

Need for balance between development and conservation: VP

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DEHRADUN: Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankar, during his address on the second day of the three-day conference of United Nations Forum on Forests, hosted by India at the Forest Research Institute on Friday, said that there is a delicate need to strike a balance between development and environmental conservation. More than 80 delegates from over 40 countries and 20 international organisations are participating in the forum which is primarily focusing on two thematic areas -- forest fires and best practices on their prevention and restoration in fire-affected areas and forest certification and sustainable forest management. Union minister for environment, forest and climate change, Bhupender Yadav, inaugurated the conference on Thursday.

"It's imperative that our forests continue to thrive while also meeting development requirements of citizens. Conservation, though critical and crucial, cannot be isolated from wellbeing of communities that rely on forest resources. We cannot afford to compromise our future generations with our reckless approach," said the VP.