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## Forest Fire Prevention and Management

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### Why in News

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Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has provided information about **forest fires management and prevention** during a reply to the question tabled in Rajya Sabha (Budget Session 2020).

### Key Points

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- The **area** covering **93,273 hectares** was affected by **forest fires in 2019**. However, it also includes “ground fires”, i.e. burning of ground vegetation.
- **Forests** are a subject in the **concurrent list of the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution**. The MoEF&CC has prepared a **National Action Plan on forest fires (2018)** after consultation with all states and Union Territories.
- Additionally, MoEF&CC also provides forest fire prevention and management measures under the **Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management scheme**,

### National Action Plan on Forest Fires

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- **National Action Plan on Forest Fires (NAPFF)** was launched in **2018** to minimise forest fires by informing, enabling and empowering forest fringe communities and incentivising them to work with the State Forest Departments.
- The plan also intends to substantially reduce the vulnerability of forests across diverse forest ecosystems in the country against fire hazards.
- It also aims to enhance capabilities of forest personnel and institutions in fighting fires and swift recovery subsequent to fire incidents.

### Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme

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- The Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FPM) is the **only centrally funded program** specifically dedicated to assist the states in dealing with forest fires.

- The FPM **replaced the Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS)** in **2017**. By revamping the IFMS, the FPM has **increased the amount dedicated for forest fire work**.
- Funds allocated under the FPM are according to a center-state cost-sharing formula, with a **90:10 ratio of central to state funding** in the Northeast and Western Himalayan regions and a **60:40 ratio for all other states**.
- It also provides the states to have the flexibility to direct a portion of the **National Afforestation Programme (NAP)** and **Mission for Green India (GIM)** funding toward forest fire work.

**Source:IE**