

UN meet begins in Doon, discusses forest fire mgmt

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DEHRADUN: The three-day conference of United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), hosted by India, commenced at Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun in Uttarakhand on Thursday. More than 80 delegates from over 40 countries and 20 international organisations are participating in the forum.

The Country Led Initiative (CLI) of UNFF focuses on two thematic areas -- forest fires and best practices on its prevention and restoration in fire-affected areas, and forest certification and sustainable forest management.

In the inaugural session on Thursday, union minister for environment, forest and climate change Bhupender Yadav, through his video message, laid emphasis on the significance of forest fire prevention, post-fire restoration and forest certification as a tool for sustainable management. The director of UNFF Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo was also present at the forum where she said that the issue of forest fires has been escalated as a global concern, and its detrimental impact on ecosystems and communities makes action imperative. She also said that the second theme for the CLI being forest certification has been a long-standing topic for discussion and actionable solutions are now the need of the hour.

Host state Uttarakhand's minister of forests, languages & technical education Subodh Uniyal, dwelled into Uttarakhand's initiatives and programmes.