

# Five deaths and no arrests as Manipur sees fresh violence

**Vijaita Singh**

NEW DELHI

Since April 7, Manipur has witnessed five killings, including that of two children, but there have been no arrests in any of the cases so far. The Bishnupur-Churachandpur road has remained blocked for the past 12 days, hindering the National Investigation Agency (NIA)'s investigation into the April 7 killing of two children at Tronglaobi, Bishnupur, a senior government official said.

As the attackers remain unidentified, local people have taken to the streets multiple times in the past week and have clashed with security forces demanding arrest of the attackers, leaving scores of people injured.

The siblings, whose father is a BSF jawan, were sleeping when a "bomb" allegedly launched from a distance of 100-150 metres exploded in their house. Another government official said probe agencies were yet to receive any CCTV footage from the area that could help them identify the attackers as an unexploded device – a galvanised iron pipe with a factory-made rocket tip and wires dangling from its sides – was also recovered near the house.

## Manipur group calls for boycott of BJP in State

GUWAHATI

Amid continued violence and a shutdown, an influential organisation in Manipur has announced a boycott of the BJP. It sought a statement from the Chief Minister explaining why the government has been unable to stop the attacks on civilians. » **PAGE 10**

Meitei civil society groups have accused Kuki-Zo insurgent groups in Churachandpur of being behind the attack.

### 'Roads blocked'

"No civil supplies are coming to Pherzawl and Churachandpur from Imphal side as the roads remain blocked. The essentials are being routed from Silchar in Assam and Aizawl in Mizoram. Even if Kuki-Zo groups are involved, due to the blockade, the NIA team has not been able to visit Churachandpur for the investigation," the first government official said. On April 10, a BSF jawan was killed in "unprovoked firing by militants" in the Litan area of Ukhrul district.

**CONTINUED ON**

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# Five deaths, no arrests as Manipur sees violence

The Naga-dominated Litan area of Ukhrul has witnessed a wave of violence and arson between Nagas and Kukis since February 7, three days after Yumnam Khemchand Singh was installed as the new Chief Minister of the State.

On Saturday, suspected militants ambushed the vehicles of civilians on National Highway no. 202 in Ukhrul, killing two Tangkhul Naga men, including a retired soldier.

A government source said that preliminary probe into Saturday's killings had indicated the use of an automatic weapon, most likely an AK series rifle, which is used by hardened militant groups active in the region.

Also on April 7, three others were killed when Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel opened fire at a mob that tried to loot the armoury at Gelmol, 1.5 km from Tronglaobi. Gelmol has been a buffer zone between Meitei-dominated Bishnupur and Kuki-Zo-dominated Churachandpur since 2023.

According to Losii Dikho, Manipur's Deputy Chief Minister, the outreach by Mr. Singh is being appreciated by all communities and the recent incidents could be an attempt to instigate unrest in the State. "There is speculation that the violence is being instigated. The Chief Minister visited Senapati district, a Naga-dominated area. To reach there, he crossed Kangpokpi, a Kuki-Zo area, probably one of the first from the Meitei community to do so. A day ago, he visited Ukhrul to meet members of Naga community and also stopped at a Kuki village. He may soon visit Churachandpur, I have been there thrice," he told *The Hindu*.

# Amid shutdown, Manipur group calls for BJP boycott

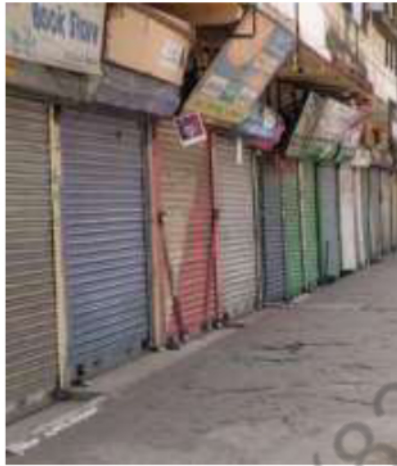
**The Hindu Bureau**

GUWAHATI

Amid continued violence and a shutdown, an influential organisation in Manipur has announced a boycott of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the State.

The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), a conglomerate of Meitei civil society organisations in the Imphal Valley, on Sunday urged people to avoid any function of the BJP or its leaders. It also demanded a statement from Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh, explaining why his government has been unable to stop the attacks on civilians.

“He (the Chief Minister) is not connected to any civil society organisation of any community in Manipur. He seems to be on a personal trip, forgetting that ‘narco-terrorists’ and militants are moving around with the core agenda of killing innocent people,” COCOMI leader Shanta Nahakpam told journalists in the State’s capital, Imphal.



Deserted streets in Imphal Valley on Sunday, the first day of a shutdown. ANI VIDEO GRAB

Narco-terrorist is a term non-Kuki indigenous communities in Manipur use for armed Kuki-Zo groups, mostly in a Suspension of Operations agreement with the government. Mr. Nahakpam said the people of Manipur believe the BJP was responsible for failing to push the Centre to prevent the “proxy war” by these groups against the indigenous peoples.

This failure justified the call to boycott the BJP and its activities in Manipur, the COCOMI leader said, as anger spilt onto the streets.

Normal activities were affected across the five districts of Imphal Valley on Sunday, the first day of a

five-day shutdown called by Meitei women’s groups and civil society organisations. They set April 25 as the deadline for the authorities to arrest all those responsible for a bomb attack that killed two minors – a five-year-old boy and a six-month-old girl – in the Tronglaobi area of Bishnupur district.

Kuki extremists allegedly carried out the attack, although Kuki organisations denied any involvement. Later, the shutdown was extended to seven days.

Manipur Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam appealed to the organisations to withdraw the shutdown in the interest of people’s welfare.

The appeal, however, cut no ice, with an apex Naga body joining the Meitei groups to announce a three-day shutdown across Naga-inhabited areas from April 20 midnight. The United Naga Council (UNC) said the shutdown was called “as a collective expression of condemnation” of the killing of two Tangkhul Naga men on Saturday.

# On delimitation and Parliament seats

What is delimitation, and how does it work in India? What changes were proposed in the 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill? Why was an increase in Lok Sabha seats proposed? What concerns did the Opposition raise against the Bills? What is the way forward?

## EXPLAINER

Rangarajan R.

### The story so far:

The Union government had introduced the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill to increase the maximum number of Lok Sabha seats from the existing 550 to 850. It had also introduced a Bill to set up the Delimitation Commission in 2026. However, the Constitution Amendment Bill was defeated in the Lok Sabha, and thereafter, the Delimitation Bill was withdrawn by the government.

### What are the existing provisions?

Delimitation refers to the process of fixing the number of seats and the boundaries of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies. This exercise is carried out by a Delimitation Commission set up through an Act of Parliament. Such exercises have previously been conducted based on the 1951, 1961, and 1971 Censuses. The number of Lok Sabha seats, based on the 1971 Census, was fixed at 543 when the population was 54.8 crore. The number has been frozen, based on the 1971 Census, to encourage population control measures. As per the current constitutional provisions, this number is to be readjusted based on the 2027 Census.

In 2023, through the 106th Constitutional Amendment, Parliament provided for one-third reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. This would be through delimitation based on the next Census.

### What are the Bills?

The 131st Constitution Amendment Bill proposed three key changes. First, to



The Bill proposed to increase the maximum number of Lok Sabha seats from 550 to 850. PTI

increase the maximum number of Lok Sabha seats from 550 to 850. Second, to empower Parliament to determine the Census based on which delimitation would be carried out. Third, to delink one-third reservation for women from the next Census in 2027 and to enable the same based on delimitation as per the last published Census of 2011.

The Delimitation Bill, 2026, provided for the setting up of a Delimitation Commission from time to time by the Union government. This Commission would allocate Lok Sabha seats among the States and Union Territories based on the latest Census figures. Had the Bill been passed and a Commission immediately constituted, the allocation would have been based on the 2011 Census.

### What are the issues?

The government argued that increasing the number of Lok Sabha seats by around 50% (from 543 to 816) would enable the seamless implementation of one-third

reservation for women in an expanded House. This would have resulted in approximately 272 seats being reserved for women.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah gave an oral assurance that the number of seats in each State and Union Territory would be increased by 50% on a pro-rata basis, thereby not altering the current proportion of their representation in the total strength of the Lok Sabha.

However, the Opposition raised several objections. Firstly, there was no need to bundle women's reservations with delimitation. The 106th amendment in 2023 enables one-third reservation for women within the existing 543 seats. Second, the draft Bills did not contain an explicit provision for a pro-rata 50% increase in seats for each State or Union Territory. In fact, the Delimitation Bill provided that the allocation of seats would be as per the latest Census population. Third, the Opposition contended that such an important and

sensitive subject requires detailed discussions and should not be rushed through in a brief session.

### What can be the way forward?

Democracy implies government by the people. It follows that the government is elected by the majority with the broad principle of 'one citizen-one vote-one value'. This principle has been diluted in the interest of population control since 1976, when the delimitation exercise was frozen based on the 1971 Census. Given the federal nature of India's polity, the next delimitation process has to take into consideration the variation in population growth across States.

Mr. Shah offered to include an explicit provision to guarantee a 50% pro-rata increase in seats for each State and Union Territory. It was unclear whether this would have been provided in the Constitution Amendment or the Delimitation Bill. If it had been provided in the Constitutional Amendment, any future changes for the same could have been effected only by a two-thirds majority. However, if it had been provided in the Delimitation Bill, amendments could be made by a simple majority.

Article 81(2) of the Constitution provides that the ratio between the number of seats and the population of each State should, as far as practicable, be the same across States. While a 50% pro-rata increase may offer a middle ground between democratic and federal principles, it would still be appropriate to discuss the same in more detail through parliamentary committees. The other urgent reform needed in our democracy is to empower the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities, which engage with the citizens on a daily basis. (Rangarajan R. is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. He currently trains civil-service aspirants at Officers IAS Academy. Views expressed are personal)

## THE GIST

▼ The proposed increase in Lok Sabha seats and changes to delimitation faced political opposition and were defeated in Parliament.

▼ The core issue remains balancing "one citizen-one vote-one value" with federal concerns, requiring wider consensus and detailed parliamentary scrutiny.

# 23 killed in explosion at fireworks factory near Virudhunagar in T.N.

S. Sundar

VIRUDHUNAGAR

In one of the deadliest accidents at a fireworks factory in Tamil Nadu in recent times, 23 workers were killed and eight injured in an explosion at Vanaja Fireworks Unit at Kattannarpatti near Virudhunagar on Sunday.

A second explosion at the unit injured 17, including six policemen and four firemen. Rescuers and presspersons who had gathered at the spot narrowly escaped unhurt.

Most victims were charred beyond recognition with many bodies blown away by the impact of the explosion. Firemen were seen collecting mutilated body parts strewn all around the unit. Many bodies were pulled out from the debris after one of the sheds came crashing down on the workers.

The condition of two persons is said to be critical with over 80% burns. All the injured, including a child and five women, were rushed to the Virudhunagar Government Medical College and Hospital.

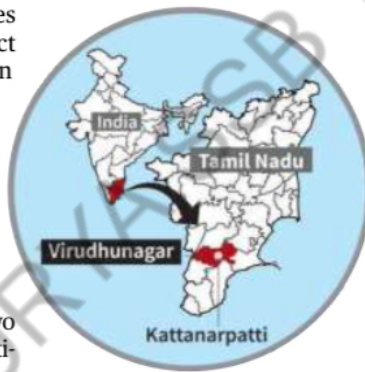
Following instructions from Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, Ministers K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran and Thangam Thennarasu, along with local MLA A.R.R. Srinivasan,

## Recurring disasters

Data show that since 2022, at least 134 people had died and 89 had been injured in firecracker unit accidents in Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu



**Torn apart:** Rescue workers react after a blast during search operations near the firecracker unit in Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu, on Sunday. G. MOORTHY



rushed to the spot to oversee the rescue operation being carried out by firemen and the police.

Virudhunagar Collector N.O. Sukhaputra and Superintendent of Police N. Shreenatha camped at the site which is some 7 km west off the Madurai-Tirunelveli National Highway

from R.R. Nagar.

The Collector said there was a blast around 3.15 p.m. at the shed where chemicals were being mixed.

The fireworks industry is shut on Sundays, but the unit was operating without permission, he said.

### 'Violated norms'

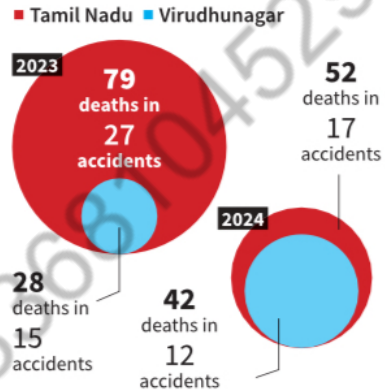
Some 40 workers, men and women, were busy making firecrackers inside and outside the shed. "All these workers were supposed to be working in their sheds located away from [the site] where the chemical is mixed. But they violated safety norms," the Collector said.

Mr. Sukhaputra said additional medical teams

have been mobilised at the Virudhunagar Hospital. Besides, efforts are on to carry out post-mortem, with experts being brought in from Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai.

"For any fireworks unit licensed by the District Revenue Officer, only 11 or 12 workers can be employed at any given point of time. That being the case, how can 23 persons die in a single accident," asked a fireworks factory owner. He feared that licensed units would face the brunt of knee-jerk reaction from the officials now.

In licensed units, only four workers are usually allowed in a working shed.



At least 21 people were killed in firecracker manufacturing accidents in Virudhunagar between April and August in 2025

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# Armed Forces eye biogas, solar to cut fuel use amid West Asia crisis

**Amrita Nayak Dutta**

*New Delhi, April 19*

INDIA'S ARMED Forces are exploring various measures to conserve Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and fuel amid the ongoing global energy crisis triggered by the Iran war — from procuring alternative cooking sources, preferably biogas in

the short term, to exploiting solar and wind energy on a larger scale over the next few months, senior officials told *The Indian Express*.

Orders to procure biogas stoves are in the pipeline and will be initiated soon by the Army, the officials said.

With the focus on conserving fuel, it is also being dis-

cussed whether the movement of large Army convoys for administrative purposes can be restricted to 400 km, while maximising the use of the rail network beyond that.

“Implementing limited restrictions on the routine movement of Army vehicles without affecting operational efficiency

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# Armed Forces

is being deliberated upon. This includes the pooling of vehicles and combining duties, such as the collection of rations, stores, and transportation of troops, wherever feasible. Furthermore, the use of CNG or electric civil hired transport will be encouraged where possible,” an official said.

Officials said some of these measures are in place, and others are in the process of being implemented. Other initiatives will be incorporated soon as part of the energy conservation efforts, and special drives towards their implementation are likely to be held over the next few weeks, they said.

According to officials, the conservation efforts will not impact operational flying although routine flights might be optimised. Operational flying can include those for rescue, casualty evacuation, emergent relocation of troops, and transportation of

ration and equipment. They said other measures to conserve fuel, oil and lubricants will also be encouraged at unit levels. Currently, 125-135 gm of gas is authorised per day for each soldier, for cooking food.

At present, every unit of the Army has four to six cookhouses feeding close to 125 to 150 soldiers every day, making cooking gas an essential commodity for troops deployed in various fields and peace units.

Officials indicated that approximately 156,000 kg of cooking gas is consumed daily in the Army, and about 20 per cent of that can be saved through biogas, amounting to 30,000 kg per day.

Besides, the Army alone has approximately over two lakh vehicles of various types, which are used regularly for administration, training, operations and maintenance, including transportation of stores, equipment,

troops and rations.

“Therefore, there is an enormous consumption of fuel on a daily basis for various administrative and operational duties,” an official said.

The consumption of lubricants used in vehicles for optimal functioning and maintenance of weapon systems increases in high altitude locations due to decreased efficiency of systems due to extreme weather conditions, officials said.

In December last year, *The Indian Express* reported that the Armed Forces are planning to optimise thousands of acres of unutilised defence land across the country over the next three to five years for various projects — particularly those focusing on green energy initiatives, such as establishment of solar and biogas plants.

In October 2024, NTPC partnered with the Army to establish a solar hydrogen-based microgrid at Chushul in Ladakh to provide stable power supply at off-grid locations.

# Women participation in economy rising, but presence at top dismal

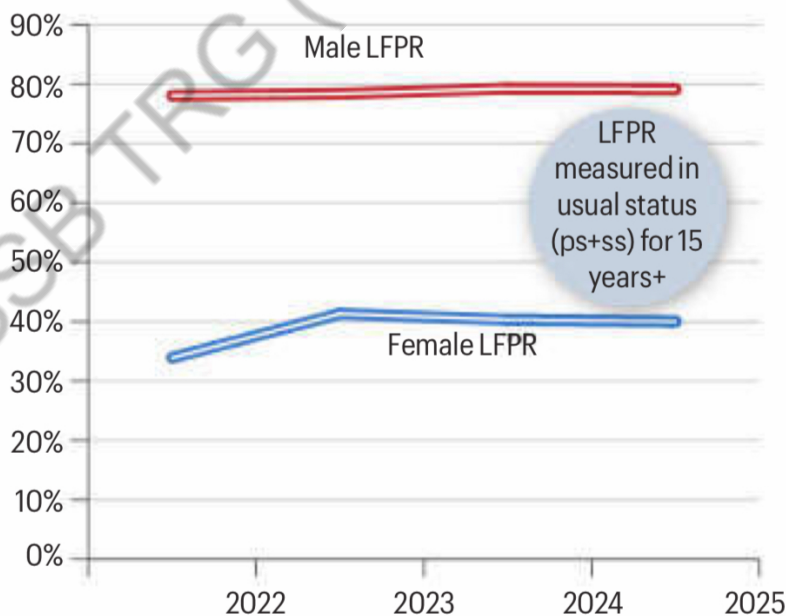
Siddharth Upasani &  
Aanchal Magazine  
New Delhi, April 19

THE INDIAN government has failed in its bid to get Parliamentary approval to bring forward the implementation of the Women's Reservation Act, with its linkage to the delimitation bill proving to be a stumbling block.

Greater participation of women in the economy, though — and not just at the legislative level — is necessary for India to become a developed economy.

In 2023, the World Bank said that for India to become a developed economy by 2047, it had to grow nearly 8% every year, which was not possible with the low level of female participation in the workforce. In fact, a 2018 paper found that Indian constituencies with women legislators

## ● Female LFPR has risen to half that of men...



SOURCE: MoSPI

## ● But in positions of power, women lag behind

in the workforce. In fact, a 2018 paper found that Indian constituencies with women legislators saw higher economic performance of about 1.8 percentage points per year compared to those with male lawmakers.

With the economy posting impressive growth rates in recent years, the female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) has risen from 33.9% in 2022 to 40% in 2025.

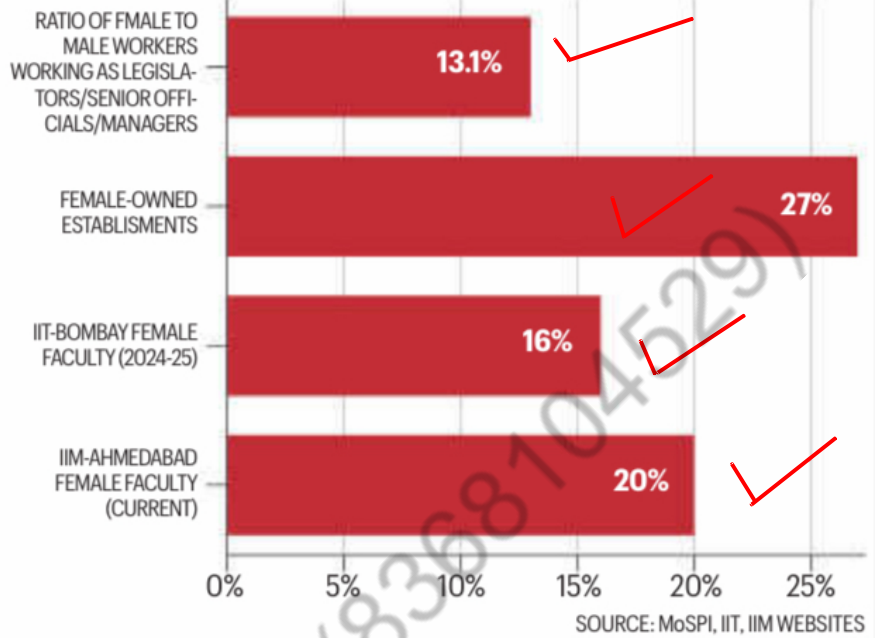
Yet, it remains well below the global average (49%) and emerging market peers like Brazil (53%) and Vietnam (69%). According to a new paper by Shishir Gupta and Aalhya Sabharwal of Centre for Social and Economic Progress, the promotion of labour-intensive industries is key to raising the female LFPR.

“...in labour-abundant countries like India, where the bulk of the labour force is in the informal sector with low wages, an increase in female labour supply only in response to relaxation of norms would imply an increase only in female employment at the expense of a further reduction in wages. An increase in demand, on the other hand, increases employment and wages,” they said.

### Few women at the top

While the female LFPR is rising, their presence in senior positions in various spheres, such as the country's top educational institutions, is much lower. In Indian Institutes of Technology, the proportion of female faculty is stagnant at around 14% of total strength. IIT-Jodhpur, at 22%, had the highest proportion of female faculty in academic year 2024-25: 57 out of 259. While this was

## • But in positions of power, women lag behind



a notable improvement from 14% (7 out of 49 in 2014-15, some IITs have even seen a decline.

The story is only slightly better at India's other world-class higher education institutes, the Indian Institutes of Management, with IIM-Ahmedabad having 20% female faculty, Bangalore 26%, Calcutta 31%, Lucknow 24%, Indore 19%, and Kozhikode 30%.

At an all-India level, the percentage of females in professor and equivalent positions rose to 29.5% in 2021-22 from 25.9% in 2011-12.

### Disparity in business

As in academia, female representation is low in business decision making. As per the statistics ministry's Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises, the share of female-owned proprietary establishments stood at 27% in 2025. Look a step below ownership and the situation is worse: for every 100

males working as legislators, senior officials, and managers in 2025, there were only 13 females in similarly high positions, as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey. While nearly all of India's leading firms have a woman as a director on their boards, 77% had only 1-2 women as directors.

“The mandate for ‘one-woman director’ is often interpreted as the maximum number of women needed on the board, regardless of the board's size,” law firm Khaitan & Co noted in October, adding that only 7% of BSE 200 and 5% of NSE 500 board chairpersons were women. “These positions are crucial for guiding strategic decisions and driving board culture... Without achieving a critical mass (30% as per research), their presence risks being symbolic rather than substantive in India's corporate governance landscape,” Khaitan added.

FULL REPORT ON

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# Sending team to Pak for talks, take deal or face attacks: Trump to Iran

Iran rejects new peace talks, cites US blockade of ports among reasons, says state news agency

Trevor Hunnicutt & Saad Sayeed  
Washington, Islamabad, April 19

**IRAN REJECTED** new peace talks with the United States, its state news agency reported on Sunday, hours after US President Donald Trump said he was sending envoys for talks in Pakistan and would launch new strikes on Iran unless it accepts his terms.

Trump posted on Truth Social that his envoys would arrive in Pakistan on Monday evening for negotiations, a timetable that would leave only a day for talks to make progress before a two-week ceasefire ends.

“We’re offering a very fair and reasonable deal, and I hope they take it because, if they don’t, the United States is going to knock out every single power plant, and every single bridge, in Iran,” he wrote. “No more Mr Nice Guy!”

Iran’s official IRNA news  
»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



A man inspects his car hit by a previous Israeli airstrike in southern Lebanon, Sunday. Residents started returning to devastated towns and neighbourhoods after US President Donald Trump announced Thursday that Israel and Lebanon had agreed to a 10-day ceasefire. AP

THE WORLD PAGE 12



**TRUMP’S ALLIES IN EUROPE FEAR SUPERFICIAL DEAL**

**FLEXING CONTROL ON HORMUZ IRAN’S NEW DETERRENT**

## Armed Forces eye biogas, solar to cut fuel use amid West Asia crisis

Amrita Nayak Dutta  
New Delhi, April 19

INDIA’S ARMED Forces are exploring various measures to conserve Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and fuel amid the ongoing global energy crisis triggered by the Iran war — from procuring alternative cooking sources, preferably biogas in

the short term, to exploiting solar and wind energy on a larger scale over the next few months, senior officials told *The Indian Express*.

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“Implementing limited restrictions on the routine movement of Army vehicles without affecting operational efficiency

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# Trump warns Iran

agency cited no specific source in its report that Iran had rejected the talks. "Iran stated that its absence from the second round of talks stems from what it called Washington's excessive demands, unrealistic expectations, constant shifts in stance, repeated contradictions, and the ongoing naval blockade, which it considers a breach of the ceasefire," IRNA wrote.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Iran's rejection of the talks.

Earlier, a White House official said the US delegation would be headed by Vice President J D Vance, who led the war's first peace talks a week ago, and also include Trump's envoy Steven Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner. Trump had initially told *ABC News* and *MS Now* that Vance would not go.

Iran's chief negotiator, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, earlier said the two sides had made progress but were still far apart on nuclear issues and the Strait of Hormuz. The vital shipping strait remained closed on Sunday, a day after Iran fired on two vessels that tried to cross.

Iran, which has blocked off the strait to ships apart from its own since the US and Israel attacked on February 28, had announced on Friday it would reopen it. But it reversed that decision on Saturday after Trump declined to lift a US

blockade of Iranian ports.

"Iran decided to fire bullets yesterday in the Strait of Hormuz — a total violation of our ceasefire agreement!" Trump wrote in Sunday morning's post. "That wasn't nice, was it," he wrote, adding, "It's time for the Iran killing machine to end."

## *Hormuz still shut*

Trump's renewed threat to hit Iran's power plants and bridges fits a pattern of such warnings throughout the war, several of which preceded moves to de-escalate. He abruptly announced the ceasefire two weeks ago just hours after declaring that Iran's "whole civilisation will die tonight". Iran has said that if the US attacks its civilian infrastructure, it would hit power stations and desalination plants of Gulf Arab neighbours.

Now in its eighth week, the war has created the most severe shock to global energy supplies in history, sending oil prices surging because of the de facto closure of the strait, which before the war carried one-fifth of the world's oil shipments.

Two liquefied petroleum gas tankers were seen on ship-tracking websites moving east-bound towards the strait early on Sunday morning, but the semi-official *Tasnim* news agency reported that Iran's armed forces turned them back. Marine traffic data showed no other movements

after midnight.

Friday's announcement that the strait would reopen caused the sharpest one-day drop in oil prices in years, while stock markets hit fresh all-time highs on the expectation that the disruption would soon end. But with the strait yet to reopen, markets could face new volatility when they reopen on Monday.

Amrita Sen, founder of the Energy Aspects think tank, predicted oil prices would rise on Monday when traders returned to their desks having realised they might have been prematurely optimistic last week. "Events over the weekend with Iran firing on merchant vessels and shutting the strait again highlight just how precarious the situation is," she said.

Thousands of people have been killed by US-Israeli strikes on Iran and in an Israeli invasion of Lebanon conducted in parallel. Iran responded to attacks with missiles and drones against its Arab neighbours that host US bases.

Meanwhile, two giant US C-17 cargo planes landed at Pakistan's Nur Khan air base on Sunday afternoon carrying security equipment and vehicles in preparation for the US delegation's arrival, two Pakistani security sources said.

City authorities in the capital Islamabad halted public transport and heavy goods traffic through the city. Rolls of barbed wire were rolled out near the Serena Hotel where last week's talks were held. The hotel told all guests on Sunday to leave.

REUTERS

# Deceptively benign

India must move from fossil fuel to avoid amplifying imported inflation

**W**hile India's March retail inflation, at 3.4%, rose marginally from February's 3.2%, this increase is deceptively benign. This is evident from the upward pressure on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), which climbed to a 38-month high of 3.88% in March. It is important to note that while the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has transitioned to a new base year of 2024, the WPI continues to use the 2011-12 base year, a divergence that must be kept in mind when interpreting the latest inflation data. While the March CPI appears comfortably within the RBI's 4%-6% tolerance band, the reading masks a far more complex build-up of pressures driven primarily by rising input costs, especially fuel prices. WPI inflation rose from about 2.4% in February to 3.88% in March, indicating a sharp month-on-month acceleration in wholesale price pressures. This has found only muted reflection in food prices, with the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) rising moderately from roughly 3.4% in February to about 3.8% in March.

Several factors are driving this divergence, chief among them the rupee's precipitous depreciation of about 2.5%-3% against the U.S. dollar. Given that crude oil and gas are globally traded in dollars, this has amplified imported inflation. The U.S.-Israeli war on Iran has disrupted supply chains for these critical fuels, pushing up global prices and transmitting inflationary pressures across economies. The rupee's depreciation has also raised the cost of imports, including fertilizers, plastics, and petrochemical products, which are key to pharmaceuticals, textiles and automobiles. While many firms have absorbed these costs, this may not be sustainable. At the same time, the contraction in exports (down about 3%-4% year-on-year) and imports (down about 5%-6% YoY) in March is not indicative of weakening demand alone, but of war-induced supply disruptions. In response, exporters – particularly MSMEs – are redirecting output to the domestic market, aided by policy relaxations that allow greater domestic sales from export-oriented units. This is creating localised supply gluts, delaying price pass-through even as producer margins compress due to rising input costs. The result is a temporary suppression of CPI. As these pressures unwind, inflation is likely to rise even as growth slows – pointing not to stability but to emerging stagflationary risks. The IMF's latest World Economic Outlook flags rising global recession risks and trims India's FY27 growth forecast to around 6.2%. The RBI, too, has echoed these concerns. This complex challenge underscores the vulnerability of oil-import-dependent economies. It also presents an opportunity for India to accelerate its shift to renewable energy.