

Effective network needed to curb forest fires, says expert

Dr. R. Chidambaran, principal scientific adviser to the Union government, has stressed on the importance of effective communication network to curb forest fires.

There has been a steep rise in the number of forest fire incidents during summers in the recent years. He was presiding over a brainstorming meeting on strategies to control forest fires at the Forest Research Institute (FRI) here today.

He suggested setting up of an information grid for sharing information and developing database for ensuring effective communication network to curb forest fires.

He said the scientific, civil, administration and other departments were doing a lot for the prevention and control of forest fires, but more synergy was required for higher degree of success.

He, however, lauded the actions taken by the FRI, Uttarakhand Forest Department and civil society for the prevention, control and mitigation for forest fires in Uttarakhand.

Earlier, Dr. Shashi Kumar, DG, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education said more than six per cent of forests were prone and vulnerable to fire. He said the forest fire data was very important in the sphere of fire management, besides strengthening of technologies.

Forest Research Institute's director Dr. Savita informed the participants about the theme of the brainstorming meeting and highlighted the factors responsible for forest fires. She emphasised on the importance of synergy between various agencies working in the field. Dr Savita stressed on the need for having a strong database on the various aspects of forest fires. She informed the participants about the proposed centre for forest fire research and knowledge management at the FRI with the support of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), New Delhi.

Uttarakhand Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Dr Jairaj, Indian Soil and Water Conservation Institute director Dr PK Mishra, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology director Dr. Anil K. Gupta and environmentalist Dr Anil Joshi were present at the meeting.