

April 27, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Wind Power and “Mann Ki Baat” Address

Prime Minister Narendra Modi proudly stated that states like Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan are leading in wind power generation.

(i) India has achieved a major milestone in this sector, with its wind power generation capacity reaching 56 Gigawatts, he said.

(ii) The Prime Minister addresses the nation every month through the radio program Mann Ki Baat, aired on the last Sunday. Accordingly, the 133rd episode was broadcast on Sunday (April 26).

(iii) India currently ranks 4th in the world in wind power generation capacity.

(iv) Regions like Kutch, Patan, and Banaskantha in Gujarat—once largely desert areas—are now being transformed into large renewable energy parks.

(v) Modi also mentioned that Indian-made cheese won awards at an international competition held in Brazil.

(vi) He also referred to the 165th birth anniversary of Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore, to be celebrated on May 9.

2. Kalpakkam Nuclear Milestone

At the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, a 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor achieved its first criticality (initial nuclear fission stage) on April 6.

This marks the first stage of nuclear power generation and is considered a historic achievement in India's nuclear energy program.

The Prime Minister said:

- Recently, Indian nuclear scientists achieved a major milestone, enhancing the country's pride.
- The reactor at Kalpakkam has reached its first criticality, meaning it has successfully achieved a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction.
- This reactor is built entirely using indigenous technology.
- It not only generates power but can also produce future nuclear fuel, marking a significant step in India's nuclear journey.

3. Race for UN Secretary-General Post

There is intense competition among four candidates for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

(i) The current Secretary-General, António Guterres, will complete his term on January 1, 2027, so a successor must be chosen by December.

(ii) The main contenders are:

- Michelle Bachelet (Chile)
- Rafael Grossi (Argentina)
- Rebeca Grynspan (Costa Rica)
- Macky Sall (Senegal)

UN ambassadors questioned them last week on various global issues to understand their positions.

(iii) Representatives from other countries who wish to contest will also be questioned in the coming days.

4. China Training Pakistani Astronauts

It has been revealed that China is training two Pakistani personnel under its space program.

(i) After completing training, one of them will be sent to China's space station, Tiangong space station.

(ii) According to the Chinese Space Agency:

- Two Pakistani candidates arrived in China on the 24th.
- They are undergoing training at the astronaut training centre in Beijing along with Chinese astronauts.
- After successful completion, one will be selected as a payload specialist and sent to the space station.
- This person will become the first foreign astronaut to visit China's space station.

(iii) Pakistan Satellite Launch:

- China successfully launched a Pakistani satellite named PRSC-EO3 on Saturday night.
- It was launched using the Long March 6 rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in Shanxi Province at 8:15 PM (China time).
- This is the fourth Pakistani satellite launched by China since last year.

5. Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster – Remembrance in Ukraine

Amid ongoing attacks by Russia, people in Ukraine paid tribute on April 26, marking the anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster.

(i) When Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union, a nuclear accident occurred on April 26, 1986, at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Many people lost their lives, and several others suffered serious health effects.

(ii) This incident is considered one of the worst nuclear disasters in the world.

(iii) The anniversary of the disaster was observed in Ukraine. Despite continued Russian attacks, a large number of people gathered in a square in Slavutych and paid tribute by lighting candles.

6. India Tops ISSF Junior World Cup Shooting Competition

India finished in first place at the ISSF Junior World Cup.

(i) The Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun World Cup competitions were held in Cairo, Egypt. India secured the top position with a total of 16 medals: 5 gold, 6 silver, and 5 bronzes.

(ii) On the final day (Sunday), Hemant Barman won a silver medal in the 50m pistol event with 351.7 points. Rohit Kanyan and Vedanth Nithin finished in 6th and 7th places respectively.

(iii) In the mixed team event, India's Suhair Khan and Adiya Katyal won a bronze medal with 137 points. The pair missed out on a silver medal due to an error in the third round.

(iv) In the 50m rifle event, Tejal, Yugeshwari, Anushka, and Kavya finished in the last positions.

(v) Athletes are now preparing for the upcoming Junior Championship to be held in June in Suhl, Germany.

7. U.S. Imposes 123% Anti-Dumping Duty on Indian Solar Imports

The United States has announced a preliminary anti-dumping duty of 123% on solar cells and panels imported into the country.

(i) According to a recent statement by the U.S. Department of Commerce, investigations were conducted into the trade practices of Indian companies such as Mundra Solar PV, Mundra Solar Energy, Waaree Energies, and Premier Energies Photovoltaic. It was found that solar cells imported from India were being sold in the U.S. at prices lower than fair market value.

(ii) Since these products were estimated to be sold at prices 123.07% below normal value, a preliminary anti-dumping duty of 123% has been imposed. A final review of this duty will be conducted within 75 days.

(iii) It is also noted that investigations have been carried out to determine whether similar dumping practices have occurred with solar imports from countries like Laos and Indonesia.

8. Record Surge in India's Power Demand

Power demand in India reached an all-time high of 256.11 gigawatts on Saturday (April 25).

(i) With the onset of summer, temperatures have been rising daily. As a result, the use of air conditioners (ACs) and coolers in homes and offices has increased significantly.

(ii) Due to this, power demand had already reached 252.07 gigawatts on Friday. This further increased to a record 256.11 gigawatts on Saturday, according to data from the Ministry of Power.

(iii) The ministry has estimated that power demand could rise to 270 gigawatts during this summer, and experts say demand is steadily moving toward that level.

(iv) The India Meteorological Department stated that temperatures in many parts of the country have risen by 5°C or more above normal levels.

9. Renowned Indian Photographer Raghu Rai Passes Away

Raghu Rai (83), one of India's most celebrated photographers, passed away due to ill health.

(i) Born in 1942 in Jhang, West Punjab (now in Pakistan), Raghu Rai initially trained as an engineer but developed a strong passion for photography. In 1966, he joined the English daily The Statesman as its chief photographer.

(ii) Over the next 60 years, he documented the evolution of India's socio-political landscape through his

camera.

(iii) His notable works include documentation of major events such as the 1972 Bangladesh refugee crisis and the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy.

(iv) He was honoured with the Padma Shri award for his photographic coverage of the Bangladesh Liberation War and its aftermath. He also received numerous national and international awards.

10. 5-Year Biodiversity Management Plan Launched

A five-year project to strengthen grassroots biodiversity management has been launched in Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya by the Ministry of Environment and the National Biodiversity Authority.

(i) The project aims to enhance biodiversity conservation. It will be implemented by integrating green initiatives into village panchayat development plans and empowering local communities and institutions through funding.

(ii) A key objective is to strengthen panchayat systems and Biodiversity Management Committees by incorporating biodiversity conservation measures into local development planning.

(iii) The plan will involve coordination among forest and revenue department officials, as well as elected representatives. It also aims to promote funding mechanisms through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives and the development of sustainable green micro-enterprises.

(iv) The project will be implemented in Sathyamangalam in Erode district of Tamil Nadu—where the Western and Eastern Ghats meet—and in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya.

(v) This initiative is a joint effort of the Central Government, the Global Environment Facility, and the United Nations Development Programme. A fund of ₹46 crore has been allocated for the period 2025–2030.

11. Analysis of the protracted ethnic conflict in Manipur, which has flared up again as of April 2026 after several months of relative calm.

(i) Root Causes of the Manipur Conflict

- Ethnic Geography: Manipur, with a population of 28.55 lakh (as per the 2011 census), is divided between the central valley and the surrounding hills.
- The Divide: The Meitei community primarily resides in the valley, while the Naga and Kuki communities live in the surrounding hilly regions.
- Historical Tensions: Differences between these communities are not new; various armed groups have been fighting for separate statehood since the 1960s, and the state has been designated a "disturbed area" by the Central Government since 1980.
- The Immediate Trigger: On March 27, 2023, the Manipur High Court ordered the State Government to recommend the inclusion of the Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) list.
- Kuki Resistance: This ruling sowed fear among the Kuki tribal community that their existing rights and protections would be snatched away. This led to a massive protest march on May 3, 2023, which spiralled into widespread violence.

(ii) Issues Involved and Recent Escalations (2026)

- To date, more than 260 people have died, and thousands have been displaced, living in government-run relief camps.
- Recent Violence (April 2026):
 - April 7: Kuki militants threw a bomb at a house in Bishnupur, killing two children.
 - Retaliation: During subsequent protests against the child killings, four more people died in security force firing.
 - April 18: Two Nagas were killed in Ukhrul district.
 - April 24: Clashes in Mualam village resulted in the deaths of two Kukis and one Naga.
- A new challenge has emerged as militant groups are now using drones and rocket launchers to attack rival factions.
- Weapons are being smuggled across the border from Myanmar, sustaining the violence despite heavy security.
- Self-interested separatist forces are reportedly spreading lies and rumors through digital platforms to "pour oil on the fire" and keep the communities divided.

(iii) Steps Taken by the Government

- More than 60,000 security personnel have been deployed across Manipur to maintain peace.
- During periods of President's Rule, security forces arrested 12 high-profile militants from groups like the Kuki National Army and recovered large quantities of illegal weapons.
- The Government has destroyed hundreds of acres of Ganja (cannabis) crops, which were identified as a primary source of funding for militant activities.
- Political Restructuring:
 - Due to the inability to control the violence, N. Biren Singh resigned as Chief Minister on February 9, 2025.
 - Following a year of President's Rule, K. Hemchand Singh was sworn in as the new Chief Minister on February 4, 2026.

(iv) Proposed Remedies

- The Government must identify and isolate the "selfish forces" that profit from communal division.
- Peace-loving individuals from within the Meitei, Naga, and Kuki communities must be brought forward to lead negotiations.
- The Government has a duty to put a "full stop" to this violence without further delay, as the ongoing unrest is a significant stain on India's national reputation.