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**PERSPECTIVE**  
"Stay focused on what really matters." ~ Tim Cook

**Shillong-Dawki road landslide: Two killed after boulders crush vehicle**

**SHILLONG**

A deadly landslide along the Shillong-Dawki Road claimed two lives after large boulders crashed onto a Mahindra Bolero Camper, trapping the occupants inside the vehicle.

The incident took place around 5:30 pm at Mawlieh, near Lyngkyrdem on the route to Pynursla, a stretch known for frequent landslides, particularly amid ongoing road widening and hill-cutting activities.

According to officials, the victims — residents of Lumwahnai near Pynursla — were on their way back home from Shillong after purchasing groceries when the hillside suddenly gave way.

The collapse of loose soil triggered the fall of massive rocks onto their vehicle.

Rescue operations continued late into the evening, with teams working to remove debris and access the crushed vehicle.

"Our teams are working to clear the boulders and retrieve the bodies," a senior police official said.

The Mawlieh stretch has repeatedly been identified as a high-risk zone due to unstable slopes and narrow road conditions.

Local residents have also voiced concerns over recent blasting linked to the road project, alleging that loose rocks have not been adequately cleared.

The latest incident adds to a string of fatal accidents on the same corridor. In 2023, two people, including a village head, were killed in a similar boulder fall, while in 2025, five individuals — among them a pregnant woman and a toddler — died after a vehicle plunged into a gorge.

Efforts to recover the victims' bodies were still underway at the time of filing this report.

**WHO SAID WHAT**



**Australians are becoming an endangered species ~ Elon Musk, American Entrepreneur**

**Post-Poll Unrest in Tripura: BJP Alleges Attacks by Tipra Motha Workers After TTAADC Results**

**AGARTALA**

Fresh allegations of post-poll violence have surfaced in Tripura following the declaration of results for the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party accusing supporters of the Tipra Motha Party of targeting its workers in several parts of the state.

State BJP president Rajib Bhattacharya on Monday alleged that party workers were assaulted and their homes vandalised in the aftermath of the results announced on April 17. He made the remarks after visiting displaced BJP supporters who had taken shelter at Saheed Bhagat Singh Yuva Awas in Agartala.

"Not a single criminal will be spared," Bhattacharya said, asserting that the party's focus remains on development and not violence. He added that temporary shelters have been arranged at six locations to accommodate those affected by the unrest.

Bhattacharya further stated that he had spoken to Chief Minister Manik Saha, who is expected to return from West Bengal and convene a high-level meeting to review the law-and-order situation. "He is aware of the developments and will take necessary steps to



ensure the safe return of our workers," he said. Tensions were also reported from Janmejy Nagar in Pekuajala, where

**NEW DELHI**

The Indian National Congress on Monday sharpened its attack on the Union government over the continuing violence in Manipur, pressing for immediate compensation for victims, a comprehensive economic package, and urgent steps to restore normalcy through dialogue.

Addressing a press conference, Inner Manipur MP A. Bimol Akojiam said the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) had submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi through Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, outlining a series of demands aimed at addressing the prolonged crisis.

The Congress called for the swift completion of investigations into recent killings, strict action against those responsible for violence, and concrete measures to "restore and strengthen law and order" in the state. It also sought safe and unhindered access for residents to their homes and essential services, along with the publication of findings from the inquiry



into the violence that erupted on May 3, 2023.

"Justice must be delivered and adequate compensation provided to the victims," the memorandum stated, while also urging the Centre to initiate a structured dialogue involving all stakeholders to pave the way for lasting peace.

Among its other demands, the party proposed deferring the census exercise until "a clear legal framework to distinguish citizens from non-citizens is established," signalling concerns over demographic and administrative complexities in the state.

Akojiam said the ground situation remained largely unchanged despite

the passage of time. "It is more or less the same. Things are not normal," he said, accusing both the Centre and the state government of failing to act responsibly. "Whatever happens in the state is the responsibility of the government, but they have not shown responsible behaviour."

He stressed that the Union government must demonstrate political will to curb violence and rein in armed groups. "The government of India must act decisively to control the situation. No individual or group should be allowed to take the law into their own hands," he said, adding that clarity and honesty were essential in addressing the complexities of Manipur's conflict. The Congress leader also reiterated the demand for the immediate release of the inquiry report into the violence, with accountability fixed on those responsible. "The findings must be made public as soon as possible," he said. In a sharp criticism of the Centre's approach, Akojiam alleged that Manipur "has been burning for the last three years," accusing the

leadership of neglecting the state. He pointed out that the prime minister had not visited Manipur since the violence began. "Even a brief stop in Imphal to review the situation would have sent a strong message. This continued absence reflects a careless attitude towards the suffering of the people," he said.

Referring to a recent incident on April 7 in Tronglaobi village in Bishnupur district, Akojiam said a suspected projectile attack reportedly involving a rocket-propelled grenade-killed two children and injured their mother. "An explosion tore through their bedroom. This tragic incident is a stark reminder of the lives lost over the past three years," he said, adding that it would be "misleading to claim that violence has decreased."

He further criticised what he described as the Centre's silence on the situation. "Neither the prime minister nor the home minister has made any statement," he said, alleging that the government was instead focused on legislative priorities and delimitation exercises that could "weaken marginalised states like Manipur."

Raising constitutional concerns, Akojiam alleged that so-called "buffer zones" had been created without legal backing and claimed he was prevented by security forces from visiting parts of his own constituency despite the absence of any formal order. He termed the situation "unconstitutional" and described the response of security forces to the April 7 attack as delayed and inadequate, calling it "a serious administrative failure."

Earlier this month, two children were killed and their mother injured in a bomb attack in Bishnupur district, intensifying concerns over the deteriorating security situation.

State Congress president Okram Iboi Singh said party leaders had recently met the governor to highlight the worsening conditions. "Many innocent lives that could have been saved have been lost," he said, urging immediate intervention to restore peace and stability in the state.

**'Anti-social elements' active in night torch rallies: Manipur Police**



**IMPHAL**

Manipur Police has alleged that anti-social elements are exploiting ongoing night torch rallies in the state capital to carry out violent activities, amid heightened tensions following recent incidents of civilian killings.

Addressing a press conference, Imphal West Superintendent of Police Ksh Shivakanta Singh said that while Meira (torch) rallies have been taking place across several parts of Imphal in recent days, some participants have engaged in violence under the guise of protest. "During several of these rallies, anti-social elements have used petrol bombs, catapults fitted with iron projectiles and resorted to stone-pelting at security forces," he said.

The developments come in the backdrop of the April 7 Tronglaobi bomb attack in Bishnupur district that killed two children, and another incident involving the storming of a CRPF camp near Gelmol, which left three persons dead.

Police said night rallies in areas such as Singjamei and Sagolband in

Imphal West district, as well as Khurai in Imphal East district, turned violent, prompting security forces to use tear gas to disperse the crowds.

The SP further claimed that some protesters were under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicants, and that certain instigators were allegedly supplying petrol bombs, catapults and iron projectiles ahead of the rallies.

Despite the provocations, he said, security forces exercised restraint while dispersing gatherings in order to avoid collateral damage.

Authorities also reported disruption of essential services during the unrest, including obstruction of ambulance movement and damage to public infrastructure such as CCTV cameras and traffic fencing. Appealing for cooperation, police urged citizens to refrain from violence and destruction of public property, and to assist law enforcement agencies in maintaining peace and order.

The police warned that legal action would be taken against those involved in violent acts as well as individuals accused of instigating unrest.

**Manipur Shaken by 5.2 Quake; No Damage or Casualties Reported**

**IMPHAL**

A moderate earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale struck Manipur early Tuesday morning, triggering tremors across several parts of the state, officials said. No casualties or significant damage were reported in the immediate aftermath.

According to the National Centre for Seismology, the earthquake occurred at 5:59 am, with its epicentre located in Kamjong district. The quake originated at a depth of 62 km, classifying it as an intermediate-depth seismic event.

In an official update, the agency recorded the coordinates of the tremor at latitude 24.703 N and longitude 94.415 E. Residents in multiple districts reported mild shaking, though authorities said the impact at the surface remained limited.

Experts noted that earthquakes occurring at such depths generally cause less structural damage but tend to be felt over a wider geographical area.

"These events are typically less destructive, though they can still be widely experienced," an official said.

State authorities said they are closely monitoring the situation and conducting precautionary assessments. No disruptions to essential services have been reported so far, and emergency response teams remain on alert.

The tremor in Manipur comes against the backdrop of heightened global seismic activity. A day earlier, a powerful earthquake struck parts of Japan, prompting tsunami warnings along sections of its Pacific coastline.

**Kohima ILP Drive: Administration Issues Clarification After Viral Fine Receipts Spark Confusion**

**KOHIMA**

The Deputy Commissioner's office in Kohima has issued a clarification after two Inner Line Permit (ILP) fine receipts circulated widely on social media, leading to confusion over enforcement actions taken during a recent verification drive.

According to officials, a routine ILP verification and awareness campaign was conducted across Kohima town on April 17. During the drive, several individuals found without valid permits were fined under provisions of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873. Penalties were imposed in the presence of magistrates, with official receipts issued at the time.

The clarification follows the viral spread of two receipts-bearing serial numbers 1010 and 1011 that listed names and fine amounts, prompting misinterpretation online. Authorities stated that receipt number 1010 was issued collectively to three individuals, with a total fine of ₹1,500, while receipt number 1011 covered two individuals with a combined penalty of ₹1,000.

All five individuals were reportedly working at a construction site near Classic Island in Kohima at the time of the verification. Those fined under receipt 1010 were identified as Joy Singh (35), Arson Enghi (18), and Welson Teron (26), while receipt 1011 was issued to Binush Chingthong (19) and Dilip Phangcho (20).

All are residents of Karbi Anglong. Officials said the individuals have since been called for further verification. One of them, Welson Teron, reportedly acknowledged uploading images of the receipts on Facebook in Karbi language on the same day as the drive, contributing to the spread of the documents online.

The administration also pointed to a printing error on the receipt coupons, which has now been rectified. It urged the public to rely only on verified information and refrain from sharing misleading content related to enforcement activities.

Authorities reiterated that the ILP verification drive was part of routine checks aimed at ensuring compliance with existing regulations governing entry and stay in the state.

**Confusion Over 'Bhasha Shahid Station' Naming: BDF Questions Govt After RTI Reply**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT**

**SILCHAR:** Fresh controversy has emerged over the proposed naming of a railway station as "Bhasha Shahid Station," after a recent RTI reply revealed that no formal proposal has yet been sent by the state government to the Centre. The development has drawn sharp criticism from the Barak Democratic Front (BDF). The RTI, filed by advocate Dharmmananda Deb, received a response from the Railway Ministry stating that no official proposal has been submitted so far regarding the naming. Reacting to this, BDF Media Cell convener Joydeep Bhattacharya termed the information "misleading." In a press statement, Bhattacharya said that it was widely believed until now that the Railway Ministry had already given its in-principle approval and asked the state government to forward the proposal through a gazette notification. However, the RTI response suggests that the process may not have even begun. He questioned how the Centre could consider or decide on the matter if no formal proposal had been sent. Bhattacharya also pointed out that the current Rajya Sabha MP from Silchar had raised the issue in Parliament recent-

ly, while his late father, a former Union Minister from the Barak Valley, had also spoken on the matter earlier. He asked what basis such statements were made if no official proposal existed. According to BDF, the RTI reply makes it clear that the first step should have been approved by the state cabinet followed by submission of a formal proposal. The organization alleged that this crucial step was overlooked. Bhattacharya said the new information has made the issue more complicated and added that the long-standing demand of the people of Barak Valley should not be clouded by confusion. He demanded immediate clarification from local MPs.

He further alleged that successive governments in Dispur have failed to give due importance to the issue. Despite announcements and claims of action in the past, no concrete progress has been made, he said, calling it an insult to the sentiments of the people and to the language martyrs.

BDF convener Hrishikesh Dey, in a separate press statement, stressed the need to end the confusion at the earliest. The organization has demanded that the new government take a clear decision on the matter before May 19.



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 753

## WARS, WHAT WARS?

A surreal spectacle is playing out. The war in West Asia has choked the jugular of global energy supplies. The sentiments are yo-yoing between Donald J Trump's Operation Epic Fury and epic fears. The markets, however, are scarcely bothered and seem to be punting on epic TACO! There is the story of the post-Covid rally and then there is the rush of retail FOMO (fear of missing out). As for the whales, they are convinced Trump always chickens out when faced with public ire. The wall of worries is real for consumers, companies and countries. Trump's trade war upended global supply chains and the war on Iran has triggered an energy shock, alienated allies and fuelled anxiety. This week, International Energy Agency chief Fatih Birol warned restoration of crude and gas output could take two years. Prima facie, oil prices seem stable, thanks to workarounds a.k.a. jugaad; but the reality is scary. Listed price of crude is at \$90 a barrel, but spot prices of Brent crude is at \$138, jet fuel is \$2,200 a kilolitre in New Delhi, the Indian oil import basket is at \$110, and heavy crude from Ural or Iraq is 20 percent higher.

The markets are now treating volatility as the weather, not a storm. Events have not dented the optimism of bulls who are discounting bad news and piling premium on a repeat of 2022. On Friday, Iran declared that the Strait of Hormuz was open. Trump followed with a trademark all-caps post: "The Strait of Hormuz is completely open and ready for business and full passage. But the (US) naval blockade will remain in full force." Within a few hours, ship-owners found that in this theatre of the absurd 'open' did not mean open.

However, the markets are not letting facts ruin a good story. Portfolio values are up even though newsfeeds on touch-screen devices are on fire. It doesn't matter that over 300 tankers are trapped in the high seas, that lower capacity will keep crude prices higher, that energy inflation and supply disruptions will push interest rates higher for longer. The IMF warns that the war has halted the momentum of global growth; add to it the rise in deficits and debts crippling economies.

The markets are paying scant attention to what might happen. They are weighing in favour of investments in AI infrastructure and shrugging off the impact on job losses, not even the five-digit trimming of the Amazon kind. Indices are on a tear. Soon after Hormuz was declared open, every major stock market in Europe and the US was up. India's Nifty50 grabbed hope to rise 156 points, the S&P500 hit a new high of 7,147. Even though there was little evidence of free movement, as tracking showed a few tankers passing through the Hormuz Strait, the petro-paper market found reason to celebrate and Brent dipped below \$90, the US dollar index rose and gold nudged up. The whiplash of headlines remained unabated. On Saturday, Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Trump was making false claims, that the strait would not stay open if the US blockade continued. Interestingly, Iran's navy was warning ships over radio that the strait would be opened on the order of the Ayatollah, 'not some idiot'. By Saturday afternoon, ships and tankers were executing U-turns. Money moves the mare and markets. Among the mantras often chanted in markets is, 'Don't fight liquidity.' Money poured in by central banks in 2008 and then during Covid is still sloshing around looking for returns. The resilience of Indian indices is propped by monthly systematic investment plan flows of ₹25,000 crore. Liquidity tends to chase returns—for instance, in gold and silver earlier and in high-interest bonds now. The markets believe that Trump's tariff war is theatre. If it turns into a tragedy, there is Europe and East Asia doing better than the US. Above all, there is a global belief that AI-led productivity will boost earnings and value. The core thesis: wars and tariffs are temporary; technology and value are permanent.

Earlier this month, Henry Paulson, former US treasury secretary, warned the \$39-trillion American federal debt could break the bond market and spark an emergency. Sovereign debt issuance in OECD countries is projected to reach a record \$18 trillion in 2026. A study shows that 40 percent of the sovereign and corporate debt held in OECD countries will mature by 2027. This has implications for investments and job creation. Characteristically, the markets are frequently convinced of their own genius. There is yet no cogent answer for the violation of the holy grail of concentration risk—only seven stocks account for \$19 trillion or 30 percent of the S&P500's total market value. IT services companies—the largest formal employers, exporters and force multipliers in India—are facing an existential threat. Services deliver over half the growth in large economies. Yet the markets are shrugging off the impact of AI-led job displacement on consumption that scaffolds growth. Can markets sustain optimism if consumption slides? In theory, markets are, at their most basic, a discounting machine. Their price in expectations, not headlines—ergo the cliché, 'buy the rumour, sell the news'. The wall of worry—tariffs, AI disruption, hot wars, cold geopolitics—is exactly what markets have always climbed. That said, the level of disdain for the consequences of Trumponomics playing out in the global economies is truly stunning. The theme song for now is Bobby McFerrin's 'Don't worry, be happy'.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

None are more hopelessly enslaved than those who falsely believe they are free.

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

# SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE IRAN WAR



K N PANDITA

After the removal of Ali Khomeini, the Supreme Religious Leader of Iran and second in line after Ruhullah Khomeini, the virtual power in Iran remains concentrated in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

What is the IRGC? Once the Leftists and the clergy combined to succeed in ousting the monarchy in 1979, and in the struggle between the two for power, the Leftists were pushed aside. The clergy enjoyed a strong influence in rural Iran. Iranian history tells us that the clergy have always been on the side of the masses of people in any confrontation with the regime. But once that confrontation ended, the clergy returned to the mosque and the seminaries without aspiring for political power. But with the appearance of the anti-monarchy uprising in 1979, and the dominance of the political scenario by Ruhullah Khomeini, the Iranian clergy changed its age-old practice of returning to its ecclesiastical realm.

Khomeini conceived of two pillars of the Iranian State. One was of Velayat-e-faqih, meaning the Domain of the Islamic Jurisconsults. The second ideological pillar was of the export of Islamic revolution throughout the world — an ideal essentially

rooted in the teachings of the Quran. The flaw in the concept of velayat-e-faqih was that a person was well-read in Islamic theology but ignorant of the unavoidable imperatives of modern-era international diplomacy. What the Shah had left behind was an Iran fully familiar with modernity. Reza Shah Pahlavi could be considered the father of modernism in Iran. As far as the second pillar was concerned, the plight of present-day Iran emanates from an erroneous concept of exporting the Iranian Islamic Revolution to the world. This concept is flawed because Iran did not visualise the significance of its huge hydrocarbon reserves in the interplay of regional and global strategies.

From the flawed concept of export of Islamic Revolution came the most dangerous decision of the theocratic state of not trusting the traditional army of Iran, and creating an entirely new force fully indoctrinated in Islamic conservatism of early years of Islam with training in ultra-guerrilla tactics and wielding full authority of action, unmindful of established norms of human rights protectionism. The IRGC became not only powerful but also an entity above the law.

One important dimension of the export of the Islamic revolution of Iran was specifically

targeting Israel for destruction. The Iranian theocratic regime based its hatred and animosity against Israel on Quranic injunctions. Trying to pursue the axiom of being more loyal than the king, Iran despised the Arab states in the Gulf and West Asian region as well, for their complacent attitude towards Israel. Iran belittled the Abrahamic Accord, which shows that Tehran has little interest in peaceful coexistence, a harsh and unavoidable reality no nation can deny. Iran has to come out of the mindset of hatred and animosity against Israel.

It is here that the US steps in. Jews have a strong lobby in the American Congress. Iran knows it and decided to take on the world's most powerful country, a democracy to the hilt. This shows how Iran has been jumping from one blunder to another.

There is a strong reason for the US to jump into the fray. What theocratic Iran did was to raise very well-trained, equipped, and indoctrinated proxies and locate them at critical points in West Asian countries from where these proxies would embark on inflicting losses on Israel. The Hezbollah, Hamas and Houthis are all deadly proxies playing the game of Tehran. It is unavoidable for the Americans and the Israelis to wipe out these proxies, particularly the IRGC, lock, stock and barrel. We understand that many IRGC functionaries are deserting their ranks and going into hiding. On the American side, the US has committed the blunder of not supporting the intensification of the anti-theocratic regime uprising among the masses of Iranians. This blunder emanates from the US's lack of understanding of the Iranian mindset. Iran is an ancient country with one of the world's greatest civilisations. Though it became Islamic when the Sassanian Empire fell to the sword of the Arabs, Iran never became truly Islamic. It is the only country among the Aryan ethnic nations that did not lose sight of its pre-Islamic past.

In the mass uprising of 2022, and then in the student uprising of 2026, the US should have played a definitive pro-people role and even interfered on humanistic reasons. When hundreds of women were butchered by the IRGC during the 2022 uprising and nearly thirty thousand killed by the oppressive regime of the velayat-e-faqih, the superpower of the world, also a bastion of human rights protection, should have brought great pressure for regime change. Unfortunately, President Trump, the vacillating president, made controversial statements about regime change or no change. Thereby, he gave a clean chit to the IRGC to go on with its atrocities unhindered. We know that Prince Reza, the son of the deposed Shah, made several appeals to the US to intervene on behalf of the people of Iran to save the country from bloodshed and disaster. Washington gave him a cold shoulder because it had no understanding of the Iranian mind.

Then what happened. Trump issued threats like destroying the entire civilisation of Iran.

This was the greatest insult not to the theocratic regime but to immensely nationalistic Iranian youth. The theocratic regime was quick to exploit it and did exploit it to the hilt. Millions of Iranians who only a month back had raised the ancient flag of Iran now abandoned those and retook the flag of the theocratic regime. The US faltered, not because of any great machination of the theocratic regime but because of its unwise handling of the Iranian situation.

The absurdity of the American handling of the Iranian issue will be noticed in Washington agreeing to the mediation of a third country (Pakistan), and to what purpose? To the

### DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

**Through the day,  
as I travelled  
across various  
constituencies of  
West Bengal, I  
could sense the  
yearning of the  
people for good  
governance, peace,  
security and an  
atmosphere where  
Bengal's great  
culture thrives and  
all these WILL BE  
ENSURED by  
@BJP4Bengal  
!**

**~ Dr. Himanta  
Biswa Sarma,  
Assam CM**



purpose of telling Iran not to make a nuclear bomb when that country has a nuclear arsenal very much intact at secret bases like Nur Khan and Sargodha, etc. Its defence minister went to the extent of saying publicly that if the US attacks Pakistan, we will nuke India. And secondly, asking a mediating country to tell Iran to wind up its proxies in Yemen and West Asian countries, when the mediating country hosts the world's deadliest terrorist organisations, many of whose leadership have been designated by the UN, is hypocrisy.

Today, the US is cross with the EU essentially because the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was the brainchild of the European powers and not of the US. She is supporting Ukraine to boost NATO's anti-Russia policy; she has taken up cudgels with India, the world's largest democracy, and above all, Trump has fast lost his popularity with the American people. How the future will shape, nobody predicts.



# Educational institutions remain shut, transport affected as protests continue in Manipur

IMPHAL

Protests continued in parts of Manipur on Monday amid heightened tensions over the killing of two children and a couple of civilians at separate places by suspected militants earlier this month.

According to officials, educational institutions and markets remained closed, while public transport remained off the roads in all five valley districts, home to the Meitei community, and Naga-inhabited areas of Ukhrul and Senapati districts, following two shutdowns called by different organisations to protest the recent killings.

Sit-ins were held at various parts of Imphal valley including at Uripok and Nagaram locality of the state



capital, they said.

Women's organisation Meira Paibis called a five-day shutdown

since Sunday to protest the April 7 bomb attack in Tronglaobi in Bishnupur district, in which a 5-year-

old boy and his 6-month-old sister were killed while sleeping, and their mother was injured.

During protests against the incident, three people were killed and around 30 others were injured in firing when a mob stormed a nearby CRPF camp.

The United Naga Council also called a three-day "total shutdown" beginning Monday to condemn the death of a retired Army man and another person after suspected militants fired at an Ukhrul-bound convoy of civilian vehicles coming from Imphal on April 18.

The incident at TM Kasom village in Ukhrul district occurred a day after Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh visited the Tangkhul Naga-majority hill district and ap-

pealed for peace and dialogue during an interaction with both Kuki and Naga residents.

A group of lawyers demonstrated in front of the Cheirap Court complex at Uripok on Monday under the aegis of the Manipur Bar Association and the High Court Bar Association of Manipur.

Speaking to the media, Khaidem Mani, former chairperson of the Manipur Human Rights Commission, said, "The lawyers' fraternity strongly condemns the Tronglaobi incident and demands that combing operations be carried out to nab the perpetrators."

The issue cannot be addressed by just handing over the case to NIA, he said the government must properly exercise its power, he

said. The CM has decided to hand over the investigation into both cases to the NIA.

Mani also demanded a judicial inquiry into the killing of three people in the firing allegedly by security personnel when a mob of around 500 people stormed the CRPF camp.

At least 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless since May 2023 due to ethnic violence in Manipur between the valley-based Meiteis and the Kukis who live in the hill districts.

Following continued ethnic clashes and the resignation of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, the state was placed under President's Rule on February 13, 2025. It was lifted nearly a year later on February 4.

## NSCN (I-M) condemns civilian killings, warns of 'defensive measures' amid rising tensions

IMPHAL

National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak-Muivah) has condemned the killing of two civilians in Ukhrul district, alleging the involvement of Kuki militants operating under Suspension of Operations (SoO) arrangements, and warned of possible "defensive measures" if such incidents continue.

In a statement, the group said the April 18 killings near Yaolen Kuki village claimed the lives of two commuters - Chinaoshang Shokwungnao of Tashar village and Yaruingam Vashum of Kharasom CC village - describing them as "innocent civilians."

The NSCN (I-M) alleged that the attackers were Kuki militants sheltered under SoO agreements and said the incident had crossed "all tolerance limits."

It further stated that such provocations were escalating tensions in the region and pointed to what it described as a "failure of the Indian state mechanism." The group warned that Nagas may be compelled to take "defensive measures to safeguard our land and sovereignty" if the situation persists.

The outfit also alleged collusion between Indian security forces and Kuki armed groups under SoO, claiming that such actions were aimed at destabilising the region and undermining the Naga political movement.

Describing the developments as part of a broader "proxy war disguised as ethnic conflict," the NSCN (I-M) alleged that the use of Kuki groups echoed colonial-era strategies intended to weaken the Naga cause.

Condemning the loss of lives, the organisation called for an immediate, independent and transparent investigation into the incident.

## Woman's Death in Guwahati Waterlogging: Assam Govt Orders Magisterial Inquiry



KRC TIMES NEWS DESK

**GUWAHATI:** The Government of Assam has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the death of a woman in Maligaon, who was swept away during severe waterlogging caused by heavy rainfall in Guwahati on April 19.

The decision was taken at

a high-level review meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Ravi Kota. During the meeting, the District Commissioner was directed to institute a detailed inquiry to fix responsibility for the incident.

Officials said that any loss of life due to preventable causes would be dealt with strictly, signalling a firm stance on accountability amid growing concerns over urban flooding in the city. The deceased has been identified as Payel Nath Das. She reportedly fell into an uncovered drain during intense rainfall, when poor visibility and strong water flow made the area hazardous.

The incident has once again raised serious questions about drainage safety and civic infrastructure in Guwahati, especially during the monsoon season.

## COCOMI alleges 'proxy war' in Manipur, calls for crackdown on Kuki militants and judicial probe

IMPHAL

Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity has called for an end to what it described as a "proxy war" in Manipur, urging the state government to press the Centre for decisive action against Kuki militants and ensure accountability for recent civilian killings. Addressing the media in Imphal, COCOMI convenor Y K Dhiren alleged that the people of the state had been facing prolonged hardship due to a conflict that began on May 3, 2023. He accused the Centre of pursuing policies detrimental to the Meitei community and claimed that the situation amounted to a sustained proxy war. The civil society platform also announced a boycott of all activities of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and urged ministers and MLAs in the state to "stop acting as puppets" and instead take a principled stand to safeguard Manipur's interests.

Dhiren alleged that secu-



rity forces failed to intervene during attacks by armed Kuki militants on civilians, resulting in deaths and destruction of property. He reiterated COCOMI's demand for a military crackdown to "contain the proxy army," asserting that lasting peace would be possible only after such measures are taken.

Referring to the April 7 Tronglaobi incident in Bishnupur district, in which two children were killed, the organ-

isation called for urgent action to apprehend those responsible. It further demanded a judicial inquiry into the killing of three civilian protesters allegedly by personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in the aftermath of the incident.

COCOMI also maintained that if the state government fails to initiate a crackdown and order a judicial probe, both the Chief Minister and the Home Minister should step down on

moral grounds.

Commenting on the Chief Minister's "peace mission" visit to Ukhrul district on April 17, the group said the subsequent ambush on the Imphal-Ukhrul road, which left two Tangkhul civilians dead, undermined the government's peace efforts. According to the organisation, the attack highlighted the ineffectiveness of current measures and signalled disregard for official initiatives by armed groups.

## Meghalaya rolls out multi-scheme farm push to raise productivity, boost rural incomes

TURA

Conrad K. Sangma on Monday launched a multi-scheme agricultural support package aimed at enhancing productivity and strengthening farmer livelihoods across Meghalaya.

The initiative was unveiled during an input distribution programme at SMELC in Tura, organised by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and the Directorate of Horticulture. The programme focused on converging key agriculture and horticulture schemes to promote sustainable practices, improve farm output and increase incomes.

Addressing farmers and officials, Sangma underscored the centrality of agriculture to the state's economy, noting that over 70 per cent of households depend on the sector either directly or indirectly.

He said the government's interventions are designed to support both individual farmers and self-help groups through capacity-building and scaling up of activities. "Every intervention in agriculture directly impacts livelihoods, and we are committed to ensuring that support reaches farmers effectively," he said.

Highlighting key challenges, the Chief Minister pointed to the lack of timely availability of quality seeds, stating that the government has taken up the issue in a mission mode to ensure farmers receive inputs at the right time.

Among flagship initiatives, Sangma cited the Ginger Mission, under which the state has invested over 62 crore since 2022, benefiting more than 19,000 farmers, with plans to extend support to an additional 15,000. The programme aims to revive Meghalaya's status as a

major ginger-producing state. He also announced support under the Organic Manure Scheme, including financial assistance for low-cost vermicomposting units to help farmers reduce dependence on external inputs and adopt sustainable practices. Emphasising value addition, Sangma highlighted the expansion of food processing infrastructure, stating that improved processing facilities would enable farmers to secure better returns and access wider markets. A major ginger processing unit, costing around 20 crore, is nearing completion in Ri Bhoi and is expected to benefit nearly 10,000 farmers. During the programme, inputs were distributed under multiple schemes, including the Ginger Mission, Organic Manure Scheme and Vegetable Development Scheme. Beneficiaries received ginger seeds, vermicomposting units and vegeta-

ble seed kits for Anganwadi centres.

Officials said efforts are also underway to tackle crop diseases and expand insurance coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. The Vegetable Development Scheme is promoting improved cultivation practices and nutri-gardens in schools and Anganwadi centres, while value addition is being strengthened through PRIME Hubs and farmer cooperatives to improve market access. Additionally, high-value crops such as black pepper, cardamom, vanilla and cocoa are being promoted under the CM Farm Plus initiative. The programme began with a welcome address by West Garo Hills in-charge Deputy Commissioner M.L.K. Marak and concluded with a vote of thanks by District Horticulture Officer T. Ch. Marak.

## IMD forecasts widespread rain, thunderstorms across Nagaland till April 22



DIMAPUR

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast fairly widespread to widespread rainfall across Nagaland till April 22, accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds.

According to the IMD's latest All India Weather Summary and Forecast Bulletin issued on April 19, the state is likely to experience light to moderate rainfall with wind speeds ranging between 30 and 50 kmph during this period.

Thunderstorm activity with lightning and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph is expected at isolated locations between April 19 and 21, with lightning activity likely to persist on April 22.

Weather observations indicated that rainfall occurred at many places across Nagaland and the wider Northeast region on April 19. In the Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura sub-division, Dimapur recorded 1 cm of rainfall during the day.

Some areas also reported hail along with heavy rain and strong winds, reflecting unstable weath-

er conditions across the region.

The IMD said the rainfall activity in Nagaland is part of a broader weather system affecting Northeast India, where widespread precipitation is expected to continue over the next few days. While heavy to very heavy rainfall warnings have been issued for parts of neighbouring states such as Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya, no such alerts have been issued specifically for Nagaland.

However, thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds remain the primary concern for the state during the forecast period.

The department indicated that no significant warnings have been issued for April 23 and 24, suggesting a gradual easing of intense weather activity after April 22.

Nationally, the IMD noted contrasting weather patterns, with active rainfall over the Northeast even as parts of central and northern India are likely to experience heatwave conditions in the coming days.

## Guwahati logs record April downpour; IMD warns of continued heavy rain across Assam

GUWAHATI

India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday recorded 117.4 mm of rainfall in a single day in Guwahati, marking the highest one-day rainfall for April since records began in 1951.

The new high surpasses the previous record of 116.5 mm set in 2004, underscoring the intensity of the ongoing pre-monsoon activity across the region.

The record rainfall was part of a broader spell of heavy precipitation, with several locations in and around the city reporting significant downpours on April 20. IMD data showed 126.5 mm at Guwahati (City) ARG, 119.5 mm at AAU-HRS, 134 mm at Gauhati University, and a notably high 215.9 mm at SIRD Complex in Khanapara, indicating highly localised but intense rainfall pockets.

The IMD has warned that inclement weather conditions are likely to persist across Assam over the next two to three



days, with forecasts of heavy to very heavy rainfall in several districts. The current spell is being driven by active weather systems, including upper air circulations over northeast Assam and adjoining areas.

According to the department's dai-

ly bulletin, light to moderate rainfall occurred at most places in the past 24 hours, with heavy to very heavy rain reported at isolated locations. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds reaching speeds of 40-50 kmph are also likely in some areas.

The evolving weather pattern suggests that much of the state could witness further intense rainfall episodes in the coming days.

In Guwahati, continued downpours are expected to aggravate waterlogging, disrupt traffic movement, and heighten the risk of tree falls and localised landslides, particularly in low-lying and hillside areas. Authorities said emergency response mechanisms have been put on alert as a precautionary measure. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority has urged residents to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions. Commuters have been advised to avoid unnecessary travel during periods of heavy rain and plan movements carefully.

People living in vulnerable areas have been asked to watch for signs of flooding or landslides and to follow official advisories. The authority said the situation is being monitored closely, with regular updates to be issued for public awareness.

The record-breaking rainfall highlights a growing trend of high-intensity weather events during the pre-monsoon period, raising concerns over urban resilience and disaster preparedness in Assam's largest city.

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## First CDS visit to UK; General Chauhan to push training, co-production ties

NEW DELHI

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan is on a three-day official visit to the United Kingdom from Sunday, marking the first such visit by an Indian CDS, as both sides step up efforts to expand military cooperation, training linkages and defence industrial partnerships.

During the visit, General Chauhan is scheduled to hold talks with his British counterpart, UK Chief of the Defence Staff Sir Richard Knighton, with discussions expected to focus on enhancing cooperation across operations, joint training and co-production in the defence sector.

The visit comes amid a steady uptick in high-level military engagements between the two countries. This is the fifth senior-level interaction between the Indian and UK armed forces this year, following Sir Knighton's visit to India last month.

According to a statement issued by the British High Commission in New Delhi on Monday, General Chauhan will also meet senior UK civil and military leadership, as well as representatives from the British defence industry, to "progress talks on greater defence co-production between the two countries".

He is also scheduled to visit the Royal College of Defence Studies, where he will interact with officers from multiple countries undergoing higher military training.

The visit builds on the broader India-UK defence engagement framework, including the 10-year Defence

Industrial Roadmap agreed under the Vision 2035 partnership, which aims to strengthen joint manufacturing, technology sharing and long-term capability development.

"General Chauhan's landmark visit shows the trust and ambition driving the UK-India defence partnership. We are stepping up cooperation to strengthen interoperability, spur innovation and support a free, open and secure Indo-Pacific," British High Commissioner to India Lindy Cameron said.

She added that India remains "a key defence partner for the UK" and that both sides are "moving faster and closer" across areas ranging from joint training to strategic dialogue.

A key pillar of the expanding relationship is officer training and institutional exchanges, which have seen a steady increase over the past few years. Under an agreement signed earlier this year, the Indian Air Force has deployed three Qualified Flying Instructors to RAF Valley, the Royal Air Force's premier fast-jet training base, where they are involved in training British and international pilots on advanced platforms.

Indian officers are also embedded across UK military academies, including the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, the Britannia Royal Naval College and the Royal Air Force College Cranwell.

These exchanges are aimed at improving interoperability, familiarising officers with each other's doctrines and operational practices, and building long-term professional

linkages.

Conversely, UK officers regularly attend courses at Indian institutions such as the National Defence College and the Defence Services Staff College, reflecting a reciprocal training framework that has expanded in scope beyond ceremonial exchanges to include operational and staff-level exposure.

Furthermore, Defence Adviser at the British High Commission, Commodore Chris Saunders, said the visit "signals the significant progress we have achieved together across all areas of defence" and provides an opportunity to further expand military-to-military engagement.

"The visit will enable an opportunity to further discuss deepening our strong military-to-military engagement, expanding our cooperative training ambitions and exploring how we can develop greater defence industrial collaboration," he said.

India and the UK have also expanded joint exercises in recent years, including their largest-ever maritime exercise in 2025 involving carrier strike groups, as well as Exercise Ajeya Warrior held in Rajasthan between British and Indian Army units.

The current visit is being seen as part of a broader push by both countries to align defence cooperation with industrial growth goals, including India's push for self-reliance in defence manufacturing, with training exchanges emerging as a key component of deeper institutional integration between the two militaries.

## India-South Korea ties highlight message of peace, stability amid global tensions: PM Modi



NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday highlighted the key role of India and South Korea as pillars of stability amidst rising global tensions. He also pointed out the shared commitment of both nations toward a peaceful and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

Following the high-level delegation talks held in the national capital, Prime Minister Modi and President Lee Jae-myung oversaw the exchange of multiple MoUs between India and South Korea.

Designed to bolster bilateral cooperation across a range of strategic sectors, these agreements were

formalised during a joint press statement at Hyderabad House, signifying a pivotal milestone in the diplomatic ties between the two nations.

Delivering the joint press statement after the exchange of agreements, the Prime Minister underscored the importance of the partnership in the current geopolitical climate.

"In this era of global tension, India and Korea together give the message of peace and stability," PM Modi stated.

Turning to the economic dimension of the partnership, the Prime Minister shared ambitious targets for bilateral trade and introduced several new mechanisms to facilitate business. "Today, bilateral trade between

India and Korea has reached 27 billion dollars. We have taken several important decisions to increase this to 50 billion dollars by 2030," he noted.

To achieve these goals, PM Modi announced the launch of new platforms aimed at streamlining financial and industrial ties. "To facilitate financial flows between the two countries, we have launched the India-Korea Financial Forum. To strengthen business cooperation, we have formed an Industrial Cooperation Committee," he added. The Prime Minister also detailed plans to secure technology supply chains and support smaller enterprises looking to enter the Indian market.

"To increase cooperation in critical technology and supply chains, we are starting the Economic Security Dialogue. To facilitate the entry of Korean companies, especially SMEs, into India, we will also establish Korean Industrial Townships, and within the next year, we will also upgrade the India-Korea Trade Agreement," PM Modi stated.

The diplomatic significance of this partnership is underscored by the current international landscape. Since February 2026, the intensification of hostilities in West Asia, fuelled by reciprocal military actions between US-Israeli forces and Iran, has severely compromised international security and caused extensive turbulence in global shipping corridors.

Against this backdrop of instability, the Prime Minister welcomed Seoul's decision to join key international frameworks led by India. "We are very happy that today, Korea is joining the International Solar Alliance and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative," he noted.

Stressing the common vision held by both democracies for regional security, the Prime Minister said, "We will continue to contribute towards a peaceful, progressive and inclusive Indo-Pacific through our joint efforts."

He also pointed out that both nations remain in agreement that reforms in global institutions are essential to address global challenges.

Evoking historical ties to frame the modern partnership, PM Modi recalled the words of India's Nobel laureate. "Almost a hundred years ago, India's great poet Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore called Korea the Lamp of the East and today, Korea is an important partner to realise our resolve of a developed India 2047," he added. The Prime Minister expressed confidence that the bilateral synergy would have a far-reaching impact beyond the two nations. "Let us, through our partnership, pave the way for progress and prosperity not only for both countries but for the entire world," PM Modi said.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Tehran shuns peace talks after US seizes Iranian ship; Pakistan tells Trump Hormuz blockade could be 'hurdle'

ISLAMABAD

Iran insisted it has no plan to attend a new round of negotiations with the United States on Monday, despite Pakistan intensifying diplomatic contacts with both Washington and Tehran over the past 24 hours.

After initial talks ended without a deal in Islamabad earlier this month, both sides have traded accusations of ceasefire violations, including the US seizure of an Iranian cargo ship early Monday.

Iran on Saturday said it had received new proposals from the United States but suggested a wide gap remained between the sides. It was unclear whether either side had shifted stances on issues that derailed the last round of negotiations, including Iran's nuclear enrichment program, its regional proxies and the Strait of Hormuz.

US President Donald Trump has said American negotiators would head to the Pakistani capital on Monday, but it was not immediately clear whether those plans would now change.

"We're offering a very fair and reasonable DEAL, and I hope they take it," Trump said in a social media post.

Over the weekend, the US attacked and seized an Iranian-flagged cargo vessel that it said had tried to evade its blockade of Iranian ports.

Iran's joint military command vowed to respond, and its Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told his Pakistani counterpart that American threats to Iranian ships and ports were "clear signs" of Washington's disingenuousness ahead of the planned talks, Iran state media reported.

"We have no plans for the next round of negotiation, and no decision has been made in this regard," said foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei.

"While claiming diplomacy and readiness for negotiations, the US is carrying out behaviours that do not in any way indicate seriousness in



pursuing a diplomatic process," he added, calling the US blockade and cargo ship seizure "clear violations of the ceasefire".

Chinese President Xi Jinping told Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in a phone call on Monday that "normal traffic" through the vital Strait of Hormuz "should be maintained", state media said.

Xi also stressed in the call that China "advocates for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire", state broadcaster CCTV said.

Iran throttled traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Persian Gulf to the open seas, shortly

after the US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28 to start the war. The US has also instituted a blockade of Iranian ports.

Roughly one-fifth of the world's oil trade normally passes through the strait, along with critical supplies of fertilizer for the world's farmers, natural gas and humanitarian supplies for places in dire need like Afghanistan and Sudan.

Since the war started, at least 3,375 people have been killed in Iran, according to a new toll released Monday in official Iranian media by Abbas Masjedi, the head of Iran's Legal Medicine Organization. He did not break down casualties among

civilians and security forces, instead just saying that 2,875 were male and 496 were female. Masjedi said 383 of the dead were children 18 years old and under.

More than 2,290 people have also been killed in Lebanon, 23 in Israel and more than a dozen in Gulf Arab states. Fifteen Israeli soldiers in Lebanon and 13 US service members throughout the region have been killed.

Iran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz has also sent oil prices skyrocketing and given rise to one of the worst global energy crises in decades.

Oil prices recovered slightly following Iran's announcement that the strait was being reopened a 10-day truce between Israel and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon took hold on Friday.

But then Trump said the US blockade "will remain in full force" until Tehran reaches a deal with the US and on Sunday the military seized the Iranian cargo ship, the first interception since the blockade began last week.

Iran's joint military command called the armed boarding an act of piracy and a ceasefire violation, the state broadcaster said, and vowed to again enforce restrictions imposed early in the war. Already on Saturday, Iran fired at ships trying to transit.

Oil prices were up again in early trading on Monday, with Brent crude, the international standard, at about \$95 a barrel — up more than 30% from the day the war started.

Iran early Monday warned it could keep up the global economic pain as ships remained unable to transit the strait, with hundreds of vessels waiting at each end for clearance.

Security of the strait is not free and "the choice is clear: either a free oil market for all, or the risk of significant costs for everyone," Mohammad Reza Aref, first vice president of Iran, said in a social media post calling for a lasting end to military and economic pressure on Tehran.

### Japan issues warning after 7.7-magnitude quake hits north



TOKYO

Japan issued a special advisory on Monday warning of an increased risk of earthquakes at magnitude 8.0 or stronger, after a powerful jolt rattled the country's north and prompted a tsunami warning.

The Japan Meteorological Agency's advisory came a few hours after a 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck in Pacific waters off northern Iwate prefecture at 4:53 pm (0753 GMT).

The jolt was so intense that it shook large buildings in the capital Tokyo, hundreds of kilometres (miles) from the epicentre.

The meteorological agency said that "the likelihood of a new, huge earthquake occurring is relatively higher than during normal times".

Municipalities in the affected region issued non-compulsory evacuation directives to more than 182,000 residents, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

Around 40 minutes after the quake, an 80-centimetre (31-inch) tsunami wave hit a port in Kuji in Iwate, according to the weather agency, which had initially estimated the magnitude at 7.4 before

revising it upwards.

The agency said the later advisory about another possible earthquake only reflected an elevated risk, rather than providing any specific predictions.

"Although the probability is low, there is a possibility of another major earthquake occurring; therefore, please review your earthquake preparedness measures in these areas," it said in a statement.

By the evening, authorities slightly downgraded the tsunami warning but kept an advisory for possible waves up to one metre (3.3 feet) along the vast northeastern Pacific coast.

There were no immediate reports of serious injuries or significant damage, Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara told a news conference. Footage from national broadcaster NHK showed no clearly visible damage around several ports in Iwate.

But officials have reiterated that aftershocks could strike the area over the coming week, particularly within the next two to three days, potentially "causing even stronger shaking".

The prime minister's

office said it had set up a crisis management team, and the government was working to establish whether there were any casualties or serious property damage.

"For those of you who live in areas for which the warnings have been issued, please evacuate to higher, safer places," Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said.

Japan is one of the world's most seismically active countries, sitting on top of four major tectonic plates along the western edge of the Pacific "Ring of Fire".

The archipelago, home to around 125 million people, typically experiences around 1,500 jolts every year and accounts for about 18 percent of the world's earthquakes.

The vast majority are mild, although the damage they cause varies according to their location and the depth below the Earth's surface at which they strike.

Japan is haunted by the memory of a massive 9.0-magnitude undersea quake in 2011, which triggered a tsunami that killed or left missing around 18,500 people and caused a devastating meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear plant.

In 2024, the weather agency issued its first special advisory of a possible "megaquake" along the Nankai Trough. This 800-kilometre undersea trench is where the Philippine Sea oceanic tectonic plate is "subducting" — or slowly slipping — underneath the continental plate that Japan sits atop.

The government has said a quake in the Nankai Trough and subsequent tsunami could kill as many as 298,000 people and cause up to \$2 trillion in damage.

Another week-long "megaquake" advisory was issued in December 2025 after a magnitude-7.5 tremor struck off the northern coast, injuring more than 40 people but causing no major damage.

## Energy Saving Technologies in Agriculture: Practical Pathways for a Sustainable Future



**A**griculture is the backbone of human survival, as it feeds the world, but it also consumes enormous amount of energy. Yet few people realize, how much energy is required to produce the food on our plates. From running tractors and irrigation pumps to producing fertilizers and processing harvested crops, modern farming depends heavily on electricity and fossil fuels. As energy costs rise and climate change threatens agricultural productivity, there is an urgent need to make agriculture more energy-efficient without reducing food production.

Recent technological advances now offer practical ways for the farming community to save energy, cut costs, and protect the environment simultaneously. These innovations are not futuristic ideas—they are already being used successfully in many regions. This article explains how modern energy-saving technologies such as precision farming, smart irrigation, solar power, conservation tillage, artificial intelligence in greenhouses, and biogas production are transforming agriculture into a more sustainable energy efficient and climate-resilient system for the future.

**Understanding Where Energy Is Used on the Farm**

Energy use on farms happens in both visible and hidden ways. Studies by the Food and Agriculture Organization show that a large share of farm energy is spent on three major activities: irrigation pumping, tillage operations, and the use of chemical fertilizers. Diesel is burnt in tractors for ploughing, sowing, spraying, and harvesting. Electricity or diesel is used to pump water for irrigation. Large amount of energy is also consumed in producing chemical fertilizers, especially nitrogen fertilizers made through industrial processes. Grain drying, cold storage, and transportation after harvest also add to the energy bill. By improving the efficiency of these operations, farmers can reduce both direct and indirect energy use. Reducing energy use in these three areas alone can make farming far more efficient and environmental friendly.

**Precision Agriculture: Doing the Right Thing at the Right Place**

Precision agriculture is a modern approach where farmers use GPS, sensors, drones, and computer-based decision tools to manage crops and apply inputs such as water, fertilizers, and pesticides more accurately and only where they are actually needed. With GPS-guided tractors, farmers avoid overlapping passes in the field, saving fuel and time. Variable-rate applicators ensure that fertilizers are applied only in required quantities at specific locations, preventing waste. Drones help in identifying pest-affected areas and allow targeted spraying instead

of the entire field, reducing chemical and fuel use. By avoiding unnecessary use of inputs, precision agriculture reduces fuel consumption, fertilizer use, and pesticide application by 15 to 30 percent. This not only saves energy but also reduces pollution and input costs while maintaining or even improving crop yields.

**Smart Irrigation: Saving Water and Energy Together**

Irrigation is one of the biggest energy-consuming activities in agriculture. Traditional flood irrigation wastes large quantities of water, and the energy used to pump that water is also wasted. Smart irrigation systems solve this problem. Soil moisture sensors placed in the field measure how much water the crop actually needs. Automated systems then supply water only when required. When combined with drip irrigation, water is delivered directly to the plant roots at low pressure, greatly reducing pumping energy. Farmers using drip irrigation with smart controllers report water savings of up to 50% and energy savings of 20 to 40%. The benefit is even greater when irrigation systems are powered by solar pumps.

**Solar Energy and Agrivoltaics: Growing Crops and Power Together**

Solar energy is becoming a game changer for agriculture. Solar-powered irrigation pumps are replacing diesel pumps in many parts of India and other countries. Once installed, these pumps operate with almost no running cost and produce no emissions. An innovative concept called agrivoltaics takes this idea further. In agrivoltaics systems, solar panels are installed above the crop field at a height that allows farming underneath while the panels while electricity is generated above. Surprisingly, many crops benefit from partial shade, which reduces heat stress and water loss. This dual use of land allows farmers to earn from both agriculture and electricity generation. The shade reduces heat stress and lowers water evaporation from the soil, reducing irrigation needs. Farmers earn from both crop production and electricity generation from the same land, making agriculture more profitable and energy efficient at the same time.

**Conservation Tillage: Less Ploughing, More Saving, and Improving Soil**

Conventional farming involves repeated ploughing and harrowing before sowing, that requires multiple tractor passes, each consuming diesel. Conservation tillage and no-till farming eliminate most of these operations by planting seeds directly into the previous crop residues. This practice can reduce tillage fuel use by up to 60 percent. At the same time, it improves soil health, reduces erosion, increases soil organic matter, and enhances water retention. Healthier soil means less irrigation is needed, leading to further energy savings. In India, machines like the Happy Seeder allow wheat to be sown directly into rice residues, avoiding both burning and excessive tillage. This not only saves fuel but also reduces air pollution and improves soil health.

**Artificial Intelligence in Greenhouses: Smart Climate, Less Energy**

Greenhouses allow farmers to grow high value vegetables and flowers

throughout the year, but maintaining temperature, humidity, light, and ventilation require a lot of energy. Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems are now being used to manage greenhouse climate intelligently. Sensors continuously monitor environmental conditions, and AI software adjusts heating, cooling, ventilation, and lighting to maintain ideal conditions using minimum energy. These smart systems can reduce greenhouse energy consumption by nearly 30% without affecting crop growth. Similar techniques are also being used in vertical farming, where crops are grown indoors under artificial lighting.

**Biogas from Agricultural Waste: Turning Farm Waste into Energy**

Agriculture produces large amount of waste such as crop residues, animal dung, and food processing by-products. Instead of burning or discarding this waste, it can be converted into biogas through a process called anaerobic digestion. This biogas can be used for cooking, electricity generation, or heating. Farmers using biogas plants can meet their own energy needs and reduce dependence on LPG, firewood, kerosene, or grid electricity. The leftover slurry from the biogas plant is an excellent organic fertilizer, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers and the energy used to produce them. Thus, waste becomes a valuable resource in a circular farming system. This adds

to circular economy where waste becomes a resource.

**Combining Technologies for Greater Impact**

The real strength of energy-saving agriculture lies in combining these technologies. A farm that uses precision farming, smart solar irrigation, conservation tillage, and biogas production can reduce energy use dramatically while increasing productivity and income. Such integrated farming systems are especially useful for small and medium farmers who face rising input costs and unreliable power supply.

**Challenges and the Way Forward**

Despite their benefits, these technologies require initial investment and technical knowledge. Many small farmers cannot afford them without government support, training, subsidies, easy loans, and strong extension services are necessary to encourage adoption. Better rural internet connectivity and extension services are also essential for wider adoption.

Policies that support renewable energy, carbon credits, and equipment subsidies can accelerate this transition. Governments and institutions can play a big role by promoting renewable energy use, supporting farmer training programmes, and encouraging sustainable farming practices.

**Toward an Energy-Efficient Agricultural Future**

Energy-saving technologies in agriculture are not just about reducing fuel bills. They are about building a farming system that is economically strong, environmentally safe, and capable of facing climate challenges. By adopting modern practices such as precision agriculture, smart irrigation, solar energy, conservation tillage, AI-driven greenhouse management, and biogas production, farmers can produce more food with less energy. This approach ensures food security while protecting natural resources for future generations.

The future of agriculture lies in smart use of energy, where tradition, science, sustainability, and farming go hand in hand for the benefit of both people and the planet.

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Ministry of Culture  
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**North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC),  
Dimapur**



Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India

*Presents*

# 1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION - NE TRIBAL FEST

## UTTAR-POORV JANJATIYA BASANT UTSAV – 2026

### 19-23 APRIL 2026

Art | Craft | Cuisine

11:00 a.m. Onwards

Music | Dance | Band | Choir

06:00 p.m. Onwards

**BIHU NACH COMPETITION: 19<sup>TH</sup> & 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2026**

**📍 NEZCC SHILPGRAM, PANJABARI, GUWAHATI**

