



# Dandeli Forest

[Source: DTE](#)

## Why in News?

The Dandeli forest in Karnataka's Uttara Kannada district, known for its diverse wildlife and ecosystem, faces substantial environmental shifts due to changing climate patterns and human interventions.

## What are the Key Points Related to Dandeli Forest?

- Dandeli forest is located in the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka and is part of the Western Ghats, a globally recognized **biodiversity hotspot**.
- The forest is known **for its rich biodiversity**, including a diverse range of flora and fauna, making it an important wildlife habitat.
- The **Kali Tiger Reserve** is a protected area **adjacent to the Dandeli Forest**.
  - The Tiger Reserve comprises two important protected areas of the region viz., **Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and Anshi National Park**.

## What are the Concerns Related to the Dandeli Forest Ecosystem?

- **Impact of Climate Change:**
  - Changing rainfall patterns and rising temperatures due to climate change have **led to alterations in the forest ecosystem** and a decrease in grasses in recent years.
- **Invasive Species - Eupatorium Weed:**
  - The invasive eupatorium weed is replacing native grasses in the forest undergrowth, **impacting herbivores** as it is not a preferred food source and is susceptible to fires.
- **Historical Changes:**
  - Historical changes, including forest transformations during the colonial era, have affected the forest's character, changing it from semi-evergreen to moist deciduous forests.
- **Forest Fires and Environmental Impact:**
  - The suppression of controlled fires (**Slash and Burn**) during the British era and the introduction of non-native eupatorium weed have led to uncontrolled forest fires, affecting the forest ecosystem.
- **Impact on Herbivores and Predators:**
  - Decreased grasses have impacted the herbivore population, influencing the prey base for predators like leopards and tigers, resulting in increased conflicts with humans and predation on local cattle.

## Conclusion

- Addressing these evolving environmental challenges necessitates urgent and sustainable conservation efforts.
- Adaptive strategies must be formulated to mitigate **the impacts of climate change on ecosystems** and the communities dependent on them.

**UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

## **Prelims**

**Q. From the ecological point of view, which one of the following assumes importance in being a good link between the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats? (2017)**

- (a) Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
- (b) Nallamala Forest
- (c) Nagarhole National Park
- (d) Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve

**Ans: (a)**

**Q. Which one of the following National Parks has a climate that varies from tropical to subtropical, temperate and arctic? (2015)**

- (a) Khangchendzonga National Park
- (b) Nandadevi National Park
- (c) Neora Valley National Park
- (d) Namdapha National Park

**Ans: (d)**

**Q. Which of the following Protected Areas are located in Cauvery basin? (2020)**

1. Nagarhole National Park
2. Papikonda National Park
3. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
4. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Ans: (c)**