

Assessment of Burnt Area due to Forest Fire

FSI carried out assessment of forest cover burnt due to forest fire in the year 1995 based on interpretation of satellite data. False colour composites(FCC) of Indian Remote Sensing satellite (IRS-1B; LISS-II) on 1:1 million scale covering 26 states for the period from April to June, 1995 were procured from NRSA (National Remote Sensing Agency), Hyderabad and visually interpreted to assess forest cover burnt by forest fire during this period. State/UT wise results of the study are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: State/UT wise detail of forest cover affected by forest fire (Area in km²)

Sl. No	Name of State/UT	Forest Cover	Forest Cover affected by fire	Percentage
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47,256	129	0.27
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	68,661	101	0.15
3.	Assam	24,508	24	0.10
4.	Bihar	4,844	45	0.93
5.	Chattisgarh	57,484	121	0.21
6.	Gujarat	12,044	198	1.64
7.	Haryana	513	18	3.51
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12,502	480	3.84
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	20,443	91	0.45
10.	Jharkhand	21,743	472	2.17
11.	Karnataka	32,343	106	0.33
12.	Kerala	10,336	26	0.25
13.	Madhya Pradesh	77,912	3,096	3.97
14.	Maharashtra	43,859	584	1.33
15.	Manipur	17,621	273	1.55
16.	Meghalaya	15,769	7	0.04
17.	Mizoram	18,697	297	1.59
18.	Nagaland	14,348	448	3.12
19.	Orissa	47,145	2,590	5.49
20.	Punjab	1,343	27	2.01
21.	Rajasthan	13,099	316	2.41
22.	Tamilnadu	17,726	88	0.50
23.	Tripura	5,538	37	0.67
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10,707	429	4.01
25.	Uttaranchal	23,254	4,492	19.32
26.	West Bengal	8,186	21	0.26
	Total	627,881	14,516	2.31

The Table 5 reveals that during 1995, 14,516 km² of forest cover in the country was burnt due to forest fire. This constituted 2.31% of forest cover of the country. This does not include 628 km² smoke covered area which could not be

interpreted. Maximum burnt forest cover was found in hill states of Uttar Pradesh (now a separate state of Uttarakhand) which had 4402 km² of forest cover burnt, followed by Madhya Pradesh (3,096 km²) and Orissa (2490 km²).