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# Ways to control forest fires discussed at FRI

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**Dehradun:** Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Central government, R Chidambaram, on Wednesday held a meeting at Forest Research Institute (FRI) here with senior officials to deliberate on ways to curb the menace of forest fire, which wreaked havoc in Uttarakhand three months ago.

The forest fires destroyed vast swathes of green cover of the hill state in May this year. The meeting was held to chalk out strategies to keep a check on the wild-fires in future by adopting inclusive steps at FRI.

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Chidambaram emphasised on the importance of "effective communication network" to share and take prompt action on any information on forest fire.

"An information grid can be developed by FRI to share information and develop database," the officer said.

Dr Savita, director FRI, emphasised on the need for having a strong database on various aspects of forest fire.

Dr Shashi Kumar, director general, Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), emphasised on strengthening of



Wildfires across the state had ravaged 3,739 hectares of forest land

technologies to curb wild fire. "Rural communities should be connected with technology through educational institutes and industries to bring wholesome development in the country," he said.

Anil Joshi, HESCO founder president, said: "A tool centre exists in almost every village of the country where people do all sorts of work, from making parts of machinery to repair work.

They must be connected with IITs and other such cen-

tres where they get trained for larger projects, which will boost employment opportunities for them and create a large technically trained manpower. For this, a tool centre at national-level and another at state-level can be formed by connecting villages with the network." Later, Chidambaram visited Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation (HESCO) to see how its tool centre was making turbines and other equipment.

File photo