

Basic Report . 28-May-2024 . Basit Imtiyaz GDC Dooru

# Forest Fire @ Doru Shahbad Forest Compartment 58.

## Firsthand experience & evaluation of causes

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### Background

1. Heat Waves and Natural Factors:

- Heat waves have been prevalent in our region, exacerbating the risk of forest fires. Elevated temperatures dry out vegetation, making it more susceptible to ignition.
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- However, natural heat events alone cannot explain the frequency and intensity of the fires.

## 2. Fallen Trees and Accumulation of Combustible Material:

- Fallen trees within the forest have remained untouched by the government for an extended period. Despite their potential value as firewood, they continue to lie scattered.
- The lack of firewood collection by the common public has led to an accumulation of combustible material, creating a hazardous situation.

## 3. Impact of Russian Wood Introduction:

- The recent adoption of Russian Wood for construction purposes has significantly reduced the demand for local forest wood.
- As a result, large quantities of forest wood remain unused within the forest, providing additional fuel for fires.

# Observations:

## 1. Forest Canopy Density:

- Contrary to popular belief, the dense forest canopy is not impenetrable. Gaps exist, allowing sunlight to reach the forest floor.
- These gaps facilitate the drying of underbrush and fallen leaves, contributing to the fire risk.

## 2. Local Temperatures:

- The microclimate within the forest plays a crucial role. Elevated temperatures, especially during summer, create favorable conditions for ignition.

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- The combination of heat waves and local temperature variations intensifies the fire hazard.

## **Tribal Communities and Deliberate Ignition:**

### 1. Conversations with Tribal Members:

- During my fieldwork, I engaged in sparse conversations with tribal communities residing near the forest.
- It became evident that some tribal members intentionally ignited fires for various reasons, mostly cooking.

### 2. Recent Incidents:

- Coincidentally, the recent outbreak of fires aligns with the tribal community's actions.
- Their deliberate ignition practices have contributed significantly to the forest fire incidents.

Conclusion: The forest fires near our college result from a complex interplay of natural factors, human actions, and local conditions. While heat waves and fallen trees play a role, deliberate ignition by tribal communities remains the primary cause. To address this issue, collaborative efforts involving forest management authorities, local communities, and awareness campaigns are essential. By understanding the multifaceted nature of forest fires, we can work toward sustainable solutions that protect our valuable ecosystems.

As someone rightly said earlier today , *Development comes at the cost of the environment.*

So Instead of organizing hypocritic seminars which are just meant for photoshooting, somebody from the government has to take a brave step and let the results do the talking.

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Note: *This research report is based on personal observations and conversations, and further studies may be necessary to validate these findings.*