



UNEA adopts India's proposal on wildfire management

Published On: 13-12-2025

Context: The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) adopted India's resolution on "Strengthening the Global Management of Wildfires," promoting a shift from solely reactive firefighting to proactive prevention. The resolution gained broad support from member states.

UNEA-7 at a Glance

- **UNEA** is the **highest global decision-making body on environmental matters**, functioning under **UNEP**.
- **UNEA-7 adopted 11 resolutions**, covering:
 - Wildfires
 - Coral reef protection
 - Antimicrobial resistance
 - Cryosphere protection
 - Chemicals and waste management, etc.

Key Provisions of India's Wildfire Resolution

1. Strengthening International Cooperation

- Calls for development of **integrated early warning systems (EWS)** combining:
 - Climate data
 - Fire risk mapping
 - Satellite imagery and ground sensors
- Emphasises **community-based alert systems** to ensure last-mile dissemination.

2. Enhanced Regional and Global Collaboration

- Encourages **transboundary cooperation**, especially where forests span multiple countries.
- Focuses on the entire wildfire cycle:
 - **Prevention**
 - **Emergency response**
 - **Post-fire recovery and ecosystem restoration**

3. Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building

- Establishment of **global platforms** to:
 - Share best practices
 - Exchange scientific research and indigenous knowledge
 - Capacity-building programmes for:
 - Forest managers
 - Disaster response personnel

- Local communities

4. Support for National and Regional Action Plans

- Assists countries in formulating:
- **Integrated Fire Management (IFM) strategies**
- Long-term **wildfire resilience plans**
- Encourages alignment with:
- National climate adaptation plans
- Disaster risk reduction strategies

5. Facilitating Access to Finance

- Supports **project formulation and technical assistance**.
- Helps countries access:
- Multilateral climate funds
- Results-based and performance-linked financing
- Recognises wildfire management as part of **climate adaptation finance**.

Wildfires in India: Current Scenario

Forest Fire Vulnerability (ISFR 2019)

- **36%** of India's forests are **prone to frequent fires**
- **6%** classified as **very highly fire-prone**
- **4%** categorised as **extremely fire-prone**
- Fire-prone regions concentrated in:
 - Central India
 - North-East
 - Parts of Western Himalayas

Use of Technology in India

- **Satellite-based remote sensing and GIS** play a key role in:
- Early detection
- Fire progression tracking
- Damage assessment
- Key systems used:
 - **MODIS**
 - **SNPP-VIIRS**
- Supports **real-time monitoring** and quicker response.