

Mizoram Earthquake

July 14, 2020

Mizoram was hit by an earthquake of 4.1 in the Richter Scale for the third time in a span of 48 hours, all at the same location of **Champhai district in southern Mizoram**. Tremors were felt across the state and adjoining areas for the fourth time in three days.

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Champhai, where the earthquake originated, was also the epicenter of two more quakes in the last 72 hours, including a 5.1 quake at Ngopa area, towards east and north-east of Aizawl and another medium-intensity earthquake of 5 on the Richter Scale. Mizoram's **zone of earthquakes is caught between two subterranean faults. These are the Churachandpur Mao Fault and the Mat Fault.**

Faults are **discontinuities or cracks that are the result of differential motion within the earth's crust. Vertical or lateral slippage of the crust along the faults causes an earthquake.** The Churachandpur Mao Fault is named after two places in Manipur and **runs north-south into Myanmar along the border of Champhai. The Mat Fault runs northwest-southeast across Mizoram, beneath river Mat near Serchhip.**

There are **several shallower transverse or minor faults in between these two major faults that are deeper.** It is believed that the earthquakes have been caused by these minor faults.