

# FOREST FIRES

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## Forest fires

Intro —more than 36% of India’s forest cover prone to frequent forest fires + Time period---March-April usually

### Recent developments

- West Bengal, Himachal, Uttarakhand etc
- Int---Amazon (2019), Australia (2020) black summer

NATURAL CAUSES	ANTHROPOGENIC CAUSES
lightning or rubbing of dry bamboos with each other, chir pine tree in UK	temporary hearth to cook food by the herdsman
extreme heat and dryness, friction	minor forest produce gatherer may leave behind a smouldering fire
lack of soil moisture--Uttarakhand	Stubble burning, climate change
Friction of Rolling Stones	✓ Example-Kawal Tiger Reserve in Andhra- Bidi contractors collect tendu leaves-ignite forest purposefully to clear vegetation
Jet stream splitting leading to heat dome and then fires — Europe wild fires	✓ Multanis of Sirikonda-timber smugglers-fire forest to scare people and steal timber

### Impact

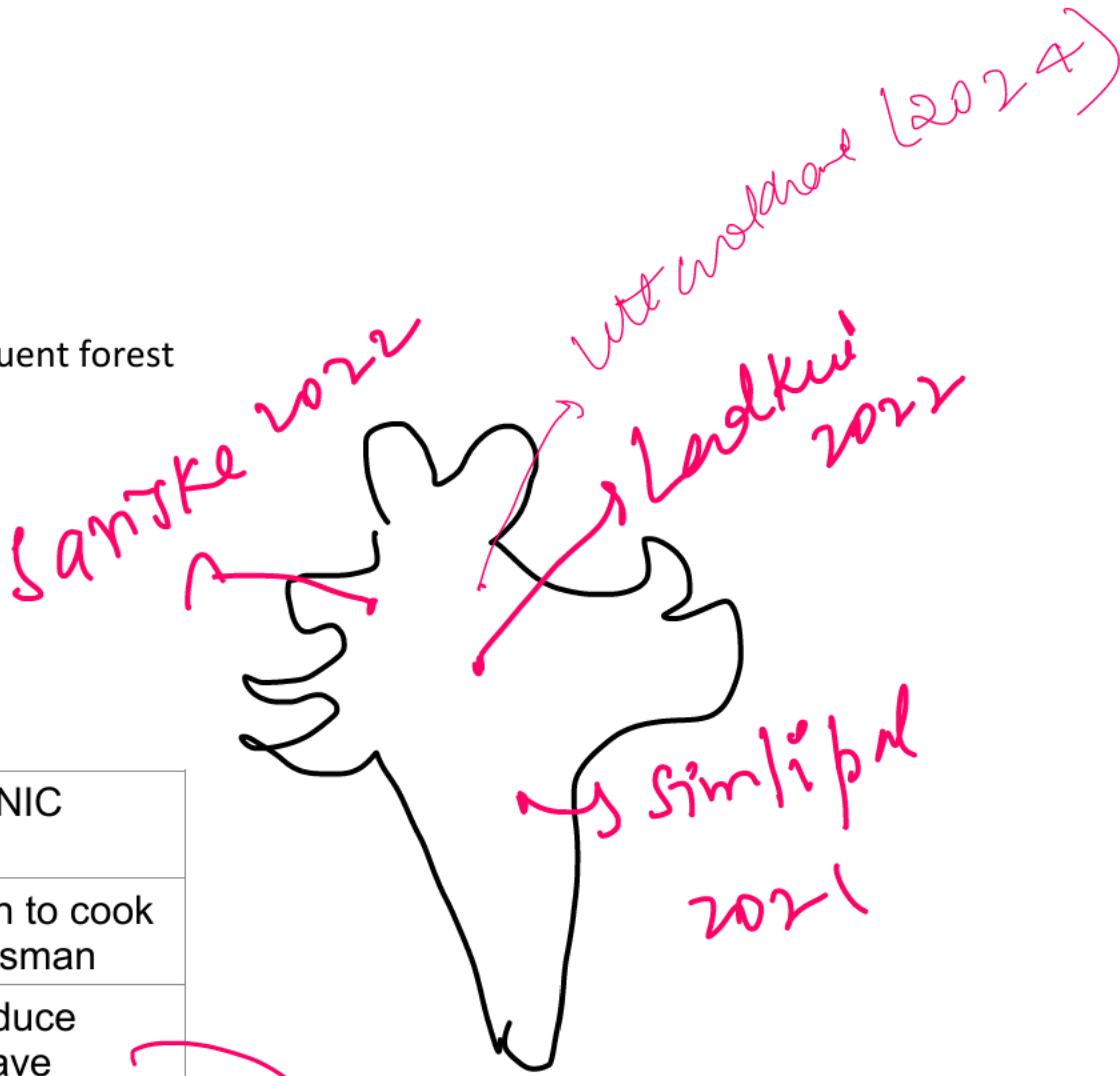
- Litter and duff increased
- Reduces strength of mountains & soil
- Flash floods — soil fails to retain rainwater
- Landslides
- Canopy opening— reducing density of forest
- Soot deposit on soil — contamination + erosion
- Changes in microclimate
- Socio economic Impact

### Prevention & control

- ✓ Forecasting fire-prone days using meteorological data
- ✓ Creating fire lines in the forests---removal of forest litter
- ✓ Fire breaks---small clearings
- ✓ Prompt detection--use remote sensing
- ✓ growing strips of fire-hardy plant species
- ✓ National Action Plan on Forest Fires-----informing, enabling and empowering forest fringe communities and incentivizing them to work with forest dept
- ✓ Community participation— Van Panchayats, Jungle ke dost in UK
- ✓ Assisted natural regeneration technique — facilitating natural generation of degraded or deforested lands with indigenous species  
Example— remove invasive species, micro sites for establishing seedlings

### Way forward

restrict or regulate certain activities in and around forest areas plus as declare as disaster



- ① forecasting
- ② fire lines - remove forest litter
- ③ fire breaks
- ④ remote sensing prompt detection

- Long term
- ① fire hardy plant species
- ② N A P F R
- ③ Community participation & van panchayats
- ④ Assisted natural regeneration technique
- ⑤ micro sites for establishing seedlings