



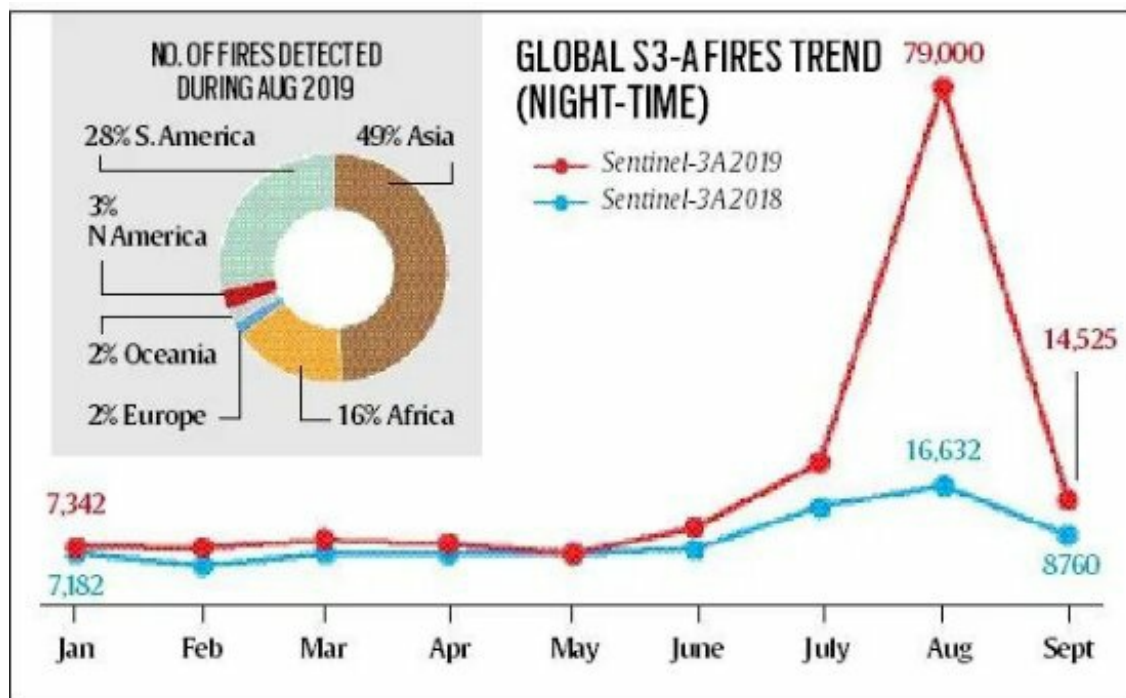
Wildfires

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/wildfires

The latest data from **Sentinel-3 World Fire Atlas** showed that, **compared to August 2018**, there were **almost five times as many wildfires** across the world **in August 2019**.

- There were 79,000 fires in August 2019 as compared to just over 16,000 fires detected in August 2018.
- **49% (nearly half) of the fires were detected in Asia**, around 28% were detected in South America, 16% in Africa, and the remaining were recorded in North America, Europe and Oceania.

It is to be noted that August and September 2019 were the months which witnessed **fires in the Amazon rainforest**.



Sentinel-3 World Fire Atlas

- The Sentinel-3 World Fires Atlas Prototype product has been developed by the **European Space Agency (ESA)** to provide **continuity** to the **ESA Along Track Scanning Radiometers (ATSR) World Fire Atlas**, which produced monthly global fire maps from 1995 to 2012.
- It covers the **southern countries of the ESA member states**.
- This new prototype uses **Sentinel-3A and Sentinel-3B** data and contains two dedicated channels (F1 and F2) for fire and high temperature events.
 - **Sentinel-3 is a multi-instrument mission** to measure sea-surface topography, sea- and land-surface temperature, ocean colour and land colour with high-end accuracy and reliability.
 - It is based on a constellation of two satellites: Sentinel-3A and Sentinel-3B.
 - The mission is **part of the European Commission Copernicus programme for Earth Observation**.

Source: IE