

Ministry of Home Affairs
Disaster Management Division
Government of India
(National Emergency Response Centre)

Brief Report on Dzukou Valley as on 04th Jan'2021 at 1900 Hrs.

On the 29th December 2020 office of Principal Secretary Home, Government of Nagaland requested for deployment of helicopter for containing forest fire in Dzukou Valley under Kohima District. It was further conveyed that Dzukou Valley is a relatively remote and inaccessible area of the State and given the terrain, high altitude and other factors the emergency response operation is a challenge.

1. Steps taken by Central Government:

- Situation is being closely monitored 24x7 by Central Government at highest level.
- On 01.01.21, 05 NDRF were mobilized and deployed at Mao, Senapati, Manipur. On 03.01.2021, as per the district administration teams have been shifted to eastern side base camp of Esii hill.
- In the eastern side of Esii hill NDRF team established medical post and communication point on trekking track.
- On 01.01.21, 03 teams of NDRF deployed at Zakhama, Kohima, Nagaland (01 team from RRC Kohima (Nagaland) and other 02 teams of NDRF airlifted from Guwahati (Assam).
- 04 MI-17 helicopter fitted with Bambi Buckethave been deployed for spraying of water over the affected area. Till date 55 sorties with over 60:40 hours of flying time, worth effort has been provided.

2. Current situation as on 4th January 2021:

- Personnel of SDRF/Home Guard and Civil Defence, NDRF Personnel, Police and Paramilitary supported by DDMA, Kohima and DFO, and volunteers from SAYO have been working to further make the fire control line to protect the fragile portion of the valley.
- Operations by 4 (four) IAF Chopper are underway.
- Total 11 shuttles for the day.
- SAYO Volunteer camping at the Valley to keep and watch.
- The fires in the Dzukou Valley are relatively controlled as on 4th Jan. 2021
- The Dzukou Valley fires operations may be demobilized depending on the final assessment of the fire situation to be carried out by IAF team along with NSDMA

official.

- Total Water dispensed till now approx 72, 500 Ltrs
- 80% approx in Northern and Southern pockets fire extinguished
- New pocket discovered in South West side of valley.
- Efforts made to explore freshwater body close-by to further speed up operations. One found but rejected due to insufficient water depth.

3. Steps taken by State Government Nagaland:-

- The NSDMA, requisitioned IAF helicopter on the 29th Dec. 2020.
- The deployment of IAF, helicopter began on the 31st Dec.2020. However, due to the prevalence of strong wind in the mountains, IAF, Chopper could not carry out the operation, apart from conducting the aerial survey to assess the affected area.
- District Disaster Management Authority, (DDMA), Kohima requisitioned personnel of Kohima District Executive Force (DEF), SDRF Kohima Unit, Home Guards and Civil Defence, Police, and together with DFO Kohima and forest personnel along with volunteers provided by local Civil Societies such as Southern Angami Youth Organization (SAYO) executed a traditional fire control line on 31st of Dec. 2020 /1st of January 2021 stretching over 5 (five) kilometres to protect the more fragile part of Dzukou Valley.
- The personnel of Forest Department /Police and volunteers of SAYO have been camping in the Valley to keep a watch.
- MoD, Gollater on deployed additional IAF helicopters based on the requirement and requisition by the Government of Nagaland on the 31st Dec. 2020.
- In addition to water body close to Dimapur airport, another water body closer to Dzukou Valley has also been identified on the 3rd Jan. 2021 at Chida Lake Khezakenoma with support from the DDMA-Kohima and DDMA Phek and the IAF helicopters have started to fetch the water from Chida Lake on the 4th Jan. 2021.

4. Steps taken by State Government Manipur:-

- The wild fire in Dzukou valley area located in the Manipur-Nagaland boundary started on 29-12-2020. Local volunteers along with Forest Officials numbering over 130 members trekked down to the wildfire affected areas on the 30-12-2020.
- As the wildfire started to spread in all directions around Mt. Iso area, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur took an aerial survey of the area on 31/12/2020 to

ascertain the extent of the fire, approximate location etc.

- NDRF, SDRF, Manipur Police, Forest Department, Fire services started working in tandem w.e.f. 1st January, 2021 to fight the ground fire on the range of Mt. Iso extending towards the East and to touch Mt. Khugho (range overlooking Mao area from national highway).
- Ground assessments were done by the District Administration on 02/01/2021 to find the gaps and where additional reinforcement for containment of fire is needed.
- The works for firefighting is still on as on date and the following team members are working on the ground viz 30nos of Forest Officials, 32 nos of members from Manipur Fire Services, 35 members of SDRF, 106 NDRF personnel. Over and above this Manipur Police team is supporting on the ground. Besides, services of 4 Choppers of IAF has been put into service from 02/01/2021 onwards and the services are still on.
- As of 4:45 P.M of date, huge fires are still seen on the Southern portion of the ridge near Mt Iso visibly at 2 locations and services of helicopters in these areas need to be strengthen and not much improvement is seen in these locations since the last few days. Alarmingly the thick green forest is about to be affected now.

5. Operational requirements:

- Situational assessment shall be carried out on the 5th Jan. 2021 along with IAF team and NSDMA official..
- The uniformed personnel on the ground with the help of volunteers will continue making the fire control line.
- NSDMA in collaboration with GIS & Remote Sensing, Nagaland shall be deploying UAV (Drone) for area damage assessment.

6. For emergency please contact the following

- SEOC NSDMA 0370-2291122/2291120
- State Emergency Response Officer. Mr. Rendemo,8731804882/9402489435
- SDO (Civil) Shri Ruopfukhotuo, DDMA-Kohima for ground situationalupdates.
- NDRF Control Room:-01123438091/8136
- NERC Control Room:-01123438252/53

7. For other important updates on the situation:

- Shri Raj Kumar, IFS, DFO Kohima (Forest Department) @ 7085995177.
