

Forest min calls for plan to conserve state's biodiversity

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DEHRADUN: Uttarakhand's state forest minister, Subodh Uniyal, directed officials to develop an "action plan" aimed at safeguarding the state's diverse ecosystem. The direction came during the meeting of the biodiversity board on Tuesday. The primary focus of this initiative is the launch of a Herbal Mission, which aims to conserve threatened plant species while simultaneously creating employment opportunities.

"We wish to conserve the biodiversity and also make it a source of income generation for the villagers, who are actually playing an instrumental role in saving it through their biodiversity committees," Uniyal said.

Officials have been given 1.5 months to establish the Herbal Mission and set up a laboratory. This laboratory will be crucial for testing the properties of significant herbs and medicinal plants. The results will guide the creation of various products derived from these natural resources, Uniyal added.

Senior officials of the forest department were also present at the meeting and apprised that so far, the state has formed 7991 biodiversity committees across the state and biodiversity registers for 1620 committees have been maintained.