



Dzukou Valley

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Why in News

The two-week long **forest fire in Dzukou valley on Nagaland-Manipur border** has been doused.

The **90-sq km green valley** has been **prone to forest fires for decades** - in 2015, 2012, 2010 and 2006.



Key Points

- **Location:** The Dzukou Valley, popularly known as the ‘valley of flower’, is located at the border of Nagaland and Manipur.

- **Features:**

- Situated at **an altitude of 2,438 metres** behind the **Japfu mountain range**, it is one of the most **popular trekking spots** in the North East.
Dzukou valley and Japfu peak are located **adjacent to the Pulie Badze Wildlife Sanctuary (Nagaland)**.
- There are **no human habitations within the forests**, but they are **home to rare and 'vulnerable' (as per the IUCN Red List) birds** - **Blyth's Tragopan** (Nagaland's state bird), the **Rufous-necked Hornbill** and the **Dark-rumped Swift**, among many others. Also found in the forests are **endangered Western Hoolock Gibbons**.
- It is **covered with bamboo** and other grass species. The valley harbours many species of flowering plants including the **endemic Dzukou Lily- Lilium chitrangada**.
- The valley is a **source of conflict** for ownership between local tribes and the state governments of Manipur/Nagaland.
- It is home to the **Angami people**.

Forest Fires

- **Description:**

Wildfire, also called **forest, bush or vegetation fire**, can be described as any **uncontrolled and non-prescribed combustion** or burning of plants in a natural setting such as a forest, grassland, brush land or tundra, which consumes the natural fuels and **spreads based on environmental conditions** (e.g., wind, topography).

- **Causes:**

- Wildfire **can be incited by human actions**, such as land clearing, extreme drought or in rare cases by **lightning**.
- **One of the major reasons for forest fires in the north-east is slash-and-burn cultivation**, commonly called **jhoom or jhum cultivation**.

The fires happen between the months of January and March. The north-east has tropical evergreen forests and, unlike the dry deciduous forests of central India, these are not likely to catch fire easily.

- **Impact:**

Globally, forest fires **release billions of tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere**, while hundreds of thousands of **people are believed to die due to illnesses caused by exposure to smoke** from forest fires and other landscape fires.

- **Some Findings from the 2019 Report by the Forest Survey of India (FSI):**

- About **21.40% of forest cover in India is prone to fires**, with forests in the **north-eastern region and central India being the most vulnerable**.
- While the **overall green cover has increased** in the country, the **forest cover in the north-east** — particularly in Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland — has **decreased**. **Forest Fires** could be **one of the causes**.

- **Measures Taken:**

- National Action Plan on Forest Fires (NAPFF) 2018
- Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme.

Source: TH