



Rising Winter Wildfires

Why in News?

Uttarakhand is **witnessing a rise in winter wildfires**, a phenomenon that usually begins on November 1.

Key Points

- The **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**, which is the **apex body** of the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change (**MoEFCC**), has sent **1006 fire alerts to Uttarakhand** from 1st November, 2023 to 1st January 2024. This number is significantly higher than the 556 fire alerts received during the same period in 2022.
 - Wildfires have been **reported in districts**, Uttarkashi, Nainital, Bageshwar, Tehri, Dehradun, Pithoragarh, Pauri, and Almora.
- Nainital experienced heightened forest fires on the first day of the year 2024. Villagers cite the **absence of rainfall or snow in the last three months**, making the region dry, as the reason for the same.
 - The **fires can lead to increased human-wildlife conflicts**, as animals venture out to the urban landscape to escape fire.
- **Various reasons** such as **controlled burning** by forest staff, agricultural **residue burning** by farmers, **waste burning** by villagers in barren land lead to the incidence of these forest fires.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/rising-winter-wildfires>