

# Mock Drill, Patrol Teams at FRI to Keep its Museums Safe

*Seema Sharma*

Days after a massive fire destroyed Delhi's National Museum of Natural History, the Forest Research Institute (FRI) here, which houses six museums, has taken urgent measures to prevent such an incident from destroying its rare collection of fossils, archives, and many different types of wood.

FRI will also conduct a mock drill next Tuesday to check its preparedness in case of a blaze. The institute has taken these steps as it is surrounded by a thick forest cover and its interior is made of decades-old teak wood which is vulnerable to fire.

Talking to TOI, FRI director, Dr Savita on Thursday, said, "I was shocked to see National museum of Delhi in flames and got concerned about the safety of our museums and premises. Any slight mistake in this dry season can lead to a massive fire. The first thing we did was to replace all non-functioning fire extinguishers. I have also constituted six patrolling teams to regularly move around the area."

The director has also sought help from the police fire department. "The fire team during the mock drill would demonstrate the ways a fire can spread in the area and also different methods to douse it. Over 400 employees of FRI will attend the drill."

An advisory has also been issued, asking employees to ensure that lights are switched off after work hours and nobody smokes in the premises.

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