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Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department
Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF
Government of Jammu & Kashmir



The Consultant Judicial,
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal,
Principal Bench,
New Delhi.

No:- PCCF/LO/NGT-84/7877954/1289-91

Dated:- 21-04-2026.

Subject: - Reply of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Jammu and Kashmir pursuant to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Order dated 04.02.2026 in OA No. 84/2026 titled Suyash Kumar Mishra Vs Union of India & Ors.

Sir,

In compliance to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Order dated 04-02-2026 in Original Application No. 84/2026 titled Suyash Kumar Mishra Vs Union of India & Ors; kindly find enclosed the Reply/Response of Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department in this regard.

The Reply/ Response of J&K Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department may kindly be taken on record and placed before the Hon'ble NGT for consideration please.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: (As above)

Dr.K. Anandh (IFS),
Chief Conservator of Forests
Central

Copy to the:

1. Sh. Gautam Singh Additional Standing Counsel for J&K Govt. in Hon'ble NGT New Delhi, for information and necessary action.
2. PS to Commissioner/Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department Civil Secretariat, Jammu/ Srinagar for information of the Commissioner/ Secretary. This is in reference to their communication No.FST-Lit/67/2026/7737665 dated 30-03-2026.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL PRINCIPAL BENCH,
NEW DELHI

Original Application No.84 of 2026

In the Matter of:

Suyash Kumar Mishra

.....Petitioner

V/s

Union of India & Ors.

..... Respondents

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Filed through

Dt.:

Place:

(Gautam Singh)
Additional Standing Counsel
for UT of J&K in
Hon'ble NGT New Delhi

**Before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Principal Bench,
New Delhi**

Original Application No. 84 of 2026

In the matter of Suyash Kumar Mishra Vs Union of India & Ors.

**Reply of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Jammu and Kashmir
pursuant to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Order dated 04.02.2026 in OA
No. 84/2026 titled Suyash Kumar Mishra Vs Union of India & Ors.**

In compliance to the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Order dated 04.02.2026 in OA No. 84/2026, the detailed response of the J&K Forest Department is submitted as under:

A total of 926 forest fire incidences have been reported across the forests of J&K UT affecting forest area to the tune of 2105.57 Ha. which is not even 1% of recorded forest area of 2019400 Ha. Forest fires in J&K are generally ground fire in nature and more than 95% of the forest fire incidences are man-made, some are deliberate and others are unintentional. At small scale are integral to chir pine dominated forest fires and lead to nutrient recycling in grass land ecosystem regeneration in forest fire. At small scale forest fire in J&K has less adverse impact in Jammu and Kashmir forests which has 47.80% of the UTs total geographical area under forest. Though forest fire in general and ground fire, but seasonal changes, rising temperatures, and prolonged dry spells over the years have increased the vulnerability of forests to fire outbreaks which has necessitated a coordinated approach for their prevention and control. UT of Jammu and Kashmir has a well organised and established Forest Department that has taken all necessary measures to strengthen ground preparedness for prevention and control of forest fires. Various measures to manage forest fires effectively are elucidate as under:

**Chief Conservator of Forests
(Central)
Jammu and Kashmir Government,
Jammu/Srinagar**

Implementation of National Action Plan on forest Fires (NAPFF)

The Govt of J&K adheres to the National Action Plan on Forest Fire issued by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India. Forest fire risk zonation provides a scientific basis for identifying areas of priority for management interventions, allocating resources to priority areas. J&K is one of the few States/UT which has done study on Forest Fire Risk Zonation Mapping and Vulnerability assessment and published the report in both the studies. J&K department has published manual of forest fire management which contains fire risk zonation. Since protection of existing forest resources from fire hazards require adequate funding, the detailed action plan on forest fire for 20 years i.e 2018-19 to 2037-38 has already been submitted under the scheme NAPFF to Govt. of India (**Annexure-I**) with an estimated amount of Rs. 154 crore. The plan was to be implemented in 4 phases with an outlay of Rs. 86.15 crore between 2013-14 to 2027-28 of Rs. 17.23 crore.

Forest Fire Prevention and Management (FFPM)

Government of India through the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change has been assisting the efforts UT of J&K by extending financial assistance every year. In this regard Annual Plan of Operations to the tune of Rs. 350.00 Lakh for the year 2025-26 was submitted to MoEF & CC for approval against which approval for an amount of Rs.245.51 Lakh was accorded for the financial year 2025-26 (**Annexure-II**) with a release of Rs. 27.71 lakh only.

Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for forest officials

In order to effectively manage forest fires, the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department has framed SOP which provides guidelines for the prevention, monitoring, and management of forest fires. Further, the Standard Operation

Chief Conservator of Forests
(Central)
Jammu and Kashmir Government,
Jammu/Srinagar

Procedures (SOP) are being implemented and clear delineation of roles & responsibilities of officers/ officials of different ranks has been communicated to ensure coordinated and prompt response during fire incidents. In case of forest fire early detection, early response, adequate preparedness is the key in the prevention and control of forest fire. The SOP outlines a scenario specific approach to categorize and respond to various forest types, detailing preparedness measures, response protocols, and post fire assessments (Annexure-III).

Ground level preparedness

Preventive measures, including controlled burning, creation / maintenance of fire lines in an organized manner have been taken in vulnerable forest compartments in Jammu as well as Kashmir region. A total of 1133 km of fire lines have been created and maintained to check spread of forest fire. The practice of removal of biomass fallen dry needles, cones is done traditionally by women folk living in forest fringe villages by brooming and collecting the dry fallen material, shred shrubs, cones and other flammable material for their domestic use. An approximate quantity of 22000 qtls has been removed from various forests of Jammu and Kashmir. Also, sometimes controlled burning operations are carried out by forest frontline staff in various fire vulnerable areas so that low fuel level is maintained on forest floor.

Adequate quantity of fire rakes and other essential firefighting tools are procured to ensure their availability at Range levels. Customization of firefighting tools is being undertaken. The funds are being utilized judiciously to purchase additional essential tools, especially fire rakes. Additional tools are proposed to be procured to strengthen the forest fire response under recent CSS-FFPM release.

About **223** No. of Fire Control Rooms have been functional (24x7) across all the divisions. Control Rooms are functioning smoothly with regular monitoring and coordination among concerned Divisional Forest Officers as well as Gamma Units of Forest Protection Force. To augment the manpower for fire fighting operations a stray contingent of 1500 Forest Protection Force personnel is deployed and available 24x7 in Forest Fire Control Room for fire fighting during fire season.to ensure that the

incidences of forest fire are minimized / reduced. As reported by the DFOs, staff are well trained to handle fire incidences and maintain strict vigilance, conduct regular patrolling, and ensure immediate response to any fire alert so as to minimize damage and safeguard forest resources. Regular liasoning with district administration is standard practice to ensure co-ordinated response during forest fire season.

To further supplement the funds for fire fighting operations an outlay of Rs. 485.04 Lakh has been proposed in the APOs for the current FY 2026-27 under the component "Protection from Fire". An amount of Rs. 315.61 Lakh was incurred under the component "Protection from Fire" during the FY 2025-26. Soil and Moisture Conservation works like DRSM, water harvesting structures, etc. have already been incorporated in Annual Plans of Operation (APOs) by the DFOs and are being executed accordingly, which in turn help in improving and maintaining moisture regimes of the areas, particularly those prone to forest fires.

Fire vulnerability mapping is being reviewed based on past and recent fire incidence data. The Forest Fire Alert application for reporting and post fire monitoring is actively used by most of the field staff in territorial forest divisions.

Public awareness campaigns through print, social and electronic media have been initiated and are being further strengthened. The local community /fringe villagers are being outreached for overall awareness among the common. Awareness programmes on forest fire prevention have been intensified at the Panchayat level. Range officers, Foresters and other Field staff along with local fringe villagers are sensitized against Do's and Don'ts to be adopted by them to prevent occurrence of forest fires. More than **60** training / awareness programs involving local communities have been organized during this year (all details annexed as Annexure-IV)

Hence, the reply is submitted for kind consideration of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.


Chief Conservator of Forests
(Central)
Jammu and Kashmir Government
Jammu/Srinagar

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL PRICIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 84/2026

IN THE CASE OF: - Suyash Kumar Mishra.

.....Petitioners

V/S

Union of India & Ors.

.....Respondents

IN THE MATTER OF :

Affidavit in support of reply of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Jammu and Kashmir pursuant to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Order dated 04.02.2026 in OA No. 84/2026 titled Suyash Kumar Mishra Vs Union of India & Ors.

I, Dr. K. Anandh, IFS, Age 52 years presently posted as Chief Conservator of Forest, Central, J&K, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath that I have gone through the contents of the accompanying reply which conform to my instructions and are verified to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and derived from the official records of the case. Legal submissions made therein are believed to be true on the basis of information received.

Chief Conservator of Forest
(Central)
DEPONENT
Jammu and Kashmir Government,
Jammu/Srinagar

Sorfraz Khan
Advocate
J&K High Court
Reg No 321
Exp Dt: 20/07/2026
NOTARY
OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR (R&D/IA)

Verification:

Verified on the day of 21 April, 2026 at Jammu that the statements made in this affidavit are true and correct and nothing has been suppressed or concealed therein.

Solemnly affirmed before me
NOTARY
JAMMU
21/4/26

Chief Conservator of Forests
(Central)
DEPONENT
Jammu and Kashmir Government,
Jammu/Srinagar

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF
Jammu & Kashmir



The Commissioner/Secretary to Government,
Department of Forests, Environment & Ecology,
Civil Secretariat
Jammu.

No. PCCF/PIg/588/1324-26 A

Dated: 16-06-2022

Sub: Approval of State Action Plan on Forest Fires for the UT of J&K.

Sir,

Apropos to the subject cited above, Kindly find enclosed the draft State Action Plan on Forest Fire (SAPFF) for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir prepared by J&K Forest Department as per the directions of the Central Monitoring Committee on Forest Fire, on the lines of the National Action Plan on Forest Fire (NAPFF). The draft has been duly approved by the "State Level Monitoring Committee on Forest Fire Prevention and Management (FPM)" for the UT of J&K.

In this connection I am directed to request you kindly approve and forward the same to MoEF&CC, GOI.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature)
(B. Balaji) IFS
Chief Conservator of Forests
Planning & Publicity

Copy forwarded for information to: -

1. Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FPD), MoEF&CC, GOI, New Delhi.
2. Pvt. Secretary to PCCF & HoFF for information of the PCCF & HoFF, J&K

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests
Jammu & Kashmir

(A) (8)

The Commissioner / Secretary to Government,
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department,
Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

No: PCCF/Plg/588/ 4327-28

Dated: 15-11-2022.

Sub: State Action Plan on Forest Fires for UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

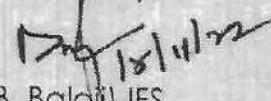
Sir,

With reference to your letter No: 220001-FST-Land/71/2022-02-FD dated 07.11.2022 and in continuation to this office letter No: PCCF/Plg/SAPFF/588/4299-4300 dated 10.11.2022, it is to inform that the funding requirement has been projected as per follow up of the NAPFF. The said funding requirement for 20 years was submitted to MoEF&CC vide No: PCCF/Plg/285/6636-38 dated 07.03.2022 with a copy to Administrative Department.

The funding requirement as submitted to MoEF&CC has been projected in a phased manner starting from 2018-19 to 2022-23 in the phase-I for 05 years period. In the SAPFF, the same will be considered from 2023-24 for 20 years in 04 phases of 5 years each as given below:

S. No	Phase wise	Year wise	Rs in lakh
			Financial
01.	Phase-1 (5 Years)	2023-24 to 2027-28	8615.00
02.	Phase-2 (5 Years)	2028-29 to 2032-33	2261.00
03.	Phase-3 (5 Years)	2033-34 to 2037-38	2261.00
04.	Phase-4 (5 Years)	2038-39 to 2042-43	2261.00
		Total =	15398.00

Yours faithfully,

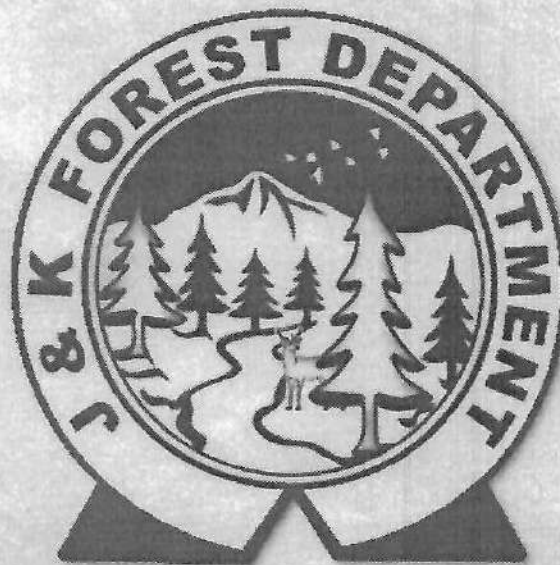

(Dr. B. Balraj) IFS
Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Planning & Projects)

Copy to the:

1. Pvt. Secretary to PCCF & HoFF for information of PCCF & HoFF, J&K.

~~(43)~~
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STATE ACTION PLAN ON FOREST FIRE
(Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir)
2022



Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department
Government of Jammu & Kashmir
www.jkforest.gov.in

STATE ACTION PLAN ON FOREST FIRE
(Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir)

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Annexure :-

I - List of Fire Control Rooms

[Handwritten mark]

List of Abbreviations

1. APFF: Action Plan on Forest Fire
2. MoEF&CC: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
3. SFD: State Forest Department
4. DFO: Divisional/District Forest Officer
5. DEERS: Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing
6. CAMPA: Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority
7. FSI: Forest Survey of India, Dehradun
8. ICFRE: Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun
9. SDMA: State Disaster Management Authority
10. DDMA: District Disaster Management Authority
11. SDRF: State Disaster Response Force
12. DFE: Directorate of Forest Education, Dehradun
13. JFMC: Joint Forest Management Committee
14. SOP: Standard Operating Procedure
15. ICT: Information and Communication Technology
16. NTFP: Non Timber Forest Produce
17. EDC: Eco-development Committee
18. PRIs : Panchayati Raj Institutions
19. FRA: Forest Rights Act (Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers { Recognition of Forest Right Act,2006})
20. WPO: Working Plan Officer
21. IT Cell: Information Technology Cell
22. SHG: Self Help Group
23. GIM: Green India Mission programme
24. RKVY :Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

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STATE ACTION PLAN ON FOREST FIRES (SAPFF)

(12)

1. Statement of Purpose

Fires, both accidental and deliberate, have always played a very important role in shaping forests since ancient times and serves an important function in maintaining the health of forest ecosystems. However, with changes in the human fire dynamics and an increase in frequency of extreme temperature events, forest fires are now a major threat to many forests and the biodiversity therein. Besides directly damaging the forest trees, the fire also adversely effects forest regeneration, biodiversity, microclimate, soil health & wildlife. Some of the endemic species can go extinct due to frequent and uncontrolled fire. Large amount of smoke and ash are released in to the air creating huge pollution affecting the health of forests, wildlife and public in general. Most of the forest fires are attributable to anthropogenic reasons. Communities use it to prepare lands for cultivation, clear forest floor for NTFP collection, promote grass growth for grazing. Criminal gangs of poachers use it to force wild animals come out of safe hiding places, while unintentional fires caused by careless throwing of burning matchsticks and escape of cooking fire from houses in the vicinity of forests account for many forest fires. Forest Survey of India has reported that 54.40% of forests in India are exposed to occasional fires, 7.49% to moderately frequent fires and 2.40% to high incidence levels while 35.71% of India's forests have not yet been exposed to fires of any real significance. Prolonged droughts make forests vulnerable to fires and the changing climate further aggravates their vulnerability. The fragmentation of most of forests, interspersed with habitations of all sizes, results in high human presence in most forested areas which adds to their vulnerability to fires.

Every year forest fires occur in different regions of the Union territory of J&K. However, they are common in subtropical forests of Jammu region especially forest areas under Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Reasi, Rajouri districts, whereas their intensity and frequency in Kashmir region is low. Seasonality of forest fires reflects distribution of forest fires across the months of the year.

Indian State Forest Report 2021 by FSI has classified forest cover of J&K under different fire prone classes as shown in the table below:-



S. No	Category	Forest Cover (in Sq.km.)	% of total forest cover
1.	Extremely fire prone	0	0
2.	Very highly fire prone	17.90	0.08
3.	Highly fire prone	321.68	1.50
4.	Moderately fire prone	857.95	4.01
5.	Less fire prone	20,189.4	94.41

No. of fire Incidences reported in last five years.

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	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
No. of fire incidences as per	1245	444	429	282	209
Field reports					

The J&K Forest Policy also focusses on the management aspects of forest fires and enlisting it as an important aspect of forest protection. As such the objective of this Action Plan on Forest Fires, hereinafter referred to by its abbreviations APFF, is to minimize forest fires from taking place by informing, enabling and empowering forest fringe communities to work in tandem with the forest department. This will substantially reduce the vulnerabilities of forests against fire hazards, enhancing the capabilities of forest and other personnel and institutions in fighting fires, and speed up recovery after a fire event.

2. General Principles

- i. The prescribed actions in this action plan are intended to guide and assist forest officers, frontline staff, forest user agencies, forest fringe communities, visitors to forests, and civil society, for a holistic management of fires in forests.
- ii. Preventing fires from taking place and improving resilience of the forests against fire hazards.
- iii. According highest priority to the safety of the people, both resident and transient, firefighters, and fire managers during fire events.
- iv. Defining a clear line of command for assuming the lead role and duties in the event of a forest fire.
- v. Forest divisions shall form the units for Forest Fire Management planning and implementation for ease in coordination with the Disaster Management Authorities at the district levels.

3. Fire Risk Zonation and Mapping of Forests of J&K

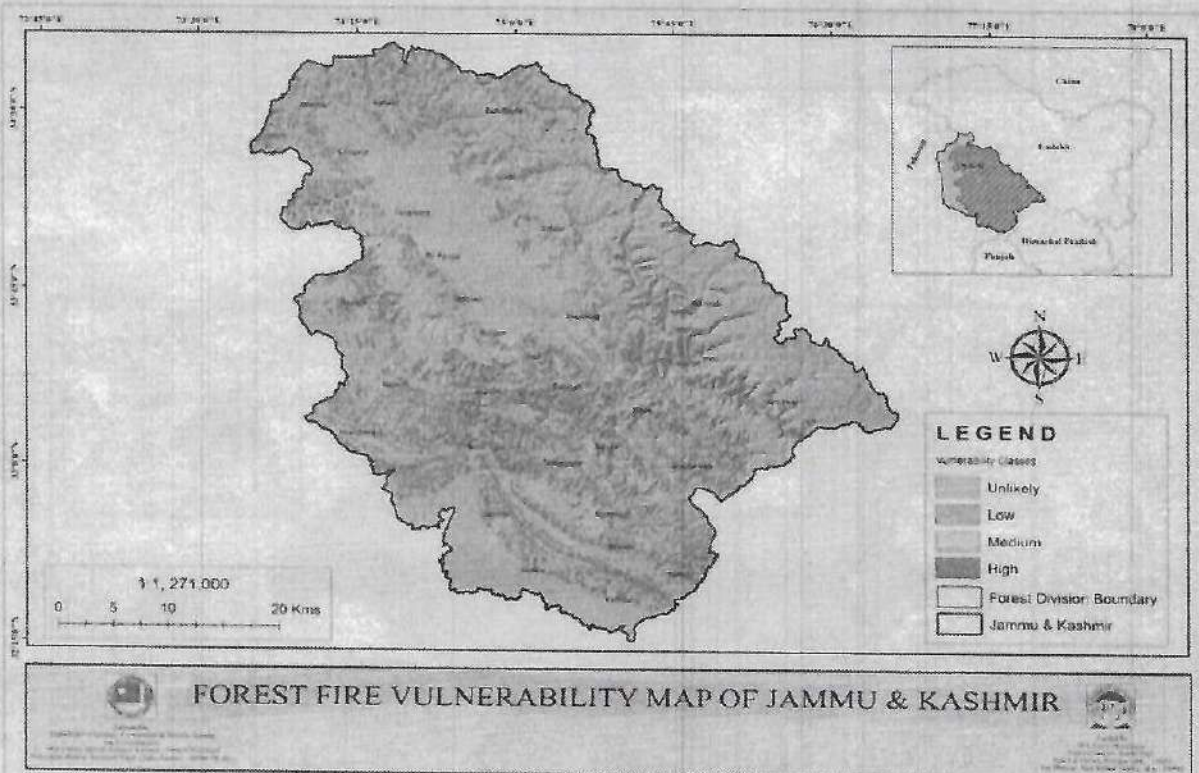
The Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing (DEERS) in collaboration with J&K Forest Department has prepared a report on Forest Fire Vulnerability Mapping of J&K based on actual forest fire incidences, as well as Forest Fire Risk Zonation & Vulnerability Assessment of Forests of J&K. The study used the integration of different layers (land use, wind, slope, aspect, proximity to roads and proximity to settlements), Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) and multi criteria analysis in the Geographical Information System (GIS) environment for the assessment of forest fire risk zonation and vulnerability of forests of Jammu & Kashmir. The study was designed to prioritize the forests on the basis of vulnerability to fire so that necessary steps can be taken to minimize the damage caused by forest fires. The result of study according to the final forest fire

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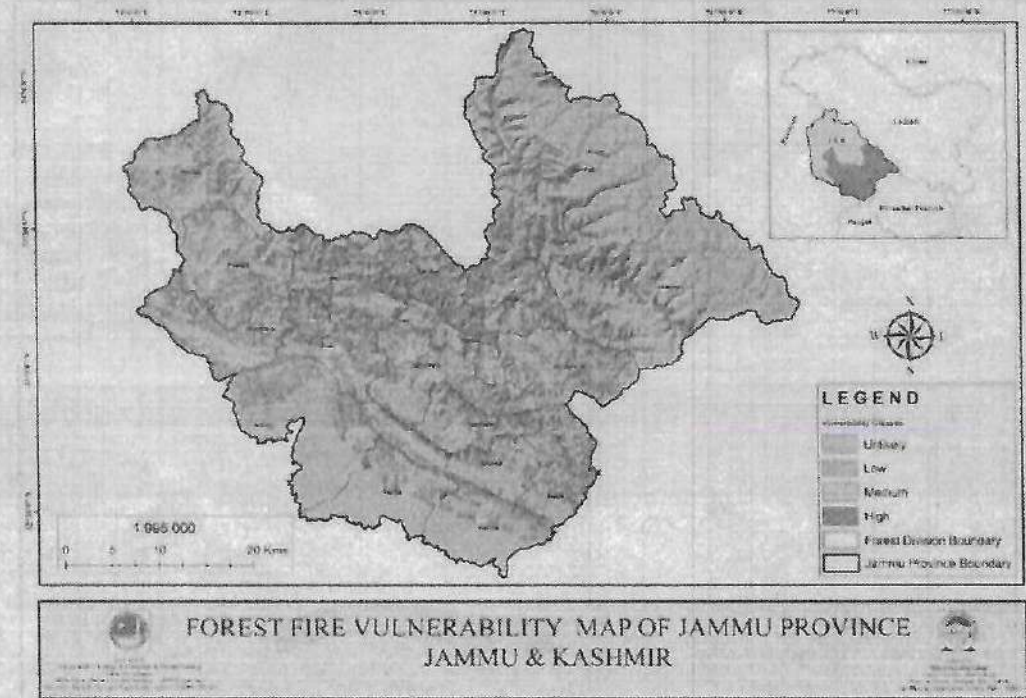
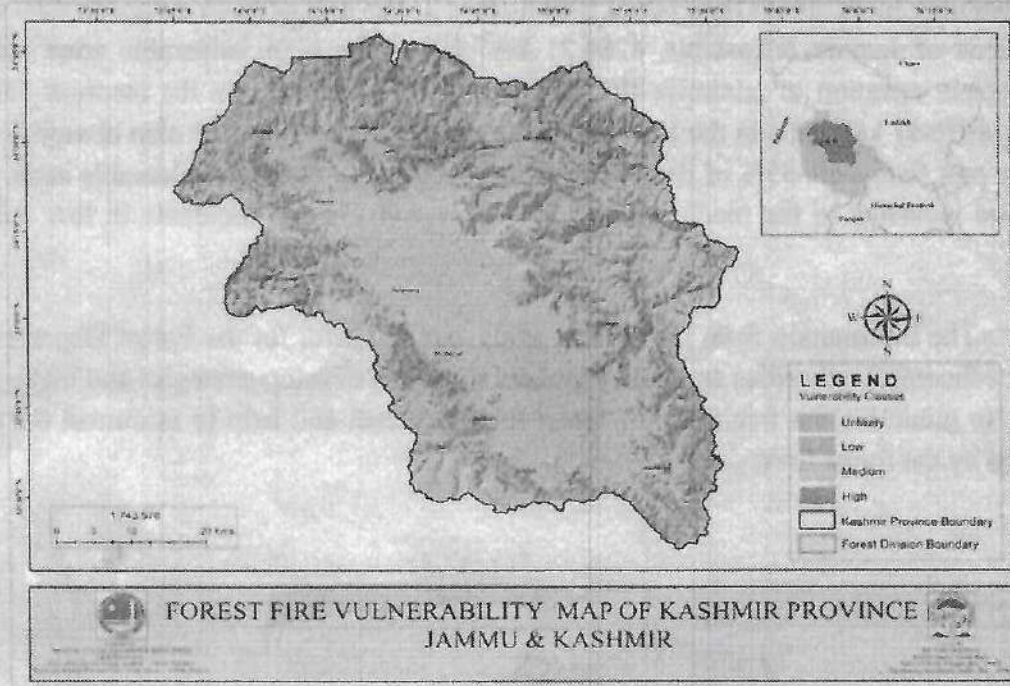
vulnerability maps shows that, out of total area of 21387 km² of 6646 compartments of forest divisions of Jammu & Kashmir, 4286.21 km² fall in the high vulnerable zone and needs immediate attention to minimize the damage, 9490.15 km² falls in the medium vulnerable zone, 4636.47 km² falls in the low vulnerable zone of forest fire. It is also observed that out in the past five years 55% of fire incidents has occurred in the high vulnerable zone, 36% of the fire incidents in the medium vulnerable zone and 4% fire incidents in low vulnerable zone.

The information from the present study can be useful for the Forest Department and other concerned authorities and policy makers who shall develop strategies and make plans in order to minimize the frequency of forest fires incidents and help to minimize the damage caused by the forest fires.



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3.1 Risk Factors

The following factors, among other locally relevant, shall be considered for identifying and quantifying fire risks:

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- i. **Fuels**, including forest cover and type as a broad indicator of fuel type.
- ii. **Proximity to infrastructure, property, and other assets**, including roads, habitations and other buildings, agricultural lands, transmission lines, and railways;
- iii. **Topography**, including slope, aspect, elevation, terrain ruggedness and other characteristics;
- iv. **Social indicators**, including local dependence on forests for livelihoods, poverty, and traditional land use practices;
- v. **Historic fire occurrence and patterns** are used to identify areas that are most prone to fires.
- vi. **Areas of special ecological or cultural importance**, including protected areas, historic sites, designated heritage sites, temples, pilgrimage routes, etc.
- vii. **Special ecological conditions**, for example, new plantations.

3.2 Preparation of Plan

The Government of J&K adheres to National Action Plan on Forest Fire (NAPFF) issued by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India. Forest fire risk zonation provides a scientific basis for identifying areas of priority for management interventions, allocating



resources to priority areas, and monitoring the effectiveness of measures to reduce or control fire risk. J&K is one of the few States/ UT which has done study on "Forest Fire Risk Zonation Mapping" and "Vulnerability Assessment" and published the reports on both the studies. The information from these studies are being used by the forest department and other concerned authorities to develop strategies and make plans in order to minimize the frequency of forest fires incidents and help to minimize the damage caused by the forest fires.

3.3 Use of fire risk zones in forest planning

The results of the forest fire risk zonation shall be translated into concrete management actions under the forest working plans. The Working Plan Officers (DFOs in the case of Plans already in operation) shall identify activities or interventions to mitigate fire risks or reduce impact of the fire hazards in high-risk areas. These may include controlled burning, creation of additional fire lines, watch towers and other infrastructure in vulnerable areas. The same shall be examined speedily by the appropriate authorities for approval and making provisions for financing the approved activities. The Annual Plan of Operations for all forest divisions and circles, and protected areas, shall include the approved activities and interventions mentioned above. In the CAPEX plan (State Plan), CAMPA and Forest Protection and Fire Management scheme of Government of India, the requirements of the Union Territory shall be submitted in the form of projects. The planning and finance department of the UT of J&K shall also to be sensitized to prioritize resource

allocation for forest fire management.

(Action to be taken by WPOs, DFOs and controlling officers, Funding support by Forest Head Quarters (FHQ))

4. Preventing Forest Fires

Most forest fires are manmade and are linked to socio-economic and livelihood issues of the forest fringe communities. It should, therefore, be possible to greatly reduce the forest fire incidences by making these communities aware of the many tangible and intangible benefits lost to them, both individually and collectively, due to forest fires. J&K Forest department in the past has taken various steps in the field in order to mitigate the harmful effects of forest fire. In present times the frequency and extent of forest fires shows an increasing trend due to several factors, including rising trend in dry periods and temperature. This calls for better preparation to prevent forest fires and building capability to handle such fires in quickest possible way ensuring that no significant damage is caused. Following actions are proposed to be taken in this regard.



4.1 *Effective communication strategy for awareness generation*

A mass communication strategy is already operational in all the vulnerable areas of the J&K for vigorous publicity and sensitization of local communities through different means like campaigns on Radio, TV, and social media particularly during fire seasons, setting up information portals in coordination with PRIs. The strategy needs to be further strengthened for reaching out to different target groups. Huge mobilization, awareness activities to be started prior to fire season.

(Action to be taken by DFOs, Monitored by the Controlling Officers and FHQ)

4.2 *Empowering communities to deliver on their responsibilities*

The existing forest laws mandate the forest officials to seek participation of local communities in fire management. JFMCs, Eco-development communities already in operation in different areas and as mandated are cooperating in various activities including forest fire prevention & control. These communities will be better placed to shoulder these responsibilities if they are enabled. The communities will therefore be incentivized for their cooperation in fire prevention and control measures

in the form of social recognition like enlisting the supporters as Van Mitras, organizing various livelihood creation activities like training in skill development, taking up developmental activities in convergence with MGNREGS for creation of person days in the fire vulnerable areas. In the Green India Mission programme, funding is available for livelihood enhancement which can be tapped. The PRI institutions are getting funds for prevention of forest fire which can be better utilized in empowering the communities.

(Action to be taken by District Administration, DFOs, Monitored by the Controlling Officers and FHQ)

4.3 *Capacity Building of Communities*

The capacity of community organizations in prevention and control of forest fires shall be enhanced by periodical training and capacity building programmes. Forest fire alerts information shall also be provided to JFMC/EDC/VPPC members. They can be provided with the access to the firefighting tools & equipments including leaf litter blowers, other tools and protective clothing kept in the control rooms during fire emergency. The community members shall be duly involved during the mock drills on forest fire before fire season.

The department has already prepared a Manual on "**Prevention & Control of Forest Fires in Jammu & Kashmir**" covering different aspects of forest fire and its management. The scope and applicability of this manual is to educate & train frontline staff of forest department, forest protection force and other stake holders especially the PRIs to protect valuable forests & wildlife resources against damage & uncontrolled fires.



(Action to be taken by DFOs)

5. **Increasing the Resilience of Forests to Fires**

Management interventions for increasing resilience to forest fires shall be planned according to the vulnerability to forest fires as reflected in the risk zonation maps. Following are some of the measures which shall be adopted in this context.

5.1 *Moisture Conservation*

As fire hazard is more in drier and deciduous habitats and areas with predominance of grasses, management action will need to aim at moisture retention for longer time after rains and appropriate preventive measures to ensure that minor fire incidences do not escalate into major fire events. A long-term plan for improving the water regime of the forest areas based on opportunities and feasibility will be useful in reducing vulnerability to fires. The CAPEX, CAMPA and CSS like Green India Mission programme (GIM), Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) provide scope for this kind of work.

(Action to be taken by DFOs, Monitored by the Controlling Officers and Financial support by FHQ)

5.2. *Forest Floor Biomass Management*

Necessary management interventions shall be planned aiming at minimizing accumulation of dry fuel material on forest floor. The litter and other biomass on the forest floor leading to fire danger will be gainfully utilized for the benefit of the society in identified areas. A framework for biomass management is suggested below:

- a. Collection of forest floor biomass such as fallen pine needles for use in briquettes shall be encouraged. It is already in practice in Nowshera and some other Forest Divisions. Pine needle briquetting machines are already installed in some of the places.
- b. Collection of fallen and decaying timber from forest area (excluding protected areas) shall be carried out to meet the firewood demands and to mitigate fire risks. Reducing fuel load shall be given at most importance in fire vulnerable areas.
- c. Collection of dry grasses by the local people shall be encouraged to reduce the fuel load particularly in border area with Pakistan in Rajouri and Poonch Districts which are epicenter of wild fires from Pakistan side.
- d. Women SHGs to use forest floor biomass with appropriate safeguards and department shall encourage micro entrepreneurship in collaboration with State Rural Livelihood Mission. Pine needle based handicrafts is also picking up in some of the divisions. Various Self Help Groups are already receiving the training. Women are the major beneficiary as they are able to earn from the pine needle craft.

(Action to be taken by DFOs, Monitored by the Controlling Officers and Policy support by FHQ, SRLM)

- e. Dedicated efforts to be made for removal of fuel load from very vulnerable and sensitive areas likely to result in impacting health of inhabitations or visiting people to Shri Mata Vaishnav Devi Temple. DFOs be encourage to prepare specific APO to strengthen prevention and control of forest fire.

5.3. *Weed Management*

Invasive weeds shall be controlled as they contribute significantly to the fire danger and pose a threat to native biodiversity. The following actions shall be undertaken:

- i. A baseline study to quantify the extent and spread of invasive weeds in consultation with SKUAST (FOF).
- ii. Weed removal strategies adopted shall ensure it does not regrow on treated lands. Removal shall be organized as an attractive economic opportunity for the local communities. The Forest Department is in the process of installing Lantana briquetting machine in some of the Divisions.

4

- iii. Rehabilitation of treated areas with appropriate species and soil and moisture conservation measures shall form part of the weed removal plan.

(Action to be taken by DFOs, Monitored by the Controlling Officers and support by FHQ)

6. Forest Fire Preparedness

Preparedness in forest fire management leads to effective response to fire disasters resulting in reduced impact and quicker recovery. An Annual Calendar for Forest Fire Prevention & Management has been prepared by the department based on weather pattern as well as past experience for the purpose of gearing up of men and material before the onset of fire season. The following steps shall form the basis of preparedness against forest fires.

6.1. Forest Fire Detection and Alert: -

Satellite based forest fire alerts are already operational across the country led by FSI. The following steps shall be taken to improve the efficacy of the FSI fire alert system:

- i. **Digitization of forest boundaries:** In the absence of digitized boundaries in many forests across the state, the FSI screens fire detections using approximations leading to reduced efficacy of the alert system. The department has already made good progress in this regard.

(Action to be taken by DFO, PI Divn., DFOs)

- ii. **Promoting greater adoption of the forest fire alert system:** FSI has put in place a robust forest fire alert system. Like all the other states, maximum number of field staff up to beat level is registered on FSI fire portal to get fire alert SMS. The department shall encourage the involvement of all field functionaries, PRIs, interested persons, so that the forest fire alert system can percolate down to beat level as well to public in least possible time. This will be institutionalized through a protocol. The Forest Department should take active lead in registering more people.

(Action to be taken by DFOs, Nodal Officer for Forest Fire Prevention and Management – CF East, CF Srinagar)

- iii. **Improving ground based detection:** Even with the advances in new remote sensing technologies for fire detection, ground-based detection continues to be essential and shall be sufficiently resourced. The department shall perform an assessment of the efficacy of the existing network of watchtowers by a review of the level of functionality and operational use of the existing towers. The department shall identify new locations for fire watchtowers based on coverage, visibility, ignition sources, and other relevant factors.

(Action to be taken by DFOs)

- iv. **Strengthening engagement with local communities:** Local communities are often the first to spot fires and alert the forest department. Locally suitable existing mechanisms shall be further strengthened by the department for sourcing reliable and quick information from local communities in coordination with PRIs.

(Action to be taken by DFOs)

- v. **Dedicated phone line:** A toll-free telephone number 1800-180-7181 has been established by J&K forest department 24x7 for reporting information on forest fires. Other required support shall be established at UT level to obtain information on forest fires from tourists, passers-by and local people.

(Action to be taken by the Nodal Officer – CF, East)

- vi. **Monitoring and evaluation:** FSI has put in place a system to review all fire alert detections, and their ground verification. The department will ensure that feedbacks on fire alerts are sent to FSI for validation. The department has already placed Conservator of Forests, East Circle as nodal person for the purpose.

(Action to be taken by CF East – Nodal Officer, DFOs)

- vii. **Control Room & Wireless network:** In order to effectively coordinate and to reduce time lag, 246 number of control rooms have been established (Annexure 1). The control rooms are to be provided with communication gadgets and mobility. In some remote forest areas mobile telephony is not well developed and frontline staff are unable to get the information coming on the Forest Fire Alert Alarms. In such cases, forests communication system will be supplemented by a dedicated wireless network.

The Forest department has launched user friendly Mobile Application "Pahredar" for real time reporting of forest & wildlife offences/ incidents including forest fire by the Forest Department officials and general public.



- viii. **Development of Model Ranges for prevention & control of forest fire:-** Various Ranges prone to forest fire viz **Katra, Nowshera, Rajouri & Pampore Forest Ranges** are being established as Model Ranges to be provided with all modern tools & equipments and support system for prevention & control of forest fire.

(Action to be taken by CCF Jammu/Kashmir, concerned CFs)

6.2 Digitize the location of critical resources and assets

The PI division of the state forest departments shall conduct inventory mapping of critical resources for forest fire prevention and management and make relevant information available to the forest divisions. Resources and assets to be inventoried may include forest department resources, such as watchtowers, ground crew stations, controls rooms and fire lines as well as non-department resources, such as the locations of fire stations, fire tenders and National and State Disaster

Response Forces, and army and paramilitary camps. They may also include important infrastructure such as roads, railways, and telecommunications networks and natural resources such as water bodies and natural fire breaks that could assist in preparedness and planning for quick response to forest fires.

(Action to be taken by DFO, PI)

7. Fire Suppression

Immediate response to forest fires after receipt of information is of utmost importance. For this purpose, the forest divisions will be made to develop a culture of emergent response to fire alerts. This needs intense training at all levels, strengthening of infrastructure, and coordination with other relevant agencies.

7.1. Training for Field Staff, Firewatchers, and Community Fire fighters

The principal need for forest fire suppression is to have adequate, competent, trained, and equipped workforce on the ground, ready to respond and take immediate action. Trainings are being provided to field officers, seasonal firewatchers, and community volunteers involved in firefighting. However, the trainings need to be specific to vulnerability of forest areas and more frequent. All the fire fighters should understand basic principles of forest fire management for using the most effective suppression technique at their disposal and know when retreat is necessary. The type of training provided to fire fighters will be tailored according to the landscape, nature of terrain, their level of responsibility and role in the command structure in responding to fires.



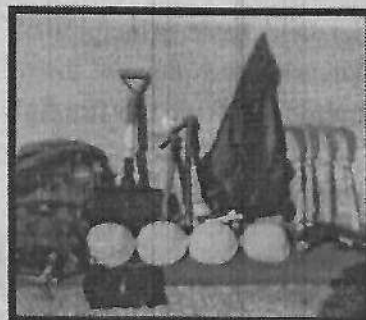
- i. A **modern and standardized training curriculum** shall be developed and imparted to forest frontline staff. State Disaster Management Authority will be involved in a consultative role. The Working Plan, Research and Training wing of the Forest Department shall develop dedicated and highly specialized training module in this regard.
- ii. **Mock drills** shall be organized before fire season at various fire prone areas involving all the stakeholders such as District Administration, Police, Fire Department, NDRF, SDRF personnel, community organizations etc. for identification of gaps in the existing mechanism and better preparedness during crisis time.

- iii. **Quick action for suppression of fire.** For quick action sufficient labour force and staff is required to be deployed. Arrangement of tools, food, water and lighting shall be there as the process of fire extinguishing sometimes may take days together. The arrangement of transportation of men and material shall be therefore made available.

(Action to be taken by Working Plan, Research and Training , CCF Jammu/Kashmir and Nodal Officer – CF East)

7.2. *Equipping the Firefighters*

The firefighting squad including field staff, seasonal firewatchers, and community firefighters shall be provided with adequate firefighting tools and equipment including leaf litter blowers, and protective clothing. There shall be sufficient practice sessions for the firefighting personnel in the use of the firefighting tools & equipments so as to enhance their efficiency in actual firefighting. Preference shall be given to local fabrication of robust tools as per their acceptability by the field staff.



(Action to be taken by DFOs, Controlling Officers and FHQ)

7.3. *Development of Adequate Infrastructure for Fire Suppression*

An effective communication network shall be ensured in all fire prone forest areas using wireless where necessary. The department will procure vehicles including water tankers for movement of firefighting personnel to the fire spots at the earliest. Advance technologies such as use of drones shall be explored in identification of exact location, intensity & direction of fire to facilitate fire extinguishment at the earliest. Forest road network shall be properly maintained for quick movement of firefighting forces to the fire site.

(Planning to be done by DFOs, funding support from FHQ)

7.4. *Arrangements for Adequate Manpower in Fire Prone Areas*

The department will fill all vacancies especially at the level of frontline forest officials in the fire prone areas on priority basis. Trained manpower will also be mobilized from other agencies such as Police, District Fire services. The Communities living near the fire prone areas will also be sensitized and will be incentivized towards fire suppression activities. There shall be a mechanism for

mobilization of forest fire fighting volunteers and providing them with adequate training on an urgent basis. A database of the firefighting volunteers shall be maintained at district/division level.

(Action to be taken by DFOs, Monitored by the Controlling Officers and FHQ)

8. Post Fire Management

8.1. *Assessment of Loss Due to Forest Fires*

The department will develop a UT level database for burnt area assessment on yearly basis. A standard methodology will be evolved in consultation with ICFRE/FSI etc., for assessing losses due to forest fire including loss of intangibles such as ecosystem services. The department will organize adequate training programs for forest officials at various levels to build capacity for this purpose.

(Action to be taken by DFOs, Monitored by the Controlling Officers and FHQ)

8.2. *Proper Investigation of the Causes*

The forest divisions will ensure that the causes for every fire incident are properly investigated, and adequate measures taken immediately including legal actions where necessary.

(Action to be taken by DFOs, Monitored by the Controlling Officers and FHQ)

8.3. *Restoration of Fire Affected Areas*

A proper restoration plan shall be prepared for the fire affected areas with the objective of restoring to its natural profile. Appropriate silvicultural practices shall be prescribed taking into account the ecological successional dynamics. Adequate soil moisture conservation measures shall be taken up in the fire affected areas for enhancing the moisture retention capacity of the land. Indigenous vegetative barriers will be identified and planted around the fire affected areas.

(Action to be taken by DFOs, Monitored by the Controlling Officers and funding support by FHQ)

9. Coordination with other Agencies

Forest fire management is a multifarious activity in which a frictionless interface with a range of institutions and social groups becomes very important for effective functioning. The Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department is already working in coordination with the FSI for past many years. Forest fires of disastrous proportions already come under the purview of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Disaster Management Authorities at the State/ UT and district levels and institutional mechanisms for combating forest fires at disaster scale has already been formalized for incorporation in the National, State, and District level disaster management plans. Institutionalization of close coordination with relevant institutions is thus already a reality but it needs to be strengthened further. For this purpose, there



are existing procedures developed by the DMAs at all levels and the forest department will take urgent steps to update, upgrade and integrate their systems with those of the DMAs.

(Action to be taken by DFOs, CFs and CCF Jammu/Kashmir, FHQ)

10. Mobilization of Financial Resources

Forest fires pose the foremost threat to Jammu & Kashmir forests and the threat is projected to become more serious with the changing climate. Therefore, emphasis on the adequate protection of existing forest resources from fire hazards shall be accorded high priority which shall require funding. As such sufficient financial resources shall be made available at division, range and local level well in advance. Beside, external financial aid should be accessed for investment on infrastructure for this purpose.

The detailed Action plan on Forest Fire for the 20 years i.e. 2018-19 to 2037-38 under the Scheme NAPFF has already been submitted to the Govt. of India.

A long term plan shall be prepared for the state to develop adequate infrastructure and other support system. As it may be very difficult to get funds from one source, it can be tapped from State CAPEX, CAMPA, GIM and other CSS.

Funds are regularly received under CSS - "Forest Fire Prevention and Management". Besides, APOs with Specific focus on forest fires for vulnerable areas as a Special Project be formulated under CAMPA in addition to routine APOs being submitted

(Action to be taken by DFOs, Monitored by the Controlling Officers and Financial support by FHQ)

11. Conclusion & Future strategy

In case of forest fire, early detection, early response, adequate preparedness is the key in the prevention and control of forest fire. Reducing risk and reducing hazards play a crucial role. All the fire preventive measure like fire line clearing, mobilizing firefighting equipments, formation of fire-fighting crews and Rapid Response Teams have to be completed prior to the fire sensitive period. Higher priority shall be given to the Forest Divisions, Ranges, Blocks and Beats which are identified as highly sensitive for fire for fire line clearing, awareness creation and patrolling. Advance preparation for prevention of forest fires, rapid response to fires, coordinated approaches, maximum involvement of PRIs, fuel load management and post fire management shall form the crux of action plan on forest fires for Jammu & Kashmir.



ANNEXURE - 1.

List of Fire Control Rooms: -

About 246 no. of fire control has been established by the J&K Forest department throughout the J&K across all the divisions.

S.No.	Region	Circle	Number of Fire Control Rooms
1.	Jammu	East	109
2.		West	56
3.		Chenab	26
	Total		191
4.	Kashmir	Srinagar	17
5.		North	18
6.		South	20
	Total		55
	Grand Total		246

1. List of Forest Fire Control Room, East Circle

S.NO	Name of Division	Name of Range	Name of block	Name of Fire Control Room	Control Room ID	
1	Jammu Forest Division	Jindrah Range	Tunnel	Suketar	JMU01	
2			Jindrah	Salora	JMU02	
3				Range Office Jindrah	JMU03	
4			Peoni	Forest Check Post Battal	JMU04	
5			Mansar	Bindu Peda	JMU05	
6		Jammu Range		Nagrota -I	Karli Nursery	JMU06
7				Nagrota-II	Guard Hut Marh	JMU07
8				Paloura	Forest Check Post kheri	JMU08
9				Manawar	Guard Hut Mathwar	JMU09
10		Bahu Range		Chowadi	Block Officer Hut Sunjwan	JMU10
11				Bahu	Block Officer Hut Bachan Depot	JMU11
12				Bajalta	Toothan di Khui	JMU12
13				Anti-Encroachment Team	Range Officer Bahu	JMU13
14		Kalidhar Range		Chowki	BO Hut Youthal Gala	JMU14
15				Choura	Guard Hut Kaneri	JMU15
16				Panjrain	Guard Hut Jud & Dhanna	JMU16
17				Sumah	Guard Hut TungiMorh	JMU17

52				Sounthal	KTH04		
53				Jothana	KTH05		
54			Budi	Sundrikote	KTH06		
55				Kathera	KTH07		
56				Malhooh	KTH08		
57			Janglote	Kayala	KTH09		
58				Kadhayar	KTH10		
59				Bagra	KTH11		
60				Jugain Closure	KTH12		
61				Hq, kathua	KTH13		
62				Saida	KTH14		
63				Nud	KTH15		
64			H.Q Kathua	Sidhgouria	KTH16		
65				Parangoli	KTH17		
66				NallahaThanger	KTH18		
67				Baroti	KTH19		
68				Maini	KTH20		
69	Billawar Forest Division	Billawar	Billawar	Billawar Control Room	BIL01		
70				Parnalla	Parnalla	BIL02	
71					Bhinipull	BIL03	
72					Billawar (Fire Cell)	BIL04	
73					Dhanuprole	BIL05	
74				Billawar	Lahri	BIL06	
75					Dewal Reinforcement Team	BIL07	
76				Ramkote	DharDugnoo	Chew	BIL08
77						Duggain	BIL09
78					Sadrotra	Goduflal	BIL10
79						NagrotaGujro Control Room	BIL11

80			Rajwalta	Rajwalta	BIL12
81			Garh	GarhSamnaban	BIL13
82			Kamdhal	Babey	BIL14
83	Basohli Forest Division	Basohli	Basohli	Forest Complex Basohli	BAS01
84			Sananghat	Resin Depot	BAS02
85			Jandrota	Kharana	BAS03
86		Mahanpur	Mahanpur	Rehalta	BAS04
87			Dhar Dugnoo	Dugnoo	BAS05
88				Seri/Hutar	BAS06
89			DharMahanpur	DharMahanpur	BAS07
90				Shorighat	BAS08
91		Bani	Bani	Bani	BAS09
92			Koti	Behkan	BAS10
93	Ramnagar Forest Division	South Range	Ramnagar	Ramnagar	RNG01
94			Soil Amroh	Thandapani Nursery	RNG02
95			Amroh	Chapprian	RNG03
96			Thellay	KuhNalla	RNG04
97		North Range	Kurta	Chowki	RNG05
98			Barneen	Resin Depot Barneen	RNG06
99		Basantghar	Kulwanta	Kulwanta	RNG07
100			SaiMeri	Kote	RNG08
101			Basantghar	Basantghar	RNG09
102	ETF Division		Team1	Barmargalla	ETF01
103			Team2	Purthu	ETF02
104			Team3	Sonari-Tirdi	ETF03
105			Team2	Purthu	ETF02
106			Team3	Sonari-Tirdi	ETF03
107			Team4	Sander/Shara	ETF04
108	Urban Forestry	MFP	MFP	Information Centre Bikram	UFD01

	Division Jammu			Chowk	
109		Sunjwan	Sunjwan	Range Office	UFD02

2. List of Forest Fire Control Room, West Circle

S.NO.	Division Name	Range/Block Name	Location of Control Room	Control Room ID
1	Poonch Forest Division	Havelli Range	Havelli Range Office	PCH001
2		Surankote Range	Surankote Range Office	PCH002
3		Mendher Range	Mendher Range Office	PCH003
4	Mahore Forest Division	Mahore Range	Kanthan (Guard Hut Kauri)	MHR001
5		Gulabgarh	Sungr	MHR002
6	Reasi Forest Division	Reasi	Jyoti Puram Check Post	RSI01
7			Bakkal	RSI02
8			Tote	RSI03
9		Katra	Nomain Nursery	RSI04
10			Jangalgali	RSI05
11			Simbal chowk (Check post)	RSI06
12			Talwara Check Post	RSI07
13		Thakerkote	Bealoian (Pouni)	RSI08
14			Chinkah	RSI09
15			Thakerkote	RSI10
16	Nowshera Forest Division	Master Control Room at Office of Soil Range Nowshera	At Division HQ	NSR001
17		Sunderbani	Check Post Sunderbani/ Range Office	NSR002
18			Makol Check Post	NSR003
19			Dhokbhanyar	NSR004
20			Brevi Rest House	NSR005
21			Salheri Resin Depot	NSR006
22	Nowshera Forest Division	Lamberi	Range Office Lamberi	NSR007
23			Rajalkote Co.157/N	NSR008
24			Transit Depot Narian	NSR009
25			Control Room	NSR010
26			Fire Control Room at Mangal devi in Co.22/N	NSR011
27		B.O Hut Sujaligala	NSR012	
28	Nowshera	Nowshera	Range Office Nowshera	NSR013
29			Guard Hut Lam	NSR014
30			Fire Control Room at Nadpur	NSR015
31			Fire Control Room at	NSR016

32	Rajouri Forest Division		Chingus			
33			Fire Control Room at Kalsian	NSR017		
34			Fire Control Room at Rajwa	NSR018		
35			Fire Control Room at Bagla	NSR019		
36			Rajouri Range	C.D. Agrati	RAJ001	
37				B.oQuaterBathuni	RAJ002	
38				Dassal Watch Tower	RAJ003	
39				Forest Hut Manjakote	RAJ004	
40				Range Office Forest Range Rajouri	RAJ005	
41			Kalakote Range	Forest Range Office Kalakote	RAJ006	
42				PanchayatgharArgi	RAJ007	
43			Kalakote Range	VFC Hall Potha	RAJ008	
44				Central Nursery Balli	RAJ009	
45				Camp at Gurn	RAJ010	
46				Guard Hut Tatapani	RAJ011	
47				Camp at Broh	RAJ012	
48				Fire Watcher Tower Barotta	RAJ013	
49				Solki Check Post	RAJ014	
50				Camp at Bandigalla	RAJ015	
51				Central Resin Depot KharkPanjah	RAJ016	
52				Range Office Complex Kalakote	RAJ017	
53				Kandi Range	Range Office kandi	RAJ018
54					Palma Check Post	RAJ019
55			CAMP (Bindi)		RAJ020	
56			Soil Range	CAMP(JamolaGali)	RAJ021	
				Palma Chowkidar Hut	RAJ022	

3. List of Forest Fire Control Rooms, Chenab Circle

S.NO.	Name of Division	Name of Range	Name of block	Name of Fire Control Room	Control Room ID
1	Ramban Division	Ramban	Town Block Ramban	Forest COMPLEX Ramban	RDF-01
2		Banihal	Town Block Banihal	Forest COMPLEX Banihal	RDF-02
3		Gool	Sangaldan	Sangaldan	RDF-03
4	Bhaderwah Division	Neru	Town	Range Office Neru	FDB-01
5		Kellar	Malothi	Malothi	FDB-02
6		Chiralla	Janalwar	Thatri	FDB-03
7	Batote Division	Bhalesh	Jitota	Gandoh	FDB-04
8		Marmat	Dedni	Forest Check Khellani	BTT-01

9			Blundpur	Forest Hut Blundpur	
10		Batote	Batote	Maghu- Nallah(Batote)	BTT-02
11		Batote	Ballout	Guard Hut Mitra	BTT-02
12		Gandhri	Kanga	Check Post Chandrog	BTT-03
13			Bhatni	Gud Hut Gandheri	
14	Marwah Division	Udil	Chatroo	Chatroo	MFD-01
15			Sigdi I & II	Sigdi	
16		Dachhan	Janakpur	Sirshidachhan	MFD-02
17		Marwah	Yurdoo	Yurdoo	MFD-03
18	Doda Division	Siraj	Koti Town Gadi Dessa	B.O Hut Manjmi	DFD-01
19		Kuntwara	Kulhand	B.O Hut Zehand	DFD-02
20		Thakrai	Keshwan	Forest Guard Hut Seergwari	DFD-03
21		Soil	Ganika	Soil Range Doda	DFD-04
22	Kishtwar Division	Kishtwar	Kishtwar	Divisional Complex Kishtwar	KFD-01
23		Nagseni	Chirool-I	Padayarna	KFD-02
24		Padder	Garh	Forest Rest House Garh	KFD-03
25	P.O. NHIA Batote	Batote-Udh. Sec.	Batote Sector	Batote	NHIA-01
26		Batote-Udh. Sec.	Udhampur Sector	Udhampur Samroli	NHIA-01
27		Ramban Banihal Sector	Ramban Sector	Ramban	
28			Banihal Sector	Banihal	

4. LIST OF FOREST FIRE CONTROL ROOMS SRINAGAR CIRCLE.

S. No	Division	Name of Forest Fire Control Rooms	Location	ID
01	Bandipora	Ajas	Range Office building Ajas, Dadvan	BPR011
02		Ningli	Range Office Building Ningli, Sopore	BPR012
03		Guraz	Range office GurazDawar	BPR013
04		Khuihama	Range Office KhihamaNowpora	BPR014
05	Pir Panjal	Budgam	ACFs Building Ompora	PPD111
06		Sukhnag	Old Range Office Building Arizal	PPD112
07		Doodganga	B.Os Hut MonuChararisharief	PPD113
08		Raithan	Check Post Raithan	PPD114
09	Sindh	Manasbal& Sindh	Kijipara	SND211

		Range		
10		Fire Control Room, Sindh Range	Range Office Buildin at Kangan	SND212
11		Fire Control Room Manasbal Range	BOs Hut at Kachnambal	SND213
12		Fire Control Room, Sindh Range	Check Post Gagangeer	SND114
13	Special Forest	Fire control Room, Gulmarg Range	Range Office Gulmarg	SDT311
14	Division Tangmarg	Fire control Rooms, SPSP Range	Range Office SPSP Range Beewah	SDT312
15	Urban Forestry	Fire Control Room, S Park	FEMC, Shankeraracharya	UFS411
16	Division Srinagar	Fire Control Room, S Park	Co. 12 Gupkar	UFS412
17		Fire Control Room Cheshmashahi	Cheshmashahi	UFS413

5. LIST OF FOREST FIRE CONTROL ROOMS NORTH CIRCLE.

S. No	Division	Control Room	ID Number
01	Kamraj	Central Forest Fire Control Room, Zangli	1/Kmj
02		Central Forest Fire Control Room, Kandi, Sopore	2/Kmj
03		Central Forest Fire Control Room, Sogam, Lalab	3/Kmj
04		Central Forest Fire Control Room, Matchil	4/Kmj
05	Kehmil	Divisional Fire Control Room	001/Keh
06		Range Control Room, Trehgam	002/Keh
07		Range control	
08		Range Control Room Ramhal	003/Keh
09		Range Control Room Keran	004/Keh
10	Langate	Divisional Fire Control Room	1/Lgt
11		Rajwar Fire Control Room	2/Lgt
12		Magam Fire Control Room	3/Lgt
13		Rafiabad Fire Control Room	4/Lgt
14	JV Baramulla	Divisional Forest Fire Control Room	01/JV
15		Baramulla Forest Fire Control Room	02/JV
16		Doabgah Forest Fire Control Room	03/JV
17		Boniyar Forest Fire Control Room	04/04
18		Boniyar Forest Fire Control Room	05/JV

6. LIST OF FOREST FIRE CONTROL ROOMS SOUTH CIRCLE.

No	Division	Name of Forest Fire Control Rooms	Location	ID
01	Lidder	Bijbehara	Forest Complex Bijbehara	LID/01
02		Mattan	Range Office Mattan	LID/02
03		Pahalgam	BatakootPahalgam	LID/03
04	Kulgam	Forest Control Room Kulgam	Kulgam	KUL/01
05		Fire Control Room Kulgam	Kulgam	KUL/02

06		Fire Control Room DH Pora	DH Pora	KUL/03
07		Fire Control Room Veshew	Nehama	KUL/04
08	Shopian	Domail	Chowgam House	Circuit SPN/01
09		Sedow	Sedow	SPN/02
10		Gulanteng	Keller	SPN/03
11		Sangerwani	Sangerwani	SPN/04
12	Awantipora	Divisional Office Fire Control Room-	Awantipora	AWP/01
13		Range Fire Control Room	Tral Bajwani	AWP/02
14		Fire Control Room Pampore	Pampore	AWP/03
15	Anantnag	Forest Control Room Anantnag	Control Room Buildings Harnag	ANG/01
16		Forest Control Room Harnag	Bos Hut Surteng	ANG/02
17		Fire Control Room Kuther	Methmo Guard Hut	ANG/03
18		Fire Control Room Kokernag	Kandiwara Guard Hut	ANG/04
19		Fire Control Room Daksum	Herbal Garden Hut	ANG/05
20		Fire Control Room Verinag	Chowgund Guard Hut	ANG/06



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF



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The Assistant Inspector General of Forests,
Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change
Forest Protection Division (FPD)
Agni Wing, 5th Floor,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi - 110003

No. PCCF/Plg/7690861/365-67

Dated: 07-05-2025

Sub: Submission of Annual Plan of Operation (APO) under CSS: Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme (FFPM) for the year 2025-26.

Sir,

Apropos the subject, I am directed to enclose the Annual Plan of Operation (APO) under CSS: Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme (FFPM) for the year 2025-26, for an amount of Rs. 350.00 lakh annexed as Annexure "A" in respect of Forest Department (T), Jammu & Kashmir for approval and early release of funds.

Yours faithfully

Shama-Un Ahmed
Joint Director, Planning
O/o PCCF & HoFF, J&K

Copy for information to the:

1. Pvt. Secy. To Comm/Secy. to Govt. Forest Ecology & Environment Dept. Civil Sect. J&K for information of Comm/Secy. to Govt.
2. Sr. Pvt. Secy. To Pr. CCF & HoFF, J&K for information of PCCF & HoFF, Forest Dept. J&K.

**Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FFPM)
APO for the year 2025-26 for Jammu and Kashmir**

The forest area of UT of Jammu and Kashmir is 20194 sq km which is around 48% of its geographical area excluding the area beyond LoC. The forest and tree cover of UT of Jammu and Kashmir is around 55% which is substantially higher than the national average of 24.56%. The National Forest Policy envisages for mountainous State / UTs to have 2/3rd of geographical area under forest and tree cover to ensure stability of fragile eco-system.

Jammu & Kashmir is bestowed with forests of different types ranging from sub-tropical to moist temperate and alpine ones. Kashmir valley grows best natural conifer forests of the world. This form pure or mixed crops with dominating species of *Cedrus deodara* (Deodar), *Pinus wallichiana* (Kail) and *Abies pindrow* (Fir) *Picea smithiana* (Spruce). All these conifers show marked stratification along altitudinal variations with Deodar and Kail mostly restricting them to range from 1600 m to 2500 m altitudes and Fir growing between 2300 m to 3300 m altitudes.

As per the Champion & Seth Classification of Forest Types (1968), the forest in UT of Jammu & Kashmir and UT belong to eight Type Groups which are further divided into 42 Forest Types, the highest in the country. Out of 42 types, Lower and Upper Himalyan Chir Pine forests and Tropical dry deciduous forests constitutes around 24.61% of total forest cover of J&K which is highly vulnerable to forest fires. Due to presence of broadleaved forests and chir pine forests, Jammu region is predisposed to frequent forest fires. Higher reaches of Jammu region are temperate and support coniferous forests, which is less prone to forest fires. Kashmir region lying between Pir Panjal and Zojila range by and large is less prone to forest fires. However, during dry winter season, temperate areas of Jammu like Batote, Doda, Kishtwar, Marwah and certain pockets of

Kashmir region such as Lidder, Bandipora, Shopian and Kehmil record localized high intensity fire incidents. 38

Every year forest fires occur in different divisions of the union territory. However, they occur more frequently and affect forests more in Jammu region of the union territory. Forest fire outbreaks in Forest and Non-forest areas in J&K have been a cyclic and regular affair. Forest fires are more common in chir-pine sub-tropical forests of Jammu & Kashmir region whereas their intensity and frequency in Kashmir region is low. As per Forest Survey of India's ISFR-2021, less than 4 % of the forest area of UT of J&K is fire prone, which puts us invariably in good position.

Fire Vulnerability Mapping has been done for each division of the UT to provide a scientific basis for identifying areas of priority for management interventions, allocating resources to priority areas and monitoring the effectiveness of measures to reduce or control fire risk. Fire vulnerability maps have been prepared based on Forest Survey of India's historical fire occurrence reports and other risk factors such as fuel, topography etc.

There are 33 Territorial Forest Divisions in J&K. These forest divisions are organized in 95 territorial ranges. The forest fire protection activities are executed primarily at the forest range level. The department establishes control rooms at Forest Division level and also at range level. There are about 267 control rooms established so far in J&K. These control rooms also act as the base for the forest fire control teams at range level.

Delving deeper into the trends in Jammu and Kashmir, statistics reveal a rise in fire incidents. In 2020-21, there were 509 recorded incidents, which decreased to 482 in 2021-22 but surged again to 1253 incidents by 2022-23.

Forest fire trends over the years:

Forest Fire Jammu (Name of the Division)	Forest Fire Vulnerability (Division)
Nowshera, Jammu, Reasi	High
Kathua, Udhampur, Samba, Bandipora, JV	Moderate
Basholi, Ramban, Doda, Anantnag, Sindh, Kamraj, Urban Srinagar, Lidder, Awanitpora, Shopian, Lanage, Tangmarg, Kalgam, Pir Panjal.	Low

Categoryization of Forest Divisions on Forest Fire Vulnerability:



	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
No of fire incidences as per PSI	844	666	1001	4752	136	4140	1430
No of fire incidences as per field reports	478	317	509	482	1253	607	1016

Activities proposed to be undertaken for the control of forest fire in J&K during 2025-26:

FFPM process includes prevention, detection, suppression and post fire management. The prevention is the beginning and most critical stage of the process. After a fire is extinguished, post-fire management should aim to devise and improve future prevention activities. Considering all these, the APO for 2025-26 includes the following:

a. **Equipments:** Fire suppression operations should be carefully planned keeping in view the extent and degree of the flame. Up to 1 meter flame, basic fire-fighting tools shall be used such as fire rakes, beaters and local tools like sickles. For flame between 2 to 3 meters height, counter fires are resorted to subject to condition of winds. Tools like shovels are used to put soil on fire fronts and spraying of water through back pack sprayers and water jets. For flames having height more than 3 meters, all precautions like wearing visor, mask and safety suit shall be ensured.

For effective forest fire control in the field, the equipments are required to be appropriately chosen and customised as per the field requirement. This would include tools and gears and other equipments. Every forest fire control room shall be adequately equipped with these kits to respond to the control of forest fire in their respective jurisdiction. The Department endeavours to build on the existing Equipment and other logistics is a major constraint though some beginning has already been made, in almost all territorial divisions, field staff does not have proper and adequate transport facility to reach the affected areas within shortest possible time. Field staff does not have firefighting equipment's and safety kit viz

fire-resistant dresses, head gears, and other accessories to deal with the situation effectively and professionally.

b. Controlled burning: Controlled burning is one of the major preventive activities taken up by the Forest Department. Areas are prioritized for control burning based on fire vulnerability maps of the division. This includes monitoring of the performance of control burning at the Range and Divisional level. Fire lines function as fire breaks, helps in prevention of spread of forest fires. Mapping and digitizing of the location of existing fire lines and other infrastructure such as roads, bridle paths, small streams that may function as fire breaks are underway. Fire lines may be created along the ridge to prevent the fire to escape from one side of ridge to other side. This will also include engaging fire watchers during the fire season.

c. Control rooms and fire suppression operations: A Rapid Response Team shall be set up at vulnerable divisions. RT shall be equipped with logistics and transport facility. It will function as master control room at Division level and will help in monitoring of fire-fighting operations. This would include deployment of seasonal fire watchers in fire prone areas, mobilization of trained manpower from other agencies such as Police, District Fire Services, Army, District Disaster response force etc.

d. Hiring of vehicle during exigencies: Response time in firefighting operation indicates that the time elapses from fire detection to fire suppression activity and it invariably decides the outcome of scale of fire and spread. The endeavour is to reduce the response time to less than 60 minutes. Less the response time, fire suppression and additional deployment would be more fruitful in the field.

Once a fire is detected, the major challenge is prompt response especially in deploying adequate man power for suppression activities. Deploying of the fire control teams at the site of incidence require field vehicles. There is shortage of vehicles at range level and hiring of vehicles during the fire season is sine quo

non for effective forest fire control in J&K. This will ensure timely movement of firefighting personnel to the fire spots at the earliest.

e. **Training and awareness:** Training of field staff and conducting of mock drills before the onset of fire season is essential to keep the man power equipped to face the challenges in the field. These exercises also provide inputs on the need for the customization of the tools to be used for forest fire control activities. Training shall be provided to field officers, seasonal, firewatchers, community volunteers involved in firefighting in understanding basic principles of forest fire management. The activities proposed shall also include:

- a) A modern and standardized training curriculum shall be developed and imparted to forest frontline staff.
- b) Mock drills shall be organized before fire season at various fire prone areas involving all stakeholders.
- c) Awareness of NGOs & Panchayats as well as other Forest Committees.

Steps to prevent and control forest fires in the summer season:

- a) 246 Forest Fire Control rooms were activated on 24*7 basis across the UT of J&K, with adequate facilities for food, logistics, torch, lanterns, staff mobility and fire-proof dresses.
- b) Ensuring close co-ordination among sister departments recognizing that forest fire control is a shared responsibility. The DFO/ Nodal Officer formulated a strategy to pool adequate staff and resources.
- c) Ensuring adequate publicity in both print and electronic media to create awareness amongst general public about forest fires.
- d) The local community / NGOs / VFCs are encouraged for prevention and control of forest fires. In this regard, a comprehensive list of locals/ households residing around forest was prepared for each vulnerable area. They assisted the Dept. in extinguishing forest fires.

Joint Director, Planning,
O/o PCCF & HOFF, J&K

Financial Outlay for 2025-26: The funds amounting to Rs. 350.00 lakh has been proposed for the year 2025-26 for both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Forest Fire Prevention and management (FFPM)" (Annexure A). The plan will be flexible with regard to location depending upon the vulnerability of forests from fire however priority will be given to those areas which experience recurrence of fire frequently and have history of previous fires.

staff, NGOs and VFCs.

- i) Training and capacity building on firefighting methods for frontline vulnerable areas and to engage them in dousing operations.
- j) Engagement of fire-watchers in each division to effectively patrol the inaccessible forest areas to pave way to reach the site of forest fire.
- k) Construction of Inspection Paths in the plantation units as well as in already existing permanent fire-lines.
- l) one side of ridge to other side. This also includes the maintenance of along the ridge, whenever possible, to prevent the fire to escape from prevention of spread of forest fires. Fire lines have also been created
- m) Construction of permanent fire-lines which act as fire breaks, helps in staff for fire control operations.
- n) Fire-fighting equipments are procured and provided to the front-line programmes for the months fire season.
- o) panel discussions and catchy jingles on radio and other outreach
- p) To create awareness amongst both rural and urban population through that the protected areas are also kept fire-incidence free.
- q) To ensure smooth functioning of Joint Control Rooms was ensured so hand information on any forest fire occurrence.
- r) To publicize the toll-free numbers of the department to receive first-

Forest Fire Prevention and Management (FPM) Programme under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the year 2025-26 .

Rs in lakh

Jammu & Kashmir regions

S. No	Items	Unit	Unit cost (in Rupees)	No of Units	Total cost	Location (Division, Range & Bea
1	Procurement of Fire Fighting Equipments	LS	1.00	150.33	150.33	33 number of Forest Divisions (T)
2	Controlled Burning, Fire-line Creation and Maintenance	KM	0.29	205.13	60.00	31 number of Forest Divisions (T)
3	Creation of infrastructure (Communication System, Development of Management information System, Watch towers, Forest Roads, water storage structures, control rooms at Divisional / range level, FG Barraks and inspection huts etc)	Nos	0.30	183.00	54.90	29 number of Forest Divisions (T)
4	Procurement of Vehicles for transportation of Resources	LS	0.20	104.30	20.86	14 number of Forest Divisions (T)
5	Awareness Campaign	Nos	0.20	74.80	14.96	15 number of Forest Divisions (T)
6	Training and capacity building on fire fighting methods for frontline staff, NGOs and villages communities				14.00	33 number of Forest Divisions (T)
					315.05	
7	Contingency fund with the Head of the Forest Department of each state/UT or the designated officer for an emergency situation. 5% of the sanctioned amount shall be earmarked for this purpose. Guidelines for utilization of this fund is given at Annexure-I	LS	0.00		17.47	33 number of Forest Divisions (T)
8	Monitoring and Review (Guidelines at Annexure-II) 2% of the sanctioned amount shall be kept for this purpose.	LS	0.00		6.99	33 number of Forest Divisions (T)
9	Short Term Research/ Survey on Forest Fire related issues (Guidelines at Annexure-III) 3% of sanctioned amount shall be earmarked for this purpose	LS	0.00		10.48	33 number of Forest Divisions (T)
	Total (Misc)				34.95	
	Grand Total of APO =				350.00	

Shama-un Ahmed

Joint Director, Planning

O/o PCCF & HoFF, J&K.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, JAMMU

(Forest Complex, Exchange Road, Dogra Hall) Ph. 0191 - 2547748, 2545400 Fax: 2562929, gmail:ccfjammu1@gmail.com

The Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force), J&K,
Jammu.

No: CCFJ/Plg/23-24/77/187-211

Dated: 24.01.2025.

Sub: Submission of Perspective Plan for Forest-fire Prevention, Mitigation & Control' for Jammu region.

Ref: CCFJ/Plg/22-23/77/1092-95 dated 06.06.2024.

Sir,

It is being brought to your kind notice that a Perspective Plan for 'Forest-fire Prevention, Mitigation & Control' for Jammu region has been submitted by this office vide above referred communication, with proposed outlay of Rs 1724.99 lacs, comprising Rs 1436.24 lacs as Non-recurring (one time) and Rs 288.75 lacs a Recurring activities.

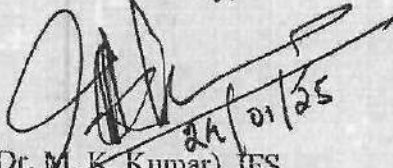
The fund position under CAMPA, CAPEX and CSS FPM during current year up to December, 2024 is given as under: -

S. No	Plan	Outlay	Release	Exp	Exp %
1)	CAMPA	353.98	187.58	159.09	84%
2)	CAPEX	5.67	0.67	0.67	100%
3)	CSS FPM	20.35	20.35	20.15	99%
	Total	380.00	208.60	179.91	86%

In this regard, it is submitted that since forest-fire season is fast approaching and the funds released under CAMPA, CAPEX & CSS FPM have almost been utilised. Accordingly, it is requested to kindly take-up the matter with competent authority for release of at least 20% of the funds required, enabling the DFOs to prepare in advance, for combating the anticipated forest-fire incidents. Meanwhile DFOs have been advised to make adequate provisioning within given ceiling under APO CAMPA 2025-26 for Forest-fire control operations, where under only limited ceiling is made available. A copy of the perspective plan submitted vide above referred communication is enclosed for ready reference please.

Encl: Perspective Plan

Yours faithfully,


(Dr. M. K. Kumar), IFS
Chief Conservator of Forests
Jammu

Copy to: -

1. All Conservators of Forests, Jammu province.
2. All DFOs Jammu province.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, JAMMU

(Forest Complex, Exchange Road, Dogra Hall) Ph. 0191 - 2547748, 2545400 Fax: 2562029, gmail:ccfjammu1@gmail.com

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The Pr Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force),
J&K, Jammu.

No: CCFJ/Plg/22-23/77/ 1092-95

Dt: 06.06.2024.

Sub: Submission of Perspective Plan for 'Forest-fire Prevention, Mitigation & Control' for Jammu region.

Sir,


As desired during the meeting held on 05.06.2024 under the chairmanship of worthy Additional Chief Secretary, Forest Department, kindly find enclosed the perspective plan for 'Forest-fire Prevention, Mitigation & Control' for Jammu region for favour of further necessary action please.

The plan has been formulated for 'Non-recurring' activities' like Fireline creation, procurement of vehicles and fire-fighting equipments to the tune of Rs 1436.24 lacs and 'Recurring' activities' like Engagement of fire-watchers, Maintenance of Firelines, to the tune of Rs 288.75 lacs. The abstract of the perspective plan is as under: -

S. No	Type of activity	East	West	Chenab	Total
1	Non-Recurring (one time)	612.00	414.97	409.28	1436.24
2	Recurring activities	140.74	71.13	76.88	288.75
	Total	752.74	486.10	486.16	1724.99

Encl: Perspective Plan.

Yours faithfully,


(M. K. Kumar), IFS
Chief Conservator of Forests
Jammu.

Copy to: -

- 1) All CFs, Jammu region for information.

Abstract of Perspective Plan for Forest Fire Control and Mitigation in Jammu region

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S. No.	Items of Works	Units	East Circle		West Circle		Chenab Circle		Total	
			Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin
A) Non-recurring Activities										
1	Creation of Fire line	29250	1600	468.00	1111	324.97	1030	301.28	3741	1094.24
2	Procurement of Vehicle (Water Tanker / Campor) for transportation of resources	Nos	8	120.00	5	75.00	6	90.00	19	285.00
3	Procurement of Fire fighting equipments (including fire rack & air blower)	LS	LS	24.00	LS	15.00	LS	18.00	LS	57.00
Total (A)				612.00		414.97		409.28		1436.24
B) Recurring Activities										
1	Maintenance of Fire Lines (1/3rd of total Firelines to be maintained every year)	14625	480	22.84	334	0.00	309	0.00	1123	22.84
2	Engagement of Fire Watchers	Mandays	18300	60.39	11000	36.30	10000	33.00	39300	129.69
3	Procurement of Field Gear		0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
a	Backpack	1000	200	2.00	125	1.25	150	1.50	475	4.75
b	Water Bottles (for individual)	500	200	1.00	125	0.63	150	0.75	475	2.38
c	Torch (01 per team)	300	200	0.60	125	0.38	150	0.45	475	1.43
d	Trekking Jungle Shoes	2500	200	5.00	125	3.13	150	3.75	475	11.88
e	Field Ration for Fire Fighting Teams (including first aid kit)	200000	0	16.00	0	10.00	0	12.00	0	38.00
Total (3)			0	24.60		15.375		18.45		58.425
4	Recurring Exp on Joint Forest Control Rooms	LS	0	16.00	0	10.00	0	12.00	0	38.00
5	Hiring of vehicles	90 days @ Rs 1650 per day	0	8.91	0	4.46	0	7.43	0	20.79
6	Unforeseen / Misc Exp including Vehicle Maintenance & other incidental activities		0	8.00	0	5.00	0	6.00	0	19.00
Total (B)				140.74		71.13		76.88	0	288.75
Grand Total A + B				752.74		486.10		486.15		1724.99

S. No.	Items of Works	Units	A) Non-recurring Activities						B) Recurring Activities								
			Batote		Ramban		Bhadrawah		Doda		Kishwar		Marwah		Chenab Circle		
		Phy		Fin		Phy		Fin		Phy		Fin		Phy		Fin	
1	Creation of Fire line		100	29.25	158	75.47	92	26.91	180	52.65	250	73.13	150	43.88			
2	Procurement of Vehicle (Water Tanker/ Campor) for transportation of resources	Nos	1	15.00	1	15.00	1	15.00	1	15.00	1	15.00	1	15.00			
3	Procurement of Fire fighting equipments (including fire rack & air blower)	LS	3	LS	3	LS	3	LS	3	LS	3	LS	3	LS			
Total (A)				47.25		93.47		44.91		70.65		91.13		61.88			1436.24
1	Maintenance of Fire Lines (1/3rd of total Firelines to be maintained every year)	14625	30.03	0.00	77.48	0.00	27.63	0.00	54.05	0.00	75.08	0.00	45.05	0.00		1123.42	22.84
2	Engagement of Fire Watchers	Mandays	2000	6.6	2000	6.6	1500	4.95	1500	4.95	1500	4.95	1500	4.95			129.69
3	Procurement of Field Gear																
a	Backpack	1000	25	0.25	25	0.25	25	0.25	25	0.25	25	0.25	25	0.25		175	4.75
b	Water Bottles (for individual)	500	25	0.125	25	0.125	25	0.125	25	0.125	25	0.125	25	0.125		175	2.38
c	Trench (01 per team)	300	25	0.075	25	0.075	25	0.075	25	0.075	25	0.075	25	0.075		175	1.43
d	Trekking Jungle Shoes	2500	25	0.625	25	0.625	25	0.625	25	0.625	25	0.625	25	0.625		175	11.88
e	Field Ration for Fire Fighting Teams (including first aid kit)	200000	2		2		2		2		2		2				38.00
Total (3)				3.075		3.075		3.075		3.075		3.075		3.075			58.43
4	Recurring Exp on Joint Forest Control Rooms	LS		2.00		2.00		2.00		2.00		2.00		2.00			38.00
5	Hiring of vehicles 90 days @ Rs 1650 per day			1.49		1.49		1.49		1.49		1.49		1.49			20.79
6	Unforeseen / Misc Exp including Vehicle Maintenance & other incidental activities			1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00			19.00
Total (B)				14.16		14.16		12.51		12.51		12.51		11.03			288.75
Grand Total (Non-recurr + Recurr)				61.41		107.63		57.42		83.16		103.64		72.90			1724.99

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Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests
Jammu and Kashmir

The Chief Conservator of Forests,
 Jammu.

The Chief Conservator of Forests,
 Kashmir.

No: PCCF/Coord/F.No. 5266/74-81

Dated: 16-01-2026

Subject: Implementation of Standard Operation Procedure (SoP) in UT of Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department - reg.

Sir,

Apropos to the subject cited above, kindly find enclosed approved copy of Standard Operation Procedure (SoP) to be implemented henceforth in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department for forest fire prevention and management.

Encl: 18 leaves

Yours faithfully

(Dr. Kumar M. K) IFS

Chief Conservator of Forests
 Working Plan, Research & Trainings,
 J&K, Jammu.

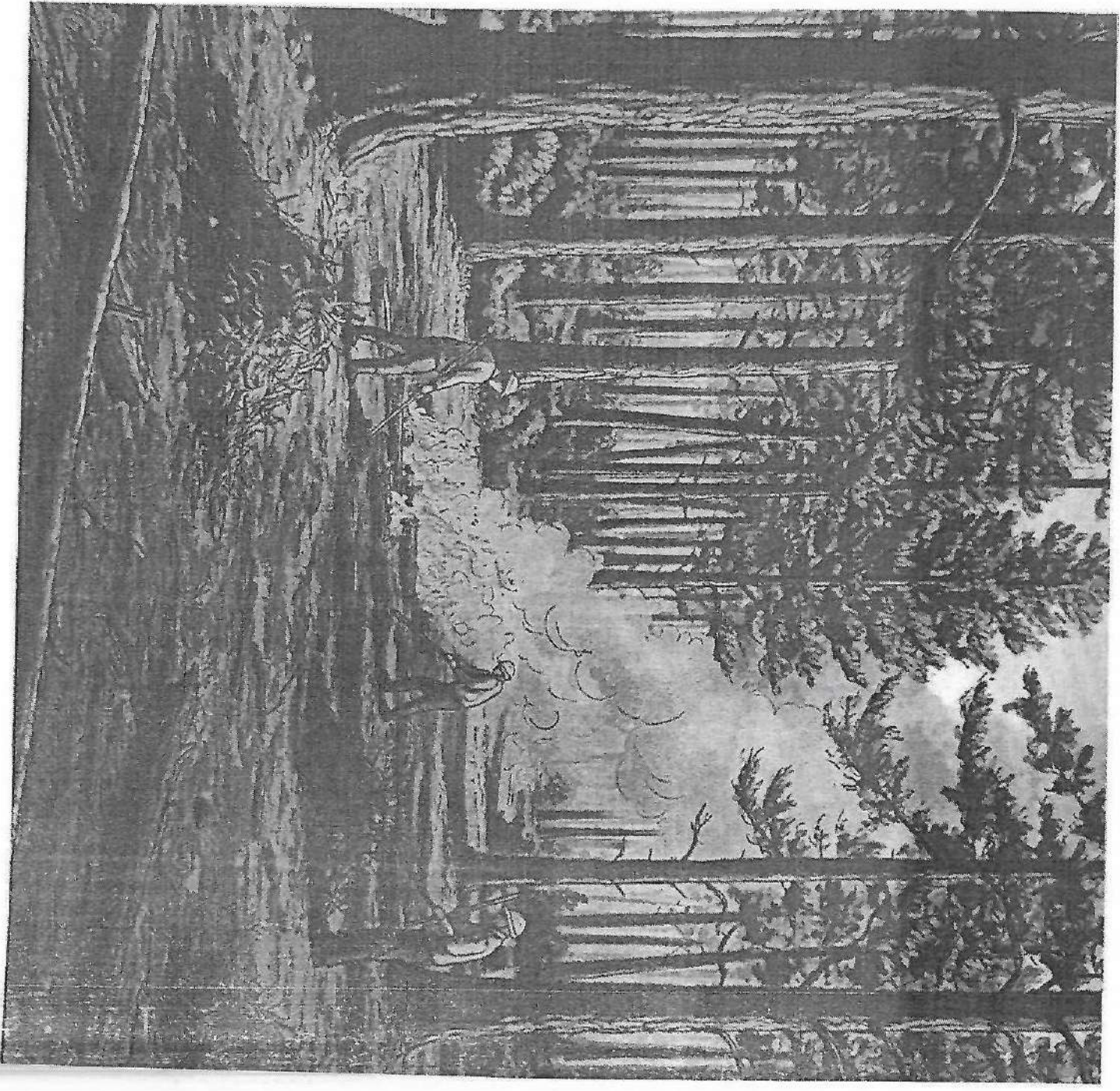
Copy for information and similar necessary action to the:-

1. All Conservator of Forests, UT of J&K (Forest Territorial).

FOREST FIRES

52

SOPs for Forest Officials



634

DF-A

PH
[Signature]
15/10/12

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J&K Forest Department
Discussed & approved

CCF Control 16/11/2012

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Executive Summary

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlines the approach of the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department in managing forest fires. Key elements include:

- Categorization of fire scenarios from low-risk farm fires to high-risk crown fires
- Preventive measures like creating firebreaks and conducting controlled burns
- Preparedness through establishing Fire Response Units and equipping firefighting teams
- Response protocols for different fire types, including when to allow fires to burn naturally
- Post-fire assessment and recovery planning
- Community engagement and awareness programs
- Use of technology in fire detection and monitoring
- Integration of traditional knowledge and climate change considerations

SOP aims to reduce fire frequency and severity while balancing ecological needs, optimal use of resources and maximising public safety. It provides guidelines on fire prevention, monitoring, suppression tactics, and interagency coordination. The document emphasizes adaptability to local conditions and straightforward implementation to protect Jammu and Kashmir's forest resources and biodiversity.

Ultimately, this document aims to equip forest personnel and stakeholders with the tools needed to effectively manage fires while balancing ecological needs and public safety, thereby protecting Jammu and Kashmir's forest resources for the future.

Introduction

Jammu and Kashmir forests are essential to the region's ecosystem integrity, cultural identity and local economies, providing vital services such as timber, fuel and animal feed. However, wildfires threaten humans, plants and wildlife significantly; leading to severe ecological and socioeconomic consequences. The increasing frequency of fire incidents can be linked to changing climate patterns, rising temperatures, and human activity.

Factors such as carelessly discarded incendiary materials, buildup of dried vegetation, grazing, and seasonal movement of nomadic groups contribute to this heightened risk. It is crucial to identify areas with high and moderate fire risks across forest divisions, such as Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Reasi, Nowshera, Udhampur, Rajouri etc.

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) provides guidelines for the prevention, monitoring, and management of forest fires. While uncontrolled fires can be destructive, some play an important ecological role, particularly in conifer regeneration. The SOP outlines a scenario-specific approach to categorize and respond to various fire types, detailing preparedness measures, response protocols, and post-fire assessments. The key elements include establishing firebreaks, raising community awareness, implementing early detection systems, and coordinating with other agencies.

Aim

The Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department aims to reduce the frequency and severity of wildfires while safeguarding forests, ecological diversity, and human interests.

This comprehensive strategy encompasses various elements, including preventive measures, readiness planning, active fire control, and recovery initiatives following fire incidents.

Objectives

- **Reducing fire incidents:** Implement strategies to decrease the number of forest fires through awareness, community involvement, and addressing socioeconomic factors.
- **Protecting Ecosystems:** Prevent damage to forest fauna, flora, soil, and overall ecological balance.
- **Managing vulnerability:** Reduces Forest vulnerability to fire hazards across diverse ecosystems. This involves identifying high-risk areas and implementing measures to mitigate fire risk.
- **Enhancing Capabilities:** Improve the ability of forestry personnel, local communities, and institutions to deal with forest fires. This includes training, providing equipment, and fostering coordination between various agencies.
- **Ensuring Safety:** Prioritize the safety of people, firefighters, and fire managers during fire events.
- **Promoting Resilience:** Increase the resilience of forests to fires through moisture conservation, biomass management, assisted natural regeneration and weed control.
- **Enabling recovery:** speeding up recovery after a fire event through proper restoration plans and investigation of fire causes.

Additional considerations for effective forest fire management:

- **Integrating traditional knowledge:** Incorporating local communities' knowledge and practices in fire prevention and control.
- **Utilizing technology:** Geoinformatics, satellite data, and GPS to map, monitor, and manage forest fires.
- **Addressing Climate Change:** Acknowledge and address the role of changing climatic conditions in increasing fire vulnerability and adjusting management strategies accordingly.
- **Complying with Policies:** Adhere to national and local forest policies and action plans, such as the National Forest Policy, 1988, National Action Plan on Forest Fires, and J&K Forest Policy, 2011.

Major causes of forest fires

The major causes of forest fires include the following.

- Very high fuel load due to low rate of pine needle decomposition
- Agricultural residual burning during the fire season
- Burning of the forest floor for regeneration of palatable grass
- Disposal of lit cigarette butts by the people
- Picnic/party activities by the people
- Sparking from the running vehicle
- Burning herbs/shrubs around houses to protect against wild animals
- Electric lines passing through the forests

Fire scenarios

Forest fire management depends on the crucial distinction between blazes that can be left to burn and those requiring immediate action. Effective wildfire control depends on recognizing which fires require intervention and which can be allowed to run their course. Fires are classified into IV different categories. Categorization was based on the ecological severity and management needs of forest and farm fires.

SOPs for managing various categories of forest fires

Category I: Farm Fire (least concern but a major source of forest fire if not managed).

- These are typically caused by agricultural activities.
- Most fire incidents belong to this category.
- Does not pose a significant threat to forested areas.
- Preventive measures focus on spreading awareness and creating fire lines in fringe forest areas to prevent their spread into the forests.
- Local farmers should be advised on controlled burning practices.
- Stubble burning is a prohibited activity
- Fire control action pertains to district administration through revenue officials

Category II: Fire Adjoining Settlements, Habitations and Highways

- Fires near human habitations, roads, or highways.
- After farm fire, major fires fall into this category.
- Immediate coordination with local administration for containment.
- Fire Response Units to assist in the event of fire spreading to forest areas.
- Awareness campaigns to educate communities on fire risks.

Category III: Fire in Higher Reaches

- Often noticed in the high-altitude rangelands as annual/ biannual phenomenon, hence integral to grassland nutrient recycling and weed control.
- Appears visually significant but beneficial for the natural regeneration of grasses/herbs and conifers, such as fir and spruce, whenever the incident is followed by good snowfall and coincides with good seed-year/canopy opening.
- Awareness should be raised among local authorities and district administration to make them aware of the role of fires in maintaining ecosystem integrity and in preventing panic.
- Monitoring to ensure that it does not spread beyond the grassland limits.
- It gets extinguished once the grassland patch is burnt, and no active firefighting is required unless it spreads abnormally.
- Annual fire line through control burning on transition zones before the start of fire season is desirable to prevent any unwanted spread.

Category IV a: Forest fires (Ground/Surface Fire)

- Defined as a ground fire when the crown fraction burned is less than 10%.
- It poses a relatively less significant threat to forest ecosystems.
- Has significant negative impact for wildlife, particularly ground breeding birds, frogs/toads, reptiles and insects.
- Clearing forest floors before the fire season and maintaining proper fire lines can be very helpful in managing these fires.
- Long-term management plan focusing on improving the moisture and water regimes.
- Changing the LULC pattern preferably towards native evergreen fire-hardy trees and bushes is desirable.

Category IV b: Forest fires (Crown Fire)

- This poses a significant threat to the forest ecosystems.
- Requires immediate and coordinated action.
- If escalating, it must be treated as a disaster and involve higher authorities.
- Long-term management plan focusing on improving the moisture and water regimes.
- Changing the LULC pattern preferably towards native evergreen fire-hardy trees and bushes as fire breaks is recommended.
- Thinning out trees, particularly the smaller "ladder fuels," increases the distance between the tree crowns, making it more difficult for fires to spread. By trimming the lower

branches of trees, as part of tending and pruning operations, the canopy base is elevated, which decreases the likelihood of surface fires reaching tree crowns.

Fire Reporting:

- Fire alerts are received through the FSI's fire alert system on registered mobile numbers across field functionaries from the CCF to the Forest Guard. In addition, fire alerts are received through social media and other district-level sources.

Dissemination of fire alert

- The communication process begins with the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO). The initial instructions must be relayed from the DFO to the Block Officer within 15 minutes. In this process, the DFO acts as the initiator and the Block Officer serves as the responder.

Fire closure

- The closure report of all incidents of forest fires that are doused off/controlled within a time span of 8-10 hours must be submitted by the Range Officer concerned (Cat III & IV) as per annexures III and IV, respectively.
- In case of fire incidents where the control operations lasted for more than 10 hours, the concerned DFO will be responsible for closing the communication with a written report based on the Flash report submitted by the concerned Range officer (Cat III & IV).
- Other forest officials, such as Range Officers, Beat Guards, and office staff, should be involved at appropriate levels for effective management and reporting on fire closures within twenty-four hours (Cat I & II).
- Formats for reporting forest fires Categories I to IV are enclosed in Annexures II and III, respectively.

Fire Preparedness

a. Firebreaks / Fire Lines

- Devise a perspective plan for forest fire management as per vulnerability assessment and hazard categorization (Categories I to IV).
- Ensuring adequate and timely fund availability.
- Establish and maintain fire lines to act as barriers. These fire lines can also help move personnel and equipment in the event of a fire incident.
- Conduct pre-emptive controlled burning before the onset of fire season, preferably January-February in sub-tropical areas and October-November in temperate areas, to eliminate excess dry biomass, particularly in fire hazard zones.
- Existing natural firebreaks, such as Nallas, ridges, bridal paths, roads, etc., should be targeted for higher impact.

- Controlled burning of vulnerable areas should be strictly enforced during the annual operation plan.
 - Establishment of green belts of fire-hardy species.
- b. Counter Fire Strategy (During fire control operations)
- Before undertaking a counter-fire strategy, several key aspects must be considered, including slope, moisture regime, amount and type of available biomass, wind direction, valley breeze reversal, and availability of manpower.
 - It must be consistently implemented by a dedicated team with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. Caution and feasibility must be assessed, including proper team strength, to avoid unintentional spread.
 - Strategic counterfires should be used in case of uncontrolled fire spread. It should be considered as a last resort when all other options are exhausted.
- c. Regular fire drills at Block level
- Range Officers shall organize a fire drill at every forest block during February and March in summer zone and September, October in Winter Zones of every year, in which forest concessionist, members of Panchayati Raj System, all staff of Forest range duly presided over by the CF/DFO.
 - There should be display of all fire equipment during mock drills.
- d. Control Burning in high risk zones
- Range Officer shall also do control burning in high-risk zones under his/her jurisdiction
- e. Communication with line departments
- The Range Officer shall formally submit a letter to the SDM, ADC or relevant Tehsildar requesting the timely issuance of a circular that outlines procedure, penalties and management protocols pertaining to forest fires.
- f. Supporting livelihood
- Supporting forest-based livelihoods by using local biomass and turning waste into valuable products, such as Chir Pine needle crafts, bio-briquettes, Doona Pattal, Agave rope and adding value to minor forest produce (MFP).

Composition of Fire Response Team

Each Block should have a **dedicated fire response team**, and each Range should have one **reserve/replenishment team**. **Team composition (12 members per Block):**

- 1 Block Officer
- 1 Beat Guard
- 2-3 DRWs/CAMPA Need-Based
- 6 Fire Watchers
- 2 Sanction Beneficiaries

The number of teams in a block may increase depending on the actual field requirements, based on fire vulnerability mapping done by forest department.

If the fire escalates, the Sarpauch team of 35 individuals should be mobilized immediately.

Fire Control Rooms should be rebranded as Fire Response Units (FRUs) and strategically located based on vulnerable hotspots. Each FRU should have dedicated space for storing firefighting equipment, which could be a Mali Hut, Guard Hut, or another designated structure.

If a fire spreads significantly or threatens nearby habitations, biodiversity, or infrastructure and it is anticipated that it cannot be controlled within one day, escalate it to senior officers, the District Commissioner (DC), and NDRF/SDRF and get it notified as a disaster.

Precautions to be taken during fire fighting

- Avoiding firefighting operations on steep and slippery slopes owing to the presence of chir needles and counter fire as an alternate option to be exercised.
- Avoid firefighting operations along border areas owing to the presence of live mortar shells and mines.
- During huge fires, the firefighting team must explore the option of natural or man-made fire breaks, such as ridges, nalla, or roads, before firefighting operations. Counterfires should be performed based on the direction of the wind.
- During intense fire scenarios, the team shall carry firefighting kits provided with all equipment, such as cooling vests, shoes, oral rehydration solution, helmets, and masks.
- The behaviour of fire based on local winds, topography, aspect, type of forest, etc. should be assessed before firefighting operations.
- The control of low-intensity fires depends on reaction time. Therefore, no precious time should be wasted for the deployment of firefighting teams. In addition, the location of fire control rooms should be assessed regularly to accommodate the changing fire scenarios and impacts of climate change.
- If a fire occurs during the daytime, it is critical to control the fire at the ridge because the valley breeze blows from the valley to the hill during the day, causing upslope movement of the forest fire. In the evening, mountain breezes start to blow from hill to valley, causing the downslope movement of forest fires. Therefore, it is important to control forest fires by creating fire lines at the ridge during daytime or counterfire taking advantage of existing natural fire breaks like roads, streams, and nallas during late evening or night time.

Firefighting Equipment for Each Fire Response Unit (FRU)

- QRT Vehicle at Control Room
- Fire beaters (4 to 5)
- Fire Rack (8)
- Daav/Khukhri with Bamboo handle (Modular/ can be fixed with nut bolt) (2)

- Spade/Ganti (1)
- Trekking shoes (preferably Brand-Solomon) (12)
- Walkie talkie (digital, Motorola/Kenwood) (2)
- Water backpack (12)
- Bag pack(12)
- GPS (1)
- Polycarbonate helmet (12)
- Handheld torch with at least 1000 lumens intensity and 500m throw (12)
- Handheld Flood Light (2)
- Cooling Towel/vest (12)
- Collapsible bucket (4)
- Head lamp at least 300 lumens (12)
- Dry Ration (Sattu, Channa, Gurr, chocolates), ORS
- First Aid Kit
- Firefighting dress having cooling, visibility, portability and fire-retardant functionality.

There is also a negative list of equipment which are of very little use as per the past field experience and any further expenditure on these must be strictly avoided (list of such equipment attached as annexure I)

Fire prevention

Forest fire prevention encompasses strategies and actions aimed at reducing the likelihood of a forest fire. Since most forest fires are man-made and linked to socioeconomic and livelihood issues of forest fringe communities, reducing forest fire incidents involves raising awareness and providing education.

Some key forest fire prevention measures are as follows:

- **Effective communication strategies for awareness generation:** Each Forest Division should develop a mass communication strategy with financial support for vigorous publicity and sensitization, targeting local communities, students, farmers, women's groups, and tourists. These include school campaigns, media campaigns, and information portals.
- **Community empowerment:** Empower local communities to participate in fire management through delegated authority, funds, and incentives for cooperation in fire prevention and control measures.
- **Capacity building of communities** Enhance the capacity of community organizations in preventing and controlling forest fires through regular training and providing firefighting equipment. Community members should be involved in mock drills prior to the fire season.
- **Moisture and water conservation:** Management actions should aim to retain moisture in

drier habitats to prevent escalating minor fires. A long-term plan to improve the water regime in forested areas can reduce fire vulnerability.

- **Forest floor biomass management:** Implement management interventions to minimize the accumulation of dry fuel material on the forest floor. Encourage the collection of fallen pine needles for use in briquettes, promote biomass-based off-grid power plants, and frame guidelines for the sustainable removal of dead firewood/bamboo.
- **Weed management:** Control invasive weeds such as Lantana, as they contribute to fire danger and threaten native biodiversity. Strategies should ensure that weeds do not regrow, and the weed removal plan should include the rehabilitation of treated areas with appropriate species and soil and moisture conservation measures.
- **Control Burning:** Prioritize areas for control burning as part of the fire risk zonation analysis. Develop Division specific guidelines for controlled burning of vulnerable areas.

These measures align with the **National Action Plan on Forest Fires (NAPFF)**, which aims to minimise forest fires by informing, enabling, and empowering communities located near forests. Preventing fires and enhancing forest resilience to fire hazards are key priorities for forest management.

Fire Resilience Plan

Fire-resilient species, such as *Mallotus*, *Adhatoda*, *Dodonaea*, *Syzygium*, *Agave* etc play a crucial role in controlling the spread of fire by acting as natural firebreaks. These plants are typically low in flammability owing to their moisture-retaining, thick, and waxy leaves, which resist ignition. Their dense foliage creates physical barriers that disrupt the continuity of flammable materials, thereby slowing the progression of fires.

Moreover, species such as *Agave* store water in their leaves, which helps to maintain a more humid microclimate, further reducing the chances of fire spreading. These plants also regenerate quickly after a fire, aiding landscape stabilization and reducing the risk of erosion. This significantly contributes to fire prevention and control. Therefore, planting of such fire-resistant species should be encouraged in fire-prone areas, around human settlements, and along national highways.

Adequate site-specific soil moisture conservation planning and implementation to alter the moisture regime and local microclimate and enhance fire resilience.

Preparation of a comprehensive digital inventory of assets available for the prevention and management of forest fires available with the department. This inventory will encompass resources from the forest department, other line departments disaster response forces, and military and paramilitary camps including details of local beneficiaries, volunteers and members of local bodies such as panchayats etc. Additionally, it will cover crucial infrastructure like roads and

telecommunication networks, along with natural resources such as water bodies and natural fire breaks, which could aid in preparing for and responding to forest fires.

Annual schedule of Activities

Schedule of activities for subtropical and temperate forest areas in Jammu and Kashmir to prevent and manage forest fires

General Principles Applicable to Both Sub-Tropical and Temperate Forest Areas

- Fire risk zoning and mapping should be carried out to pinpoint areas needing management intervention, at least every five years.
- Make forest fires management as an important part of the annual plan and working plans.
- Prepare long term management plan for forest fire management for all fire prone divisions with adequate provisioning for manpower and financial resources.
- The resilience of forests to fires can be increased through measures such as moisture and water conservation and forest floor biomass management.
- Ensure forest fire preparedness by maintaining forest road networks, filling vacancies in frontline forest staff in fire-prone areas and mobilizing and training manpower from other agencies and local communities.
- Develop a culture of emergent responses to fire alerts, utilizing all available resources to extinguish fires.
- Conduct post-fire management, including assessment of loss, proper investigation of causes, and restoration of affected areas.
- Ensure coordination with other agencies, such as disaster management authorities and district administrations.
- The Forest Department should frame an effective communication strategy for awareness generation among forest fringe communities regarding the benefits lost due to forest fires.
- The safety of people and firefighters should be the highest priority during a fire event.
- Districts should form units for forest fire management, planning, and implementation.
- The annual plan of operation for all forest divisions and circles should include approved fire prevention and management activities.
- Control burning may be necessary in some places to prevent the spread of fire, following circle-specific guidelines.

Specific Activities for Subtropical Forest Areas (Drawing on General Principles and Specific Mentions)

- **Focus on peak fire seasons:** Most fires in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the Jammu region (which is largely subtropical), are witnessed during early spring, mid-summer, and late autumn when forests have dry leaves and twigs. Advanced planning and enhanced preparedness are crucial during these periods.
- **Address anthropogenic pressures:** The subtropical Jammu region experiences common forest fires often linked to human activities, such as the removal of fuelwood, fodder, and grazing. Awareness campaigns should target these practices to promote safer alternatives.
- **Manage dry fuel accumulation:** subtropical forests are prone to fires due to dry vegetation. Implement measures for the collection of forest floor biomass, such as fallen pine needles for alternative uses, where feasible and with caution.
- **Heightened vigilance in vulnerable compartments:** Identify and focus resources on high and medium vulnerability compartments within subtropical forest divisions such as Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Nowshera and Udhampur. Increased patrol and monitoring in these areas during the fire season.
- **Community involvement:** Emphasizes the involvement of local communities in the prevention and control of forest fires. Incentivize them to work with the State Forest Department.

Specific Activities for Temperate Forest Areas (Drawing on General Principles and Specific Mentions).

- **Consider the role of nomadic communities:** The migration of nomadic communities can increase the probability of fires starting and spreading. Awareness programs should also target these communities during migration.
- **Address changing climatic conditions:** While historically less frequent in the Kashmir region (which has temperate forests extending into parts of Jammu province such as Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban and Poonch), rising temperatures are creating favorable conditions for more fires. Advanced planning should account for these changing vulnerabilities.
- **Focus on vulnerable compartments categorized as high and medium and low vulnerability compartments within temperate forest divisions such as Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Poonch, Anantnag, Budgam, Baramulla and Kupwara.** Implementation of targeted prevention and management strategies in these zones.
- **Moisture and water conservation:** Implementation of long-term plans for improving the water regime of forest areas based on the feasibility of reducing vulnerability to fires, especially considering the potential impacts of changing precipitation patterns.

It is important to note that this is the general framework for forest fire prevention and management in Jammu and Kashmir. The specific implementation details and prioritization of activities need to be further refined at the forest division and range levels, considering local conditions, resources,

and the specific vulnerabilities. The calendar of activities for managing forest fires is attached as **Annexure IV a & b.**

Review of SOP

The SOP to be updated every two years after incorporating lessons learned during past years.

Annexure I**Negative list of firefighting equipment.**

- a) Fireball,
- b) Dungaree, Firefighting dress
- c) Purchased steel beaters
- d) Brace rake
- e) Fire extinguisher for forest fires
- f) Binoculars
- g) Expensive cameras

Annexure II**Prescribed Format for Initial Forest Fire reporting**

S. No	Particulars	Description
1	Fire Report Number (unique alpha numeric having first two alphabets of division/date and month/name of compartment)	UD/07-04/Co 5 Pancheri
2	Name of the Division/Range/Block/Compartment	
3	Date and time of fire occurrence	
4	Date and time block officer received the fire alert from (Name of agency)	
5	Date and Time for team mobilisation along with team strength	
6	Location of the nearest control room	
7	GPS reading of the fire-affected area	

Forest Range Officer

Annexure III
Prescribed Format for Forest Fire Closure Report

Sl. No	Particulars	Description
1	Date of fire occurrence	
2	Name of the Division/Range/Block/Compartment	
3	Date and time of fire occurrence	
4	Whether alert from FSI was received	
5	Type of Fire (Category I to IV)	
6	KMZ file of damaged area submitted(Y/N)	
7	Forest Type	
8	Time of dispatch of forest officials and Village assisting team for fire fighting	
9	Time of arrival of forest officials and Village team to the site of fire	
10	a) Time of extinguishing of Fire	
11	Whether additional support requested/required	
12	Fire burnt area in Hec.,	
13	Cause/s of fire	
14	Action taken by the Forest Officials to fire extinguish	
15	Government loss	
	a) Physical	
	b) Financial	
16	Whether rehabilitation of the burnt area required(Y/N) Measures required.	
17	Agencies/organisations involved in fire dousing, No of persons involved.	

18	Any damage to Humans/Wildlife/Property	
19	GPS reading of the fire affected area	

Divisional Forest Officer

Annexure IV (a) & (b).

Timeline of forest fire management activities in Summer Zone

Timeline of forest fire management activities (Summer region)													
S. No.	Activity	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
1	Awareness	a	a	a							a	a	a
2	Fire line making											a	a
3	Engagement of fire watcher	a	a	a	a								
4	Bush clearance/ Climber cutting											a	a
5	Training / Capacity building program for communities											a	a
6	Mock drills for field staff											a	a
7	Control Burning											a	a
8	Media coverage	a	a	a	a							a	a
9	Operationalization of Fire Control Rooms	a	a	a	a								a

Timeline of forest fire management activities in Winter Zone

Timeline of forest fire management activities (Winter region)													
S. No.	Activity	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
1	Awareness						a	a	a				
2	Fire line making						a	a	a				
3	Engagement of fire watcher							a	a	a			
4	Bush clearance/ Climber cutting						a	a	a				
5	Training / Capacity building program for communities						a	a	a				
6	Mock drills for field staff						a	a	a				
7	Control Burning						a	a	a				
8	Media coverage							a	a	a			
9	Operationalization of Fire Control Rooms						a	a	a	a			



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, JAMMU

The Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests,
(HoFF) – J&K,
Jammu.

No: CFC/Plg/2025-26/ 3337

Dated: 18-02-2026

Sub: Decision taken in 9th meeting of State Level Monitoring Committee on Forest Fire Prevention and Management (FFPM) held on 25-03-2025.

Ref: PCCF/ Plg/ 7690861/ 4857-59 dated 03.02.2026.

Sir,

On the above quoted subject and reference, the Action Taken Report on the point-wise decision taken in the 9th meeting of State Level Monitoring Committee on Forest Fire Prevention and Management (FFPM) held on 25-03-2025 is as under:



#	Decision(s)	Action Taken
1	<p>The significance of fire publicity at panchayat level was highlighted and it was suggested that a message be also got conveyed that the forest department is fully prepared to deal with the forest fires. It was asserted that the fire rakes which are more practical to control forest fires, should be procured in optimal quantity.</p> <p>While commenting on the SoP for forest fire, the need was observed to identify the role for different ranks of the officers to manage forest fires.</p>	<p>Wide publicity regarding forest fire has been carried out at the Panchayat level through awareness camps. Adequate procurement of fire rakes and other essential firefighting tools has been initiated to ensure their availability in optimal quantity at Range levels. Further, the Standard Operation Procedures (SoP) as notified by the O/o the PCCF (HoFF), J&K are being implemented and clear delineation of roles & responsibilities of officers/ officials of different ranks has been communicated to ensure coordinated and prompt response during fire incidents.</p>
2	<p>The significance of establishing Joint Control Rooms of all sister wings of Forest Deptt. for firefighting was also emphasized so that the issue regarding the overlapping of Jurisdiction be got resolved.</p> <p>Based on the experiences from the working of the Model Fire Ranges such as Pampore Forest Range, a robust mechanism should be evolved for other forest ranges to follow. It was asserted that the essential equipment/tools and vehicles for resource mobilization and appropriate fund flow are the need of the hour. It was also emphasized</p>	<p>In Jammu region, 183 Control Rooms are functional (24 x 7). Division wise number of Control Rooms established is given in Annexure-A.</p> <p>Based on the function of Model Fire Ranges, necessary measures have been adopted to replicate best practices in the territorial Ranges</p>

	to take a review of all the decisions taken in the earlier meetings of this committee and to take stock and proceed further in the management of the forest fires.	of each Division. Further, procurement of adequate firefighting tools / equipment has been initiated, however, vehicles for resource mobilization require funds which needs to be addressed at higher levels.
3	The smooth functioning of Joint Control Rooms was stressed upon so that the protected areas are also kept fire incidence free. Traditional techniques like controlled burning in organized and systematic way, shall prove to be more effective tool in preventing forest fires. The narrative of the harmful effects of forest fires be also given attention by disseminating the fact that the fire has been recognized as one of the important management tools. When this tool is utilized in a controlled and systematic manner, the controlled burning helps in regeneration of forests, recycling of nutrients, help in regeneration of tree species, removing Invasive weeds and pathogens, maintaining grasslands and habitats for wildlife.	Control Rooms are functioning smoothly with regular monitoring and coordination among concerned Divisional Forest Officers to ensure that the incidences of forest fire are minimized / reduced. Preventive measures, including controlled burning, creation / maintenance of fire lines in an organized manner have been taken in vulnerable forest compartments in Jammu region. As reported by the DFOs, staff have been sensitized and directed to maintain strict vigilance, conduct regular patrolling, and ensure immediate response to any fire alert so as to minimize damage and safeguard forest resources. The detail of fire line created is given in Annexure-A.
4	Fire vulnerability mapping is important to deploy resources. Based on the reporting of forest fire in recent years, the vulnerability map could be reviewed. It was informed that the department is planning to develop a mobile based application for report and response with a focus reporting on the action taken on the forest fire among other things which will help in monitoring of forest fires and also on post-fire reporting.	Pertains to higher authorities. However, any fire incidence is reported to higher ups with the details, such as date & time of fire incident, area involved and date & time of control etc.
5	The tools used in forest fire operations need customization and the need for procuring more of the essential tools like rakes. The draft SoP shall include escalation matrix while managing forest fires.	Adequate tools / equipment has been procured by each Division of this Circle to deal with any fire incident. However, procurement of fire rakes shall be prioritized to strengthen preparedness at Range / Block/ Beat levels. List of equipments used in fire control is enclosed as Annexure-B.

6	Soil and Moisture Conservation works like DRSM, water harvesting structures, etc. should be got incorporated in the APOs so as to improve the moisture regimes of the areas prone more to forest fires.	SMC works like DRSM, water harvesting structures, etc. are already being incorporated in Annual Plans of Operation (APOs) by the DFOs of Jammu region and are being executed accordingly, which in turn help in improving and maintaining moisture regimes of the areas, particularly those prone to forest fires.
7	The Conservators of Forests shall monitor the working of Joint Control Rooms. The vehicles for staff mobilization, management equipment and adequate number of staff shall be got ensured during the upcoming fire season. The requirement of fire rakes shall be prioritized.	As reported by the CFs, working of Joint Control Rooms is monitored regularly, coordination meetings are being conducted & frontline staff is sensitized. Several firefighting equipment are distributed among divisions.
8	For general awareness, adequate publicity in both print and electronic media will be given.	Necessary initiatives have been taken to promote general awareness regarding forest fire prevention, and adequate publicity shall be ensured through print and electronic media to sensitize the public and stakeholders in pre-fire season.
9	The CFs shall convene the coordination meetings regularly at-least once every fortnight during the fire season.	Meetings are being conducted.
10	The CFs/DFOs will also seek support from the district administration to ensure rapid deployment of emergency teams when needed.	The DFOs of Jammu region are in regular touch with District Administration to ensure rapid deployment of emergency teams, in case of any forest fire emergency.
11	To acknowledge the extra ordinary work done by the field staff on forest fire prevention and control and the provision for incentivization shall be explored.	Pertains to higher authorities.

Encl: Ann A & B.

Yours faithfully,


V. S. 
 (Dr VS Senthil Kumar), IFS 18/2
 Chief Conservator of Forests
 Jammu 

Annexure-B with ATR on 9th Meeting of SLC on Forest Fires

Fire fighting equipment's available in Forest Divisions of Jammu Region.

S. No	Division	Leaf Blows	Broom	Fire / Bush Beaters	Fire fighting suits	shoes	Helmet	Goggle	Fire Extinguisher	Torch	Stick	Walkie Talkie	Fire-rake	Other	Remarks
1	Jammu	2	0	0	0	124	106	0	0	48	0	16	250	169	Sickles-149, Fire Gloves-20
2	Udhampur	0	5	10	36	24	25	25	0	10	0	6	40	35	Drat=14, Hedge Trimmer = 1, Fire gloves = 20
3	Ramnagar	0	0	0	5	0	40	0	1	32	13	5	97	53	Drat=16, Mattress=13, Water camper=6, Shovel=4, Water Bottle=10, First Aid Kit=4
4	Samba	1	0	20	15	0	20	0	6	25	30	0	80	199	Darat = 60 Nos., Chabbet = 6, Spade = 20 Nos., Water bottle = 30 Nos., Pick axe = 20 Nos., Axe = 10 Nos., Water canther = 5 Nos., Chain Saw = 1, Nos., Panja with handle = 2 Nos., Khurpa = 29 Nos., Kudal = 14 Nos., Brush Cutter = 01, Chain Saw = 01
5	Kathua	3	0	0	0	30	30	0	0	4	0	0	40	133	Drat=40nos. Water camper=15 nos, Sickles 40 nos, Health lights=30 nos, hand saw=4 nos, Cutter=4 nos
6	Basholi	0	3	0	2	0	34	0	0	8	15	0	54	92	Water bottle : 53 Nos, Bill Hooks = 49 Nos, leaf blowers = 05 Nos
7	Billawar	0	0	0	10	33	30	4	3	6	10	3	41	24	Water bottle : 18 Nos, Water Camper = 06 Nos
8	ETF	0	0	0	5	8	5	0	0	10	0	0	0	5	Fire balls=5, First Aid Box = 5
9	UF Jmu	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	2	0	0	0	14	Water Champer-1 no, Bed -2 no's Mattresse- 2 no's, Axes -2 no's, Chain Saw- 1 no, Darat-6 no's
Total East		6	8	30	73	219	294	33	10	145	68	30	602	724	
1	Rajouri	2	0	0	2	20	15	0	3	35	50	3	50	40	Waterbottle -30 Fire axes in other
2	Poonch	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	4	17	34	20	300	492	Bill Hooks = 30 Nos, Pruning Saw = 410 Nos, Plastic Bottle = 07 Nos, Water Sprinklers/Cans = 03 Nos, Radium Safety Jackets = 35 Nos, Water Camper/ Dispenser = 07 Nos
3	Nowshera	11	0	0	26	5	45	0	10	45	0	15	350	73	C-type axe= 50, Water Camper/Dispenser= 35 Nos., Tuffin Box= 03 Nos., Tent= 05 Nos., Bush cutter= 03 Nos.,
4	Mahore	4	0	20	35	0	35	0	4	16	41	10	30	20	Fire axes in others
5	Reasi	1	1	36	7	35	16	25	4	40	4	6	45	24	36 Water bottles, Drnts. =45, Chaggals=10, Walki Talki= 6 Nos, Tent= 03 Nos.
Total West		18	1	56	70	60	136	25	25	153	129	54	775	649	
1	Doda	1	27	55	2	57	28	15	0	48	55	0	0	0	All the forest fire equipment were distributed to the Range Offices to combat the forest fire incidences
2	Bhaderwah	1	5	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	70	0	0	0	Shovel = 5, Kocku = 10, visibility cloth = 5 Nos


S. No	Division	Leaf Blows	Broom	Fire/ Bush Beaters	Fire fighting suits	shoes	Helmet	Goggle	Fire Extinguisher	Torch	Stick	Walkie Talkie	Fire-rake	Other	Remarks
3	Kishtwar	0	0	16	0	0	50	10	3	0	0	10	7	60	08 Gloves, 10 Plastic Bottals, 07 Fire Balls, 04 First Aid Box, 30 Safety Jackets
4	Marwah	0	0	15	0	107	21	12	2	17	4	16	41	278	12 Gloves, 12 Fire Axe, 3 Aluminised hood, 12 Showels, 12 Reflecting Jacket, 03 Bag Pack Water Pump, 08 Burn AID Box, 6 Fire Mask, 3 Stretchers, 4 Self Extinguishing Fire Balls, 1 Portable Pump High Pressure Hose/Pipe, 02 Rack, 01 Air Blower, 12 Sleeping Bag, 02 Grass Cutter, 02 CCTV for fire monitoring, 02 Binocular, 04 Aluminised Hood, 01 Air Blower, 01 Fire station, 10 Fire Hook, 10 Fire Bucket, 09 Fire Axe, 08 Fire Spade, 01 Water motor, 01 Water Tank, Water bottle = 100, Back Pack Fire extinguisher = 30 Nos GPS = 2 Nos, Densimeter = 01 No, Power Bank = 03 Nos
5	Batote	0	35	30	0	0	35	0	5	9	0	0	10	50	
6	Ramban	1	5	20	0	18	11	3	12	20	3	0	12	32	15 pieces of stainless steel fire man and 03 Nos fix board fitted with angle Iron Frame 14 pieces of FIROSTY out door twin bins
7	PO NHIA	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	3	5	0	0	2	0	All the forest fire equipment were distributed to the Range Offices to combat the forest fire incidences
Total Chenab		3	72	140	2	182	154	40	27	99	132	26	72	420	
Gr. Total		27	81	226	145	461	584	98	62	397	329	110	1449	1793	

V. S. 
 (Dr VS Senthil Kumar), IFS
 Chief Conservator of Forests
 Jammu

Annexure-A with Action Taken Report on 9th Meeting of SLC on Forest Fires - Jammu region

S. No	Division	Fireline created (KMs)			No. of Control Rooms established			No. of Fire incidents reported during 2025-26		No of FIRs / Offences registered		Remarks, if any
		Already Created up to 24-25	Created during 25-26	Total	Jt Control Rooms	Control Rooms of the Division	Total CRs	No of Incidents	Area Affected (Hectares)	Offences registered by Deptt	FIRs Lodged	
1	Jammu	122.30	14.00	136.30	4	17	21	49	103.750	49	0	Fireline created 23-24(99.3 km) 24-25 (23 km)
2	Kathua	16.50	0.00	16.50	1	15	16	1	0.500	1	0	Fireline maintenance proposed 16.50 kms during 2025-26
3	Bilawar	22.50	19.00	41.50	1	2	3	1	4.000	0	0	19 Kms Fireline to be created ending Feb. 2025-26
4	Basohli	21.50	0.00	21.50	3	10	13	5	1.850	5	0	
5	Samba	28.00	10.00	38.00	1	10	11	3	12.750	3	0	10km fireline created during the month of December 2025
6	Udhampur	40.00	0.00	40.00	1	12	13	29	20.400	16	0	
7	Ramnagar	31.50	10.50	42.00	0	10	10	9	4.000	9	0	
8	ETF	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	1	1	0	0.000	0	0	
9	UFJmu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	1	1	0	0.000	0	0	
	Total East	282.30	53.50	335.80	11	78	89	97	147.250	83	0	
10	Rejouri	3.60	1.00	4.60	11	10	21	41	28.160	4	0	
11	Nowshera	46.20	31.70	77.90	2	22	24	60	78.300	0	2	Only leaf and litters burnt. 2023-24 (11 cases and 5.75 Ha.), 2024-25 (73 cases & 131.55 Ha)
12	Reasi	119.00	14.50	133.50	4	10	14	33	173.500	33	1	
13	Mahore	30.00	30.00	60.00	3	8	11	9	10.250	0	0	Only Leaf and litters burnts, 109.26 Ha affected in F.Y. 2024-25 and 33 cases has been entered.
14	Poonch	1.00	5.00	6.00	3	17	20	13	14.070	0	0	
	Total West	189.80	82.20	282.00	23	67	90	156	304.280	37	3	
15	Doda	49.00	6.01	55.01	1	3	4	15	15.500	0	0	Only Leaf and litters burnts, 23 Ha affected in F.Y. 2024-25 and 40 cases has been entered.
16	Bhaderwah	19.16	4.00	23.16	0	4	4	32	12.395	0	0	Only Leaf and litters burnts
17	Ramban	109.00	6.00	115.00	3	0	3	51	55.223	0	0	Only Leaf and litters burnts, 55.2225 Ha area affected in F.Y. 2025-26 and 51 cases reported till date i.e. 16-02-2026. 3 No's of Control rooms established in Ramban Forest Division and same are functioning as Joint Fire Control Rooms along with other sister wings.

S. No	Division	Fireline created (KMs)			No. of Control Rooms established			No. of Fire incidents reported during 2025-26		No of FIRs / Offences registered		Remarks, if any
		Already Created up to 24-25	Created during 25-26	Total	Jt Control Rooms	Control Rooms of the Division	Total CRs	No of Incidents	Area Affected (Hectares)	Offences registered by Deptt	FIRs Lodged	
18	Batote	42.00	0.00	42.00	1	7	8	36	43.085	0	0	During the FY 2024-25, 125 fire cases reported and area affected 222.50 ha, reportedly only grasses & pine needles were burnt,
19	Kishtwar	51.20	2.00	53.20	5	8	13	12	27.300	0	0	Only Grasses, Bushes & Dead Rotten Material are burnt
20	Marwah	101.50	0.00	101.50	0	6	6	8	40.000	0	0	Only grasses and bushes are burnt
21	NH Project	23.00	0.00	0.00	0	4	4	0	0.000	0	0	Only grasses and leaf litters burnt
	Total Offices	394.96	18.91	389.37	16	32	42	154	193.593	0	0	
	G. Total	876.96	153.71	1007.67	44	177	221	407	645.033	120	3	

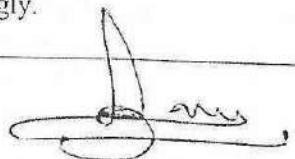

 (Dr VS Senthil Kumar), IFS
 Chief Conservator of Forests
 Jammu

JAMMU AND KASHMIR GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, KASHMIR.

Sub: Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the 9th Central Monitoring Committee on Forest Fires.

S. No.	Decision(s)	Action Taken
1	<p>The significance of fire publicity at panchayat level was highlighted and it was suggested that a message be also got conveyed that the forest dept is fully prepared to deal with the forest fires. It was asserted that the fire rakes which are more practical to control forest fires, should be procured in optimal quantity. While commenting on the SoP for forest fire, the need was observed to identify the roles for different ranks of the officers to manage forest fires.</p>	<p>Awareness programmes on forest fire prevention have been intensified at the Panchayat level. Range officers, Foresters and other Field staff alongwith local fringe villagers are sensitized against do's and don'ts to be adopted by them to prevent occurrence of forest fires. More than 60 training / awareness programs involving local communities have been organized during this year. Procurement of fire rakes and other tools is under process and presently 392 Nos of fire rakes are available with the territorial forest divisions of Kashmir. The SoPs issued by the higher authorities are being implemented in letter and spirit.</p>
2	<p>The significance of establishing Joint Control Rooms of all sister wings of Forest Dept. for fire fighting was also emphasized so that the issue regarding the overlapping of jurisdiction be got resolved. Based on the experiences from the working of the Model Fire Ranges such as Pampore Forest Range, a robust mechanism should be evolved for other forest ranges to follow. It was asserted that the essential equipment/tools and vehicles for resource mobilization and appropriate fund flow are the need of the hour. It was also emphasized to take a review of all the decisions taken in the earlier meetings of this committee and to take stock and proceed further in the management of the forest fires.</p>	<p>Joint Control Rooms have been established in vulnerable forest pockets in coordination with sister wings of the Forest Department. At present 40 Nos of control rooms across 14 Forest Divisions are existing and operating. The successful practices of Model Fire Ranges are being replicated in other ranges. Proposals for essential equipment, vehicles, and funds have been projected under FFPM. Previous decisions have been reviewed and necessary follow-up action initiated.</p>
	<p>The smooth functioning of Joint Control Rooms was stressed upon so that the protected areas are also kept fire incidence free. Traditional techniques like controlled burning in organized and systematic way, shall prove to be more effective tool in preventing forest fires. The narrative of the harmful effects of forest fires be also given attention by disseminating the fact that the fire has been recognized as one of the important management tools. When this tool is utilized in a controlled and systematic manner, the controlled burning helps in regeneration of forests, recycling of nutrients, help in regeneration of tree species, removing in passive weeds and pathogens, maintaining Grass lands and habitats for wildlife.</p>	<p>Functioning of all Control Rooms are monitored at Divisional level through concerned DFOs and necessary requirements are being filled up through funding under various schemes.</p> <p>The practice of removal of biomass fallen dry needles, cones is done traditionally by women folk living in forest fringe villages by brooming and collecting the dry fallen material, shred shrubs, cones and other flammable material for their domestic use. An approximate quantity of 22000 qtls has been removed from various forests of Kashmir. Also, sometimes controlled burning operations are carried out by forest frontline staff in various fire vulnerable areas so that low fuel level is maintained on forest floor.</p> <p>Further, plans are underway for exploring the involvement of BMCs and labours mandays under MNREGA as far as collection of dry fallen biomass in fire prone areas is concerned.</p>
4	<p>Fire vulnerability mapping is important to deploy resources. Based on the reporting of forest fire in recent years, the vulnerability map could be reviewed. It was informed that the dept. is planning to develop a mobile based application for report and response with a focus reporting on the action taken on the forest fire among other things which will help in Monitoring of forest fires and also on post-fire reporting.</p>	<p>Fire vulnerability mapping is being reviewed based on past and recent fire incidence data. The Forest Fire Alert application for reporting and post fire monitoring is actively used by most of the field staff in territorial forest divisions.</p>

5	The tools used in forest fire operations need customization and the need for procuring more of the essential tools like rakes. The draft SoP shall include escalation matrix while managing forest fires.	Customization of firefighting tools is being undertaken. The funds are being utilized judiciously to purchase additional essential tools, especially fire rakes. Additional tools are proposed to be procured to strengthen the forest fire response under recent CSS-FFPM release. The draft SoP now includes an escalation matrix for effective fire incident management.
6	Soil and moisture conservation works like DRSM, water harvesting structures, etc. should be got incorporated in the APOs so as to improve the moisture regimes of the areas prone more to forest fires.	Soil and moisture conservation works such as water harvesting structures have been proposed earlier also in the Annual Plans of Operation (APOs) for improving moisture regimes in fire-prone areas.
7	The Conservators of Forests shall monitor the working of Joint Control Rooms. The vehicles for staff mobilization, management equipment and adequate number of staff shall be got ensured during the upcoming fire season. The requirement of fire rakes shall be prioritized.	Directions have been noted and will be complied with. Requirement of Vehicles, Equipment and additional staff has been assessed and proposed under FFPM APO for the next financial year. Procurement of fire Rakes is being Prioritized.
8	For general awareness, adequate publicity in both print and electronic media will be given.	Public awareness campaigns through print, social and electronic media have been initiated and are being further strengthened. The local community /fringe villagers are being outreached for overall awareness among the common.
9	The CFs shall convene the coordination meetings regularly at least once every fortnight during the fire season.	Directions have been noted for implementation.
10	The CFs/DFOs will also seek support from the district administration to ensure rapid deployment of emergency teams when needed.	The matter is being pursued and coordination with District Administration, SDRF and Fire Emergency Services being requested as and when required for rapid deployment of emergency response during fire incidents.
11	To acknowledge the extra ordinary work done by the field staff on forest fire prevention and control and the provision for incentivizing shall be explored.	The matter of recognizing and incentivizing extraordinary work performed by field staff in forest fire prevention and control is under examination, and a suitable proposal is being formulated.
12	Furnishing of APO's for the year 2026-27 under the scheme CSS- FFPM- MENTION STATUS	The APOs for the year 2026-27 under the CSS-FFPM scheme are under preparation and shall be submitted accordingly.


Chief Conservator of Forests

Kashmir

No.458-FPM/ CCF/Plg/2025-26/ 2376

Dated: 09-02-2026

Copy to the Addl. Prl Chief Conservator of Forests, Planning & Projects, J&K Jammu for information.
This takes reference to his office communication No.PCCF/ Plg/ 7690861/ 4857-59 dated 03-02-2026.