrading ecosystems.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- A new research study published in the **Science journal** challenged the prevailing notion that invasive species impacts are concentrated in wealthy northern nations.
- The study integrated two massive global databases: **GIDIAS** (Global Invasive Species Database of Impacts) covering **22,000** impacts and **SInAS** documenting **39,700** alien species.
- Researchers **Sven Bacher**, Petr Pyšek, and Hanno Seebens utilized the **IUCN** Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (**EICAT**) to evaluate severity.
- Under **EICAT**, an impact is defined as severe when an invasive species causes native population decline, local extirpation, or **global extinction**.
- The study calculated the average impact severity to eliminate **research bias** caused by disproportionately higher scientific reporting in the **Global North**.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The **Biological Diversity Act, 2002** was enacted in India to regulate access to biological resources and conserve native flora and fauna.

Target 6 of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** (2022) mandates countries to reduce the introduction and establishment of invasive alien species by at least **50%** by **2030**.

Prosopis juliflora (Seemai Karuvelam) was introduced to Tamil Nadu in the **1960s** to address firewood shortage and has since become a major invasive threat to groundwater.

Senna spectabilis and **Lantana camara** are major invasive alien weed species threatening native herbivores in the Western Ghats and **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve**.

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

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (**IUCN**) was established on **October 5, 1948**, and is headquartered in **Gland, Switzerland**.

Eichhornia crassipes (**Water Hyacinth**), an invasive aquatic weed native to South America, severely impacts freshwater bodies and wetlands across Tamil Nadu.

REVISION FLASHCARD

IUCN's EICAT framework standardizes the classification of environmental impacts caused by invasive alien species.

Syllabus Relevance: Crucial for Unit 1 (Ecology & Biodiversity) and Unit 3 (Environment, Forests & Wildlife) questions across TNPSC Group 1, 2, and 4.

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