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Western Ghats lost 5% evergreen forest cover, shows analysis

Western Ghats Spatial Decision Support System launched by the IISc also shows that interior forest constitutes only 25% of the forest landmass, depicting the fragmentation pressure, impacting local ecology

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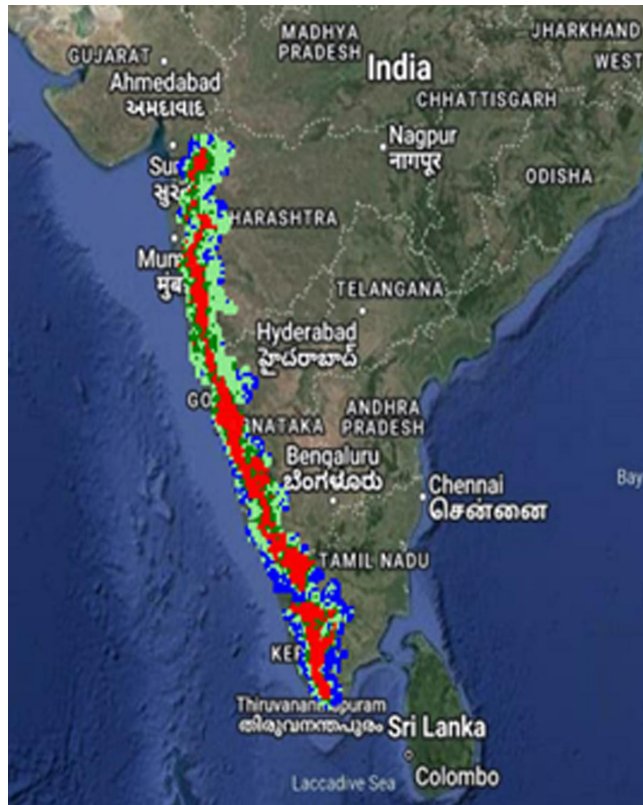


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IISc.'s Energy and Wetlands Research Group launched the Western Ghats Spatial Decision Support System (WGSDSS), which has been designed as part of the ongoing ecological research in the Western Ghats. This, researchers say, enhances governance transparency while meeting societal needs, which helps in the prudent management of ecologically and hydrologically vital Sahyadri hill ranges. | Photo Credit: Special arrangement

The Western Ghats, which is among 36 global biodiversity hotspots, saw a loss of 5% evergreen forest cover with an increase of 4.5% built-up cover, and 9% agriculture area, according to the spatiotemporal analyses of land use, highlighting anthropogenic induced developmental thrust. Fragmentation analyses also highlight that interior forest constitutes only 25% of the forest landmass, depicting the fragmentation pressure, impacting local ecology.

These revelations come from the Indian Institute of Science's Energy and Wetlands Research Group launched the Western Ghats Spatial Decision Support System (WGSDSS), which has been designed as part of the ongoing ecological research in the Western Ghats. This, researchers say, enhances governance transparency while meeting societal needs, which helps in the prudent management of ecologically and hydrologically vital Sahyadri hill ranges.

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