

Effective Control of Forest Fire in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 31 Jan 2025

Why in News?

Uttarakhand CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** has directed the **Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF)** to take **immediate action** against **forest fires** in **highly sensitive districts**.

Key Points

- Appointment of Nodal Officers for Fire Control:
 - 10 senior Forest Department officers appointed as district-level nodal officers.
 - Their role is to **coordinate resources and departments** at the district level for better fire management.
 - Efforts will focus on **strengthening management**, **control**, **monitoring**, **cooperation**, and **coordination** at the district level.
- Pre-Fire Season Preparations:
 - The <u>Uttarakhand Forest Department</u> issued an <u>office order</u> to appoint nodal officers before the season in which forest fires commonly occur.
 - Nodal officers will review fire management preparations and district-level control measures.
- Community Participation in Fire Control:
 - Along with this, to increase community participation in forest fire control and management, the Forest Department of Uttarakhand has been conducting research on-field personnel, **State Environmental Authority (SEA)** and the Forest Fire Management Committees to replicate the '**Sheetalakhet**' model in all the divisions of the state under the Almora Forest Division.
 - The 'Sheetalakhet' model, developed under Almora Forest Division, is being replicated across all state divisions.

Forest Fire

- Forest fire is also called as bush or vegetation fire or wildfire, it can be described as any uncontrolled and non-prescribed combustion or burning of plants in a natural setting such as a forest, grassland, brushland or tundra, which consumes the natural fuels and spreads based on environmental conditions (e.g., wind, topography).
- A wildfire requires three essential elements to sustain combustion like Fuel, Oxygen, and a Heat source.

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