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 **Uttarakhand Forest Department** issued an **office order** 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.**