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Assessment of landslide susceptibility for Meghalaya in North Eastern Region of India using bivariate and multi-criteria decision analysis models

Research Article

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Posted Date: October 21st, 2021

DOI: https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-993819/v1

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Version of Record: A version of this preprint was published at All Earth on April 27th, 2022. See the published version at https://doi.org/10.1080/27669645.2022.2101256.

- 1 Assessment of landslide susceptibility for Meghalaya in North Eastern Region of India
- 2 using bivariate and multi-criteria decision analysis models
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8 Abstract

The state of Meghalaya of the North Eastern Region (NER) of India, situated in the India 9 10 Himalayan Region (IHR), is the rainiest place in the country and falls under seismic zone V. The Himalayan ranges account for 80% of total landslide hazards in India. The main goal of 11 12 the present study is to generate the GIS-based landslide susceptibility map (LSM) of Meghalaya by using frequency ratio (FR), Shannon entropy (SE), analytical hierarchy process 13 14 (AHP), and fuzzy-AHP (FAHP) models and compare these models for the study area. Fifteen 15 landslide conditioning factors are used for susceptibility mapping includes a slope, aspect, 16 elevation, plan curvature, stream power index (SPI), topographic wetness index (TWI), land use land cover (LULC), normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI), distance from the 17 18 river, road and faults, rainfall (30 years mean annual rainfall), soil texture, geomorphology, and lithology. Landslide inventory of 1330 landslide events is prepared and mapped from 19 20 various sources. The inventory dataset is randomly split in a 70/30 ratio to make the training dataset (70%) used in the model and testing dataset (remaining 30%) for validation purposes. 21 22 The southern escarpment, the southeast region of the study area, and hillslope along the 23 roadside show high susceptibility for landslide occurrence in all four models. The LSMs produced in the present study are validated using the area under curve (AUC) value. The 24

presented LSMs can help concerned authorities and planners to make sustainable development
plans and formulate risk mitigation strategies keeping in mind the critical areas for landslide
hazards.

28 Keywords: Landslide, GIS, AHP, Fuzzy, Entropy, Northeast India, Hazard, AUC

29 1. Introduction

Landslide is a natural disaster, defined as the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or soil mass 30 down a slope. It is one of the most frequently occurring natural hazards and has caused massive 31 32 damage to infrastructure, human settlements, and loss of lives worldwide. After China, India is the second most affected country in Asia by this disaster, as per the Centre for Research on 33 the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) (Guha-Sapir et al. 2012). The entire Himalayan range 34 35 of India is very susceptible to landslides which accounts for approximately 80% of total landslide events in the country (Onagh et al. 2012). Due to landslides, significant damage to 36 roads and other infrastructure, economic and human losses have been reported in Himalayan 37 regions (Sur et al. 2020). The North Eastern Region (NER) of India is lying in the Eastern 38 Himalayas, is highly prone to seismic hazards (seismic zone V), and experiences heavy rainfall. 39 40 The region has numerous faults, shear zones, and other tectonic features. Together rainfall, high seismicity, and numerous tectonic features make the region highly susceptible to hazard 41 like a landslide. 42

To reduce the adverse impact of landslides, prepare risk mitigation strategies and plan the infrastructural development accordingly, the landslide susceptibility studies are proven to be an effective tool (Kanungo et al. 2006; Pourghasemi et al. 2012b). The outcome of such studies is in the form of landslide susceptibility maps (LSM) which show the spatial distribution of different susceptibility classes and locations with high risks (Chen and Li 2020). However, the reliability of the LSM depends upon the selected conditioning factors, historical landslides, quality of data, and the applied methodology for the analysis and modeling (Sarkar and Kanungo 2004). The conditioning factors are the factors associated with topography, geomorphology, geology, land use land cover (LULC), anthropogenic activity, rainfall, seismicity, etc. (Shano et al. 2020) and are responsible for the slope failure. The relation of these factors with the past landslides forms the basis for estimating the future susceptibility of landslide occurrence (Chimidi et al. 2017).

In recent times, with the use of GIS and remote sensing, several landslide susceptibility studies 55 have been carried out worldwide using various methods/models (Sarkar and Kanungo 2004; 56 Yilmaz 2009; Pradhan and Lee 2010; Pourghasemi et al. 2012a,b,c; Shahabi et al. 2014; Jazouli 57 et al. 2019; Sur et al. 2020). The landslide susceptibility models can be divided into qualitative 58 and quantitative approaches (Shano et al. 2020). The qualitative approach includes geomorphic 59 and landslide inventory techniques and an indirect process involving multi-criteria decision 60 analysis (MCDA) methods based on expert judgment for weight evaluation of different 61 62 thematic data layers (Yilmaz 2009). The most popular MCDA methods are analytical hierarchy process (AHP) and fuzzy set-based analysis (Ercanoglu and Gokceoglu 2004; Kamp et al. 63 2008; Akgun et al. 2012; Pourghasemi et al. 2012b; Kayastha et al. 2013; Kavzoglu et al. 2014; 64 Shahabi et al. 2014; Shahabi and Hasim 2015; Zhao et al. 2017; Jazouli et al. 2019; Sur et al. 65 2020). The quantitative approaches include statistical (bivariate or multivariate), deterministic, 66 probabilistic methods, and artificial intelligence-based techniques (artificial neural network, 67 decision trees, support vector machine (SVM), hybrid approaches) (Kanungo et al. 2006; Shano 68 et al. 2020). Among the various quantitative approaches, bivariate statistical methods: 69 frequency ratio (FR), Shannon entropy (SE), the weight of evidence method (WoE); 70 71 multivariate statistical methods: logistic regression (LR); SVM and ANN are prevalent (Yilmaz 2009; Pradhan and Lee 2010; Pourghasemi et al. 2012b,c; Kavzoglu et al. 2014; 72

73 Shahabi et al. 2014; Roodposhti et al. 2016; Zaho et al. 2017; Nohani et al. 2019; Pham et al.
74 2019a).

75 In the present study, four models, namely FR, SE, AHP, and Fuzzy-AHP, are utilized to evaluate the landslide susceptibility of the state of Meghalaya. Meghalaya is situated in the 76 NER of India, on the Shillong Plateau of the lesser Himalayas, and is one of the major tourist 77 destinations in NER. There are few landslide susceptibility studies available for western and 78 central Himalayan regions of Lesser and Shivalik Himalayas (Sarkar and Kanungo 2004; 79 Mathew et al. 2009; Pareek et al. 2010; Kayastha et al. 2013; Pham et al. 2019a,b; Sur et al. 80 2020). However, studies of eastern Himalayas are limited. The objective of the present study 81 is to develop the LSM of Meghalaya and identify the major factors governing the landslide 82 occurrence in the area using the four above-mentioned models. Also, to evaluate the prediction 83 84 power of the most popular bivariate statistical model and MCDA model for the selected study area. The details of the study area, various conditioning factors applied, methodology, and 85 86 results obtained are discussed in the following sections.



87

Fig. 1 Study area

89 **2. Description of the study area**

The study area is Meghalaya, one of the states of NER India, located on the Shillong Plateau of the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), covering about 22400 km² area (between longitudes 89.821° E to 92.804° E and latitudes 25.031° N to 26.118° N, Fig. 1). It shares its boundary with Assam in the north and east while forming an international border with Bangladesh in the south and west. The elevation of the area ranges from 7 m to 1962 m above mean sea level. Being in the IHR, it is one of the most tectonic-active regions and rainiest places globally (Prokop 2014). The area received an average yearly rainfall of 1234.31 to 7467.48 mm between 1991 and 2020 (30-year period) (Fig. 1). The southern escarpment received the highest rainfall,
as high as 12000 mm annual rainfall (recorded in Cherrapunji). The elevation of the southern
escarpment of the study area is about 1200-1500 m and is related to the Dauki fault (along the
southern boundary), which is much steeper than the northern slope. Due to this sudden rise in
elevation over a short distance, the southern escarpment controls rainfall distribution over the
region. In the study area, the slope ranges from 0° to 76°.

The study area is covered by various lithologic formations, including Proterozoic 103 (Paleoproterozoic, Mesoproterozoic) (Pr), Late Carboniferous-Permian (LcP), Mesozoic 104 (Jurassic, Cretaceous) (Ms), Paleogene (Oligocene, Eocene, Palaeocene) (Pl), Neogene 105 (Miocene, Pliocene) (Neo) and Cenozoic (Holocene, Quaternary, Meghalyan, Middle-late 106 Pleistocene) (Cn) types of formations (Fig. 2), the details of which are given in Table 1. The 107 region also consists of many lineaments and structural discontinuities and is associated with 108 109 active tectonics. With respect to land use land cover, most of the study area is covered by dense 110 vegetation (76.06%) followed by light vegetation (17.25%), human settlements and built spaces (3.22%), agricultural land (2.96%), water bodies (0.45%), and rock outcrop and bare 111 lands (0.05%) (Fig. 2 and Table 1). These topological, geological, and other geoenvironmental 112 factors make the study area more prone to disastrous events like landslides. 113

Table 1 Description of lithological units in the study area

		Approximate
Lithologic Formation	Symbol	areal coverage
		(%)
Proterozoic formation (quartz, quartzite with thin phyllite		
interband, mica gneiss, migmatite, amphibolite, pyroxene	Pr	51
granulite, dolerite)		

Late carboniferous-Permian (diamictite, phyllite, quartzite,	ΙcΡ	12.5
conglomerate, feldspathic sandstone, and carbonaceous shale)	LU	12.5
Paleogene (shale, sandstone, siltstone, fossiliferous limestone,	DI	24
limestone, phosphatic nodules, fireclay, coal)	PI	24
Neogene (conglomerate, sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, and	Nee	65
marl)	Neo	0.3
Cenozoic (fluvial sediments- sand, silt and clay, loamy sand,	Cu	2
pebble, laterite)	Cn	3
Mesozoic (gritty sandstone alternating with conglomerate,		
basaltic/gabbroic and doleritic dykes, conglomerate, and	Ms	3
sandstone with pebbles)		



Fig. 2 Lithological units in the study area

3. Material and methods



In the present study, the data is collected from several sources such as the Bhukosh-Geological Survey of India (GSI) (<u>https://bhukosh.gsi.gov.in/Bhukosh/MapViewer.aspx</u>) for the creation of landslide inventory, geomorphology map, and maps of other geological features. The USGS earth explorer portal (<u>https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/</u>) is used to collect the SRTM digital elevation model (DEM) of 30 m resolution. The DEM dataset is utilized to create topographic maps (like slope, aspect, curvature) and to obtain the stream network of the study area.

126 3.1.1. Landslide inventory

127 The prediction accuracy of the LSM primarily depends upon the accuracy of the inventory of the past landslide data (Reichenbach et al. 2018). Landslide data points are collected from the 128 Bhukosh-GSI and Google-Earth images. A sum of 1330 landslides is obtained and mapped to 129 130 produce the landslide inventory map (Fig. 1). The size of mapped landslides varies from 100 m^2 to 1,24,319 m². As landslides smaller than one cell size (10 m × 10 m) cannot be drawn, the 131 minimum size is fixed at 100 m², and landslides equal to or larger than this size are considered 132 for the study. Identified landslides are generally rainfall-induced and some due to 133 anthropogenic activity. The failure mechanism is either shallow rotational or translational 134 failure with debris and rock-cum-debris movement. 135

Finally, the landslide inventory data are randomly distributed in a 70/30 ratio to create the training and testing dataset, respectively (Chen and Li 2020). The training dataset (at 933 locations \approx 70%) is used to build the model, and the testing dataset (397 sites \approx 30%) is used to validate the model.

140 3.1.2. Landslide conditioning factor

After creating the landslide inventory, selection of factors influencing/governing the landslide,
i.e., conditioning factors, are central for any GIS-based landslide susceptibility model (Sarkar
and Kanungo 2004). Based on the analysis of previous studies and regional geological-

environmental characteristics, fifteen landslide conditioning factors are considered in thisstudy. These factors are discussed in detail in the following section.

146 3.1.2.1. Slope (degrees), aspect, and elevation

The slope angles have a direct impact on landslides (Pourghasemi et al. 2012b), as with the 147 increase in the angle of slope, the effect of stress and gravity on the slope forming material 148 increases. The amount of sunshine, rainfall, and other hydrological processes are affected by 149 the slope aspect, which describes the direction of the slope face. It impacts the surface material 150 151 properties, wetness index, weathering condition, and land cover (Galli et al. 2008). On the other hand, elevation influences landslides indirectly by affecting rainfall, surface forming material, 152 land use/cover, geological, and tectonics (Pham et al. 2019a). Therefore, these factors are 153 154 frequently used in landslide susceptibility studies (Ercanoglu and Gokceoglu 2004; Sarkar and Kanungo 2004; Mathew et al. 2009; Yilmaz 2009; Pourghasemi et al. 2012a; Chen and Li 155 2020). In this study, the slope map, aspect map, and elevation map of the study area are derived 156 from DEM using ArcMap 10.8, resampled to 10 m resolution (Figs. 3a-c). 157

158 3.1.2.2. Plan curvature

The plan curvature is derived from DEM using ArcMap 10.8 with a resolution of 10 m. Curvature influences the surface erosion processes, especially during the rainfall, by either converging or diverging the downhill flow and thus becomes one of the critical factors controlling the landslide event (Oh and Pradhan 2011). The plan curvature classified into three classes (concave (<-0.05), flat (-0.05-0.05), and convex (>0.05)) (Fig. 3d).

164 3.1.2.3. Stream power index (SPI) and topographic wetness index (TWI)

165 Stream power index (SPI) is a topographic factor that reflects the erosive power of streams in

- any catchment assuming the discharge is proportional to a specific catchment area (A_s) (Moore
- 167 et al. 1991). The SPI can be obtained using Equation 1 (Moore et al. 1991).

$$SPI = A_s \times \tan \beta \tag{1}$$

169 Where β is the local slope (in degrees).

168

Topographic wetness index (TWI) is another topographic factor frequently used in landslide susceptibility studies, suggesting the tendency of water to accumulate at any point in the catchment and the tendency of movement of water along the slope under gravitational forces (Bordoni et al. 2020). Water accumulation at any point can affect the stability of the slope, depending on the surface forming material and its effect on the geotechnical properties like permeability, pore water pressure, and shear strength (Yilmaz 2009). It can be defined by Equation 2.

177
$$TWI = \ln\left(\frac{a}{\tan\beta}\right)$$
(2)

178 Where *a* is upslope catchment area, and $tan(\beta)$ is the slope angle.

179 The present study prepared the SPI and TWI map using SAGA GIS tools in QGIS and classified180 it into five classes, as shown in Figs. 3e-f.

181 3.1.2.4. Distance from the river

Distance from the river is inversely related to landslides, as the closer the river the more the chance of the slope being unstable. The proximity to streams increases the soil moisture and erodes the toe of the slope, making the area in the vicinity more susceptible to landslides (Pourghasemi et al. 2012b). The stream network map of order four or more is obtained by using DEM in ArcMap. Finally, the area is divided into five different buffer zones from the river at a 150 m distance (Fig. 3g).

188 3.1.2.5. Distance from road

An anthropogenic activity like road construction alters the natural slope of the hilly area and increases the slope instability. In the past, numerous landslides have occurred in the vicinity of roads either constructed or under construction (Wang et al. 2015; Roodposhti et al. 2016; Pham et al. 2019b). In the present study, the road network data is collected from the Openstreet map (https://www.openstreetmap.org/export). In this study, highways, primary, secondary, and tertiary roads are considered. Finally, the area is divided into five different buffer zones from the roads at a 150 m distance (Fig. 3h).

196 3.1.2.6. Distance from fault

Fault represents structural discontinuities with reduced rock strength, making the area
vulnerable to landslides (Chen and Li 2020). In this study, major structural discontinuities are
obtained from Bhukosh-GSI and buffered into five different zones at 1000 m distance intervals
(Fig. 3i).

201 3.1.2.7. Land use land cover (LULC)

The land use land cover (LULC) of any region has a direct influence on slope stability. The 202 bare land and built space have shown a positive impact of landslides in the past. In the present 203 204 study, a global LULC map derived from Sentinet-2 imagery at 10 m resolution by ESRI is used. The map is available with ten land use classes: water, trees (forested area/dense 205 vegetation), grass, flooded vegetation, crops, shrub, built space, bare ground snow/ice, and 206 clouds. The LULC map is extracted by mask for the study area, and classes like grass and shrub 207 are grouped into a single category named light vegetation. In contrast, flooded vegetation and 208 crop are grouped into agricultural land (Fig. 3j). Further, the accuracy assessment of 209 reclassified LULC map is done through randomly generated 300 points falling under different 210 land-use classes (Table 2). The overall accuracy is 85.33%, while the kappa coefficient (k) 211 value is 0.824. The value of k > 0.8 shows that the used map is reasonably accurate. 212

LULC Classes		Water	Dense veg.	Light veg.	Agri land 4	Built space 7	Bare land 8	Total — (User)
Water	1	49	0	0	1	0	0	50
Dense veg.	2	0	43	5	1	0	1	50
Light veg.	3	0	1	35	10	0	4	50
Agri land	4	1	0	5	41	0	3	50
Built space	7	0	2	4	3	41	0	50
Bare land	8	2	0	1	0	0	47	50
Total (Produ	cer)	52	46	50	56	41	55	300
Overall accuracy								85.33%
kappa coeffic	cient(k)							0.82

213 Table 2 Accuracy assessment of LULC map using kappa coefficie	$\operatorname{ent}(k)$
--	-------------------------

215 3.1.2.8. Normalized difference vegetation index

Normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) is an indicator of green cover over an area and
the health of the biomass. Higher NDVI values indicate more vegetation cover, and a healthy
vegetation cover offers higher stability to slopes and reduces the probability of landslide
(Nohani et al. 2019). The NDVI map is derived using Sentinel-2 multispectral imagery with
10 m resolution using ArcMap 10.8 and grouped into six classes (Fig. 3k).

221 3.1.2.9. Rainfall

Precipitation, especially in the form of rain, is one of the foremost reasons for landslide 222 occurrence on hill slopes. However, the influence of rainfall on landslides is governed by the 223 slope forming material, land cover, lithology, etc. (Can et al. 2005). For this study, rainfall data 224 of the last 30 years (1991-2020) is collected from the India Meteorological Department (Pai et 225 2014) 226 al. (https://www.imdpune.gov.in/Clim_Pred_LRF_New/Grided_Data_Download.html). 227 The mean annual rainfall (1991-2020) is calculated and mapped in the GIS environment (Fig. 31). 228

229 3.1.2.10. Soil texture

The topsoil covers of any area influence the landslide susceptibility (Sarkar and Kanungo
2004). In the present study, the soil map is derived from a world soil map (FAO soil map). The
soil present in the area is mostly loam, sandy loam, and clay (Fig. 3m).

233 3.1.2.11. Geomorphology

The geomorphology of an area influences the landslide occurrence in the area and is considered in many susceptibility studies (Pham et al. 2019b). A geomorphological map for the study area is obtained from the Bhukosh-GSI and the region is classified into seven geomorphological units (highly dissected plateau (HDP), moderate to low dissected plateau (MDP), highly dissected hills and valley (HDHV), moderate to low dissected hills and valley (MDHV), pediment-pediplain complex (PC), alluvial-flood plain (AP) and water bodies (W)) (Fig. 3n).

240 3.1.2.12. Lithology

The lithology of an area often governs the rock strength and permeability of the rocky soils. Therefore, in landslide susceptibility studies, it is considered one of the essential factors (Pradhan and Lee 2010; Wang et al. 2015; Chen and Li 2020). The lithological map of the study area is obtained from Bhukosh-GSI (at a scale of 1:2M). The lithological formations are grouped into six classes depending upon the geological era, as mentioned in section 2 (Fig. 2). All fifteen landslide conditioning factors are transformed into the spatial resolution of 10 m before using for the susceptibility studies.









90°0'0"E 91°0'0"E 92°0'0"E 26°0'0"N (f) 25°0'0"N 50 Km 25 0 TWI State Boundary 7 - 9 >11 <5 **District Boundary** 9 - 11 5 - 7

252













Fig. 3 Conditioning factor maps of the study area: (a) Slope (degrees), (b) Aspect of slope, (c)
Elevation, (d) Plan Curvature, (e) SPI, (f) TWI, (g) Distance from river, (h) Distance from road,
(i) Distance from faults, (j) LULC, (k), NDVI, (l) mean annual rainfall (mm/year), (m) Soil
texture, (n) Geomorphology.

267 **3.2. Methodology**

For landslide susceptibility assessment, the present study utilizes the bivariate models
(frequency ratio and Shannon entropy) and MCDA models (AHP and Fuzzy-AHP), elaborated
in the following section.

271 3.2.1. Frequency ratio (FR)

This approach suggests the possibility of a future event based on past information and it is used in various studies (Yilmaz 2009; Pradhan and Lee 2010; Chimidi et al. 2017; Nohani et al. 2019; Shano et al. 2020). This method derives the spatial relation between landslide location (number of landslide pixels) and each landslide conditioning factor. As it represents the possibility of occurrence, the greater FR value shows higher chances of landslide occurrence and higher corresponding hazard (Pradhan and Lee 2010). FR of each class of all the conditioning factors can be obtained using Equation 3.

$$FR_i = \frac{\left(LS_i/LS\right)}{\left(A_i/A\right)}$$
(3)

280 Where FR_i = frequency ratio of i^{th} class, LS_i = total landslide area (number of landslide pixels) 281 in the i^{th} class, LS = total landslide area (total number of landslide pixels) in the study area, A_i 282 = area falling under i^{th} class (total number of pixels of i^{th} class), and A = total area (total number 283 of pixels of the entire map).

These FR values of different classes (Table 5) are then used to obtain the prediction rate (PR)of each factor which depicts the weightage of individual factors, using Equations 4-6.

$$RF_i = \left(FR_i / \sum FR\right) \tag{4}$$

287
$$R_{j} = MAX(RF_{i,j}) - MIN(RF_{i,j})$$
(5)

$$PR_{j} = R_{j} / MIN(R)$$
(6)

289 Where *RF* is relative frequency, $MAX(RF_{i,j})$ is the maximum value of *RF* of j^{th} factor, 290 $MIN(RF_{i,j})$ is the minimum value of *RF* of j^{th} factor, *PR_j* is the prediction rate of j^{th} factor. The PR_j will be the weight of the j^{th} factor, i.e., $W_{j,FR}$. Finally, to obtain the landslide susceptibility map, the *FR* of different classes of influencing parameters and $W_{j,FR}$ of each parameter is integrated and summed up together, as in Equation 7 (Yilmaz 2009).

294
$$LSM_{FR} = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left(FR_{ij} \times W_{j,FR} \right)$$
(7)

295 3.2.2. Shannon entropy (SE)

Entropy is the quantitative measurement of deviation, variability, instability, and uncertainty 296 of a system and can be used to predict the future trend of a specified system (Lotfi and 297 Fallahnejad 2010). The Shannon entropy has been widely used for the weighted index 298 calculation in the landslide and other hazard studies (Wang et al. 2011; Pourghasemi et al. 299 2012c; Zhao et al. 2017; Nohani et al. 2019). It analyses the dissimilarity in the system in 300 301 susceptibility studies, demonstrating the potential for each contributing factor to cause a landslide. A higher SE index indicates a more significant impact of the factor on the landslide 302 occurrence (Roodposhti et al. 2016). Equations 8-10 are used for the calculation of information 303 coefficient (weighted index) based on SE (Pourghasemi et al. 2012c; Zhao et al. 2017). 304

$$P_{ij} = FR_{ij} / \sum_{i=1}^{m} FR_{ij}$$
(8)

306
$$D_{j} = \left(\frac{-1}{\log_{2}(m_{j})}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{m} P_{ij} \log_{2} P_{ij} , \quad i = 1, 2... m \text{ and } j = 1, 2... n \quad (9)$$

307
$$W_{j,SE} = (1 - D_j) / \sum_{j=1}^{n} (1 - E_j)$$
(10)

308 Where FR = frequency ratio, P_{ij} = probability density for each class, D_j = entropy of the j^{th} 309 conditioning factor, m_j = number of classes in the j^{th} factor, n = number of factors, and $W_{j,SE}$ = entropy weight of each factor. Table 5 shows entropy weights obtained for all the conditioningfactors. These are normalized and used to get the LSM shown in Fig. 6.

312 3.2.3. Analytical hierarchy process (AHP)

331

It is a semi-quantitative, multi-criteria decision-making approach developed by Saaty (Saaty 2000,2008). It involves problem definition, objective, alternatives, pairwise comparison matrix for weight determination, and overall priority of the factors (or sub-factors) contributing to landslide (Saaty 2008; Shano et al. 2020). In landslide susceptibility studies, it is one of the frequently used methods for assigning the weightage to conditioning factors and sub-factors (Kamp et al. 2008; Kayastha et al. 2013; Shahabi and Hasim 2015; Jazouli et al. 2019).

In AHP, conditioning factors (or their classes) are arranged in the hierarchic order and assigned 319 320 a numerical value subjective to judgment based on their relative importance, forming a pairwise comparison matrix (Table 6 and 7). In the matrix, the scale of assigned value can vary between 321 1 and 9 based on degrees of preference of one factor (on the vertical axis) over the other (on 322 the horizontal axis) (Table 3). A higher value shows greater dominance of that factor. Similarly, 323 these values can vary inversely (1/9 to 1) when the element on the horizontal axis is more 324 325 dominant than that on a vertical axis (Table 3). In the present study, for assigning the degree of preference scale to a factor (or their classes), the relative percentage of area affected by 326 landslide in that class category is used to make the judgment. Thus, it allows the consideration 327 328 of "previous knowledge" and reduces the bias in the scheme (Yilmaz 2009). After the comparison matrix is built up, the next step is to find criteria weights and consistency ratio 329 (CR) in Equation 11. 330

 $CR = CI/RI \tag{11}$

332
$$CI = (\lambda_{\max} - 1)/(n-1)$$
 (12)

Where CI = consistency index, λ_{max} = principal Eigenvalue, and n = order of the matrix. And RI = random consistency index that depends upon the order of the matrix (Table 4).

As per Saaty (2008), CR should be less than 0.10, only then the formed comparison matrix is consistent, and if not so, it represents inconsistency in the factor ratings. One must revise the matrix until it becomes consistent. In the present study, for the pairwise comparison matrix of conditioning factors, the CR is equal to 0.049. Also, for the comparison matrix of classes of each factor, the CR value is less than 0.10 (Table 6 and 7).

Finally, the criteria weights can be integrated to generate the LSM using Equation 13.

341
$$LSM_{AHP} = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{m} (w_{ij,AHP} \times W_{j,AHP})$$
 (13)

Where $W_{j,AHP}$ = weight of j^{th} conditioning factors and $w_{ij,AHP}$ = weight of an i^{th} class of the j^{th} factor using AHP. Fig. 8 shows the LSM using this model.

Table 3 The scale of preference in AHP (Saaty 2000) and triangular fuzzy scale in FAHP(Kannan et al. 2013)

Degree of preference (AHP)/ Linguistic Variables (FAHP)	The scale of preferences (Saaty, 2000)	Triangular Fuzzy Scale of preference (Kannan et al. 2013)
Equal	1	1,1,1
Moderate	3	2,3,4
Strong	5	4,5,7
Very strong	7	6,7,8
Extremely strong	9	9,9,9
	2	1,2,3
Intermediate	4	3,4,5
Intermediate	6	5,6,7
	8	7,8,9
Reciprocals	1/2, 1/3,, 1/9	Inverse (e.g. $(2,3,4)^{-1} = (1/4,1/3,1/2))$

Table 4 Random consistency index as per Saaty (2000)

n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
RI	0.00	0.00	0.58	1.12	1.24	1.32	1.41	1.45	1.49	1.51	1.53	1.56	1.57

Sl.	Conditioning	Class	Pixels (%)	Landslide Pixels	FR	PR	W _{i,SE}
No	Factors			(%)		(W _{j,FR})	
1	Slope (degrees)	<10°	48.70	4.31	0.08	4.79	11.45
		10°-20°	34.11	17.58	0.51		
		20° - 30°	12.43	29.11	2.34		
		30° - 40°	3.91	33.04	8.45		
		>40°	0.85	15.95	18.69		
2	Aspect	Flat (-1)	1.77	0.00	0.00	1.27	1.73
		North (0-22.5, 337.7-360)	6.37	5.04	0.79		
		Northeast (22.5-67.5)	10.59	14.05	1.32		
		East (67.5-112.5)	12.93	14.51	1.12		
		Southeast (112.5-157.5)	14.98	16.50	1.10		
		South (157.5-202.5)	14.75	16.86	1.14		
		Southwest (202.5-247.5)	13.18	14.65	1.11		
		West (247.5-292.5)	12.99	8.81	0.67		
		Northwest (292.5-337.5)	12.45	9.59	0.77		
3	Elevation (m)	<300	29.73	28.00	0.94	1.00	0.71
		300 - 500	15.60	12.89	0.82		
		500 - 700	10.75	11.87	1.10		
		700 - 900	11.46	9.42	0.82		
		900 - 1100	10.13	8.77	0.86		
		1100 - 1300	8.09	12.40	1.53		
		1300 - 1500	6.35	11.31	1.78		
		>1500	7.90	5.34	0.67		
4	Plan curvature	Concave (<-0.05)	35.83	51.13	1.42	2.74	2.47
	(100/m)	Flat (-0.05-0.05)	21.52	9.43	0.43		
		Convex (>0.05	42.65	39.43	0.92		
5		<150	8.35	4.02	0.48	1.15	0.53

349	Table 5 Frequency	[,] ratio of	classes of	various	conditioning	factors and	weights	assigned	using FR	and SE models
	1 2				0		0	0	0	

	Distance from river	150 - 300	7.80	6.93	0.88		
	(m)	300 - 450	7.37	6.10	0.82		
		450 - 600	7.02	6.22	0.88		
		>600	69.46	76.73	1.10		
6	Distance from road	<150	5.97	22.06	3.69	2.44	2.43
	(m)	150 - 300	5.12	7.50	1.46		
		300 - 450	4.62	10.88	2.35		
		450 - 600	4.24	6.00	1.41		
		>600	80.06	53.56	0.66		
7	Distance from faults	<1000	7.27	5.02	0.69	1.50	1.39
	(m)	1000 - 2000	7.09	6.99	0.98		
		2000 - 3000	7.00	13.36	1.90		
		3000 - 4000	6.79	12.38	1.82		
		>4000	71.86	62.27	0.86		
8	LULC	Waterbodies	0.45	0.35	0.77	5.45	11.84
		Dense Vegetation	76.06	79.89	1.05		
		Light Vegetation	17.25	16.95	0.98		
		Agricultural Land	2.96	0.05	0.01		
		Built Area	3.22	2.35	0.73		
		Bare Land	0.05	0.42	8.48		
9	NDVI	<0.015	0.08	0.01	0.07	2.16	2.92
		0.015 - 0.14	1.24	2.52	2.02		
		0.14 - 0.18	2.32	4.13	1.78		
		0.18 - 0.27	12.90	15.24	1.18		
		0.27 - 0.36	20.12	20.63	1.02		
		0.36 - 0.999	63.33	57.48	0.90		
10	SPI	< 0.13523	44.64	13.34	0.29	5.05	10.94
		0.13523 - 0.3	21.29	8.93	0.41		
		0.3 - 0.6	19.05	16.26	0.85		
		0.6 - 1.2	11.26	28.92	2.56		

		>1.2	3.76	32.55	8.65		
11	TWI	<5	2.14	16.27	7.58	5.92	14.01
		05-07.0	61.77	68.4	1.10		
		07-09.0	23.59	11.80	0.50		
		09-11.0	6.70	2.69	0.40		
		>11	5.77	0.82	0.14		
12	Rainfall (mm/year)	<2200	23.14	5.66	0.24	4.17	7.28
		2200 - 3500	47.01	27.14	0.57		
		3500 - 4800	13.39	16.26	1.21		
		4800 - 6100	11.65	24.98	2.14		
		>6100	4.79	25.93	5.41		
13	Soil texture	Loam	41.33	13.80	0.33	4.14	10.25
		Sandy Clay	44.40	10.11	0.22		
		Clay Loam	10.26	49.46	4.81		
		Clay	3.99	26.62	6.67		
14	Geomorphology	MDHV	14.26	38.12	2.67	3.16	9.37
		HDP	30.07	3.10	0.10		
		MDP	40.50	14.80	0.36		
		PC	0.28	0	0.00		
		AP	0.96	0.02	0.02		
		W	2.53	4.63	1.82		
		HDHV	11.38	39.30	3.45		
15	Lithology	Cn	3.15	0.01	0.00	5.53	12.67
		Neo	6.46	2.73	0.42		
		Pl	24.09	34.09	1.41		
		Ms	2.93	22.99	7.84		
		LcP	12.30	8.00	0.65		
		Pr	51.05	32.15	0.63		

Conditioning factors	Classes		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	CR	Weight S (W _{ij,AHP})
Slope (degree)	<10°	1	1	0.50	0.33	0.20	0.14					0.017	0.052
	10°-20°	2		1	0.50	0.33	0.20						0.087
	20° - 30°	3			1	0.50	0.33						0.150
	30° - 40°	4				1	0.33						0.239
	>40°	5					1						0.471
Aspect	Flat (-1)	1	1	0.11	0.11	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.054	0.014
	North (0-22.5)	2		1	1	2	3	3	4	5	4		0.235
	Northeast (22.5-67.5)	3			1	2	2	3	2	3	3		0.193
	East (67.5-112.5)	4				1	1	2	2	6	7		0.159
	Southeast (112.5-157.5)	5					1	1	2	5	3		0.123
	South (157.5-202.5)	6						1	1	3	3		0.095
	Southwest (202.5-247.5)	7							1	3	2		0.085
	West (247.5-292.5)	8								1	0.50		0.043
	Northwest (292.5-337.5)	9									1		0.053
Elevation (m)	<300	1	1	1	0.50	0.50	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.33		0.031	0.040
	300 - 500	2		1	0.33	0.50	0.33	0.25	0.25	0.33			0.044
	500 - 700	3			1	1	0.25	0.25	0.20	0.50			0.071
	700 - 900	4				1	0.50	0.33	0.33	0.33			0.072
	900 - 1100	5					1	1	0.50	0.50			0.159
	1100 - 1300	6						1	1	2			0.217
	1300 - 1500	7							1	2			0.241
	>1500	8								1			0.156
Plan curvature	Concave (<-0.05)	1	1	4	1							0.000	0.444
(100/m)	Flat (-0.05-0.05)	2		1	0.25								0.111

Table 6 Pairwise comparison matrix, consistency ratio, and weights assigned to each class of different conditioning factors by AHP

	Convex (>0.05)	3			1					0.444
Distance from	<150	1	1	0.50	2	2	3		0.020	0.247
river (m)	150 - 300	2		1	2	3	4			0.370
	300 - 450	3			1	2	3			0.189
	450 - 600	4				1	2			0.120
	>600	5					1			0.073
Distance from	<150	1	1	2	3	4	5		0.015	0.416
road (m)	150 - 300	2		1	2	3	4			0.262
	300 - 450	3			1	2	3			0.161
	450 - 600	4				1	2			0.099
	>600	5					1			0.062
Distance from	<1000	1	1	1	2	2	3		0.020	0.292
faults (m)	1000 - 2000	2		1	1	3	4			0.289
	2000 - 3000	3			1	2	3			0.220
	3000 - 4000	4				1	2			0.124
	>4000	5					1			0.075
LULC	Waterbodies	1	1	0.50	0.25	0.50	0.20	0.17	0.047	0.046
	Dense Vegetation	2		1	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.20		0.065
	Light Vegetation	3			1	2	2	0.33		0.199
	Agricultural Land	4				1	0.33	0.25		0.106
	Built Area	5					1	0.33		0.184
	Bare Land	6						1		0.401
NDVI	<0.015	1	1	0.17	0.17	0.33	0.33	0.50	0.028	0.045
	0.015 - 0.14	2		1	0.50	2	3	4		0.266
	0.14 - 0.18	3			1	2	3	4		0.335
	0.18 - 0.27	4				1	2	3		0.167
	0.27 - 0.36	5					1	3		0.120
	0.36 - 0.999	6						1		0.066
SPI	< 0.13523	1	1	0.50	0.33	0.25	0.14		0.048	0.05
	0.13523 - 0.3	2		1	0.33	0.20	0.14			0.07

	0.3 - 0.6	3			1	0.33	0.20				0.13
	0.6 - 1.2	4				1	0.33				0.25
	>1.2	5					1				0.51
TWI	<5	1	1	3	5	6	7			0.050	0.49
	05-07.0	2		1	3	5	7				0.27
	07-09.0	3			1	2	5				0.13
	09-11.0	4				1	2				0.07
	>11	5					1				0.04
Rainfall	<2200	1	1	0.50	0.33	0.20	0.14			0.044	0.05
(mm/year)	2200 - 3500	2		1	0.33	0.20	0.14				0.07
	3500 - 4800	3			1	0.33	0.20				0.13
	4800 - 6100	4				1	0.33				0.26
	>6100	5					1				0.50
Soil texture	Loam	1	1	0.50	0.17	0.14				0.037	0.06
	Sandy clay	2		1	0.17	0.14					0.08
	Clay loam	3			1	0.50					0.34
	Clay	4				1					0.52
Geomorpholo	MDHV	1	1	5	4	7	7	3	1	0.052	0.29
gy	HDP	2		1	0.33	3	3	0.33	0.14		0.06
	MDP	3			1	3	3	0.33	0.14		0.09
	PC	4				1	1	0.20	0.14		0.03
	AP	5					1	0.20	0.14		0.03
	W	6						1	0.25		0.15
	HDHV	7							1		0.35
Lithology	Cn	1	1	0.50	0.20	0.14	0.33	0.33		0.030	0.04
	Neo	2		1	0.25	0.20	0.50	0.33			0.06
	Pl	3			1	0.33	3	2			0.22
	Ms	4				1	5	5			0.45
	LcP	5					1	1			0.10
	Pr	6						1			0.12

S. No.	Conditioning Factors	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Criteria Weight (W _{j,AHP})
1	Slope	1	4	2	3	5		6	3	4	2	3	4	3	3	2	0.156
2	Aspect		1	3	2	2	0.33	2	0.33	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.50	0.33	0.33	0.046
3	Elevation			1	2	3	2	6	2	3	1	2	2	1	0.50	0.33	0.078
4	Plan curvature				1	2	0.50	2	1	2	0.33	0.50	1	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.040
5	Distance from river					1	0.20	1	0.50	1	0.50	0.25	1	0.50	0.33	0.20	0.025
6	Distance from road						1	3	2	3	2	3	2	1	2.00	0.50	0.094
7	Distance from							1	0.50	1	0.25	0.20	1	0.33	0.25	0.14	0.021
	faults																
8	TWI								1	2	0.50	1	2	0.50	0.33	0.33	0.048
9	SPI									1	0.33	0.33	0.50	0.33	0.33	0.25	0.025
10	LULC										1	2	2	2	0.50	0.50	0.080
11	NDVI											1	3	2	1	0.50	0.070
12	Soil texture												1	0.50	0.33	0.20	0.032
13	Geomorphology													1	0.50	0.33	0.061
14	Lithology														1	0.50	0.090
15	Rainfall															1	0.135
	CR																0.049

353	Table 7 Pairwise com	parison matrix and	the weight assigned	ed to each landslide c	onditioning factor by	AHP
555		ipulison muulik und	the weight abbight	cu to cucii iunasitue c	onantioning raciol of	1 11 11

355 3.2.4. Fuzzy-AHP (FAHP)

In this method, a fuzzy pairwise comparison matrix is constructed based on the linguistic variables defined by the triangular fuzzy scale number (TFN) in Table 3 (Kannan et al. 2013). Five fundamental methods of Fuzzy-AHP are frequently employed in various decision-making studies (Pehlivan et al. 2017). FAHP, using a geometric mean method developed by Buckley (1985), is employed in the present study. It is an extension of AHP using the linguistic variables, and the steps involved are summarised below (Buckley 1985; Pehlivan et al. 2017):

362 Step 1: Fuzzification

Fuzzification is the conversion of a linguistic term into a membership function. A triangular membership function is shown in Fig. 4. The parameter l_1 , m_1 , u_1 denotes the lowest value, most likely value (middle value), and the upper value that forms a fuzzy value (μ_A , e.g., $\mu_{A,11} = (l_1, m_1, u_1)$) and is called TFN (Kahraman et al. 2003).

367



369

Fig. 4. Triangular membership function (TFN)



371
$$\tilde{M} = \begin{bmatrix} (1,1,1) & \mu_{12} & \cdots & \mu_{1n} \\ \mu_{21} & (1,1,1) & \cdots & \mu_{2n} \\ \vdots & \cdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mu_{n1} & \mu_{n2} & \cdots & (1,1,1) \end{bmatrix}_{n \times n}$$
(14)

372 Where
$$\mu_{ij} = (l_{ij}, m_{ij}, u_{ij}), i, j = 1, 2, ..., n$$
 is TFN.

373 Step 2: Calculation of fuzzy geometric mean value (r_i) for i^{th} criteria

374
$$\tilde{r}_i = \left(\mu_{i1} \times \mu_{i2} \times \dots \times \mu_{in}\right)^{(1/n)}$$
(15)

375 Step 3: For each criterion, calculation of fuzzy weights (*w_i*)

$$\tilde{w}_i = \tilde{r}_i \times \left(\sum \tilde{r}_i\right)^{(-1)} \tag{16}$$

377 Where
$$\left(\sum \tilde{r}_i\right)^{(-1)} = \left(\frac{1}{\sum u_i}, \frac{1}{\sum m_i}, \frac{1}{\sum l_i}\right)$$

378 Step 4: De-Fuzzification

379 In this step, the fuzzy weights are de-fuzzified using the center of area (COA) method

$$w_i = \left(\frac{l_i + m_i + u_i}{3}\right) \tag{17}$$

381 Where w_i is non-fuzzy weights.

The normalized de-fuzzified weights are obtained for both conditioning factors ($W_{j,FAHP}$) and their classes ($w_{ij,FAHP}$). These weights are integrated using Equation 18 and used to generate LSM (Fig. 9). In the past, very few landslide susceptibility studies have been performed using the FAHP model (Roodposhti et al. 2014; Mallick et al. 2018; Sur et al. 2020).

$$LSM_{FAHP} = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{m} (w_{ij,FAHP} \times W_{j,FAHP})$$
(18)

The landslide susceptibility maps obtained using all the methods are classified into five susceptibility classes (very low, low, moderate, high, and very high) based on the natural breaks classification system (Pourghasemi et al. 2012b) (Fig. 5, 6, 7 & 8).

390 3.3. Validation of models

391 In susceptibility studies, model validation is a non-disposable step that suggests the prediction accuracy of the model. For validating the models, produced LSM are compared with testing 392 landslide dataset (30% of landslide inventory) locations. The receiver operating characteristics 393 (ROC) curve is plotted, which represents the true positives (sensitivity) versus false positives 394 395 (specificity), and AUC (area under the curve) is utilized for prediction accuracy assessment (Ayalew and Yamagishi 2005; Mathew et al. 2009). Higher AUC values imply a better model, 396 and its value range from 0.5 to 1 (Shahabi and Hashim 2015). If AUC is more than 0.8, it is 397 398 considered a good fit (Yilmaz 2009). Fig. 10 shows the ROC curve for all four models used in 399 the study.

400 4. Results and discussion

401 4.1. Identification of most influential factors and their classes

In GIS-based susceptibility studies, it is essential to identify the relative influence of each conditioning factor and its classes on the occurrence of the event. The weights corresponding to each factor and their classes are calculated using FR and SE method, listed in Table 5. The FR value shows a spatial correlation between factors and landslide inventory. Therefore, it is assumed that the higher the FR, the larger the influence of a particular factor on the landslide. In the present study, pixels with slopes equal to or greater than 30° have higher FR than others.

In AHP and FAHP models, the subcategory of $30^{\circ}-40^{\circ}$ and >40° slope also show more 408 significant influence than others (Table 6 and 9). In the case of FR and SE model, subfactor of 409 410 bare land of LULC, clay of soil texture, Mesozoic of factor lithology, and areas with SPI>1.2, TWI<5, rainfall>6100 mm/year in the study region are showing greater susceptibility for 411 landslide than other class categories of the respective conditioning factors (Table 5). Among 412 15 conditioning factors, slope, LULC, TWI, SPI, lithology are the most influential factors as 413 414 per the FR model. In the SE model, along with these factors, soil texture also shows a significant influence on landslide occurrence (Table 5). Using AHP, conditioning factors, such 415 416 as slope, rainfall, distance from road, lithology, and LULC are found with higher weight share than others, while the distance from fault is found with the least weightage (Table 7). In the 417 FAHP model, the dominant landslide factors remain the same as AHP (Table 8). 418

419 4.2. Spatial distribution Landslide susceptibility using selected models

The present study employs the four susceptibility models, namely frequency ratio, Shannon 420 421 entropy, AHP, and fuzzy-AHP, to develop the LSM of Meghalaya. For this purpose, 15 landslide conditioning factors and landslide training datasets are used in the model 422 construction. The result shows that the area under the southern escarpment and southeast 423 portion of the study area has moderate to very high susceptibility for landslide in all four cases 424 425 (Figs. 5, 6, 8, and 9). According to the FR model (Fig. 5), 2.17%, 5.98%, and 13.10% areas of 426 the total study region are classified as very high, high, and moderate susceptibility categories, respectively (Fig. 7). For the SE model (Fig. 6), 2.07%, 5.38%, and 10.87% areas have very 427 high, high, and moderate susceptibility classes. Similarly, using the AHP model (Fig. 8), 428 429 4.01%, 12.04%, and 26.85% area falls under very high, high, and moderate susceptibility classes, respectively. For the FAHP model (Fig. 9), 3.88% and 12.15% area (second largest 430 after AHP) show very high and high susceptibility categories. In comparison, 27.35% area 431 shows moderate susceptibility to landslide, the highest among all four models (Fig. 7). Along 432

with the southern escarpment and southeast region of the study area, these classes are
concentrated along highways of the study area in the case of AHP and FAHP models (Fig. 8
and 9).

436 4.3. Validation of landslide susceptibility maps

The LSM produced using adopted models is validated using the receiver operating 437 characteristics (ROC) curves and the AUC method. For this purpose, 397 landslide testing 438 datasets are used. The ROC curve can also be drawn using a training dataset called the *success* 439 440 rate curve; however, the success rate is not a correct method for evaluating the prediction capability of the models (Pourghasemi et al. 2012b). Therefore, ROC using the testing dataset 441 only is adopted in the present study. The ROC curve produced using the testing dataset 442 443 (prediction curve) for all four models is shown in Fig. 10. On comparing the AUC values, the AHP model demonstrates the highest prediction accuracy (AUC = 0.913). For FAHP, FR, and 444 SE models, AUC values are 0.903, 0.896, and 0.888, respectively. However, all the models 445 446 show good prediction accuracy as the AUC value is more than 0.8 in all four cases.

447 4.4. Discussion

For landslide hazard assessment and risk mitigation, landslide susceptibility mapping is one of 448 the most applied approaches. The outcome of such susceptibility studies depends upon the 449 applied conditioning factors (Nohani et al. 2019). However, there are no fixed criteria for 450 selecting the conditioning factors at present (Pham et al. 2019b). Therefore, based on the 451 published literature on landslide susceptibility and past landslide characteristics, 15 landslide 452 conditioning factors are adopted in the present study. Among the selected set of factors, slope 453 (degrees) is found as the most significant factor influencing landslides in the area. In this study, 454 the landsides are primarily associated with the locations having slope ranges from 30°-40° and 455 >40°, similar to Mathew et al. 2008. Other than Slope, Lithology, LULC, Rainfall, TWI, and 456

Distance from Road are also identified as critical factors influencing landslides, consistent with
the previous studies (Pourghasemi et al. 2012b; Shahabi and Hashim 2015; Chen and Li 2020).

459 The present study applies prevalent and widely used bivariate statistical models (FR and SE) and MCDA (AHP and FAHP) for LSM of Meghalaya, India. The prediction power of each 460 model is obtained using a testing dataset. We identified AHP (AUC_{AHP} = 0.913) as the best 461 model following FAHP (0.903), FR (0.896), and SE (0.888) for considered study area. 462 Kavzoglu et al. 2013 also reported the MCDA model (AHP) as a better model than other 463 applied models in their study. Some studies reported fuzzy-AHP as a better model than AHP 464 (Mallick et al. 2018; Sur et al. 2020). Zhao et al. 2017 also compared fuzzy-based SE and AHP 465 models and reported SE with higher prediction accuracy than fuzzy AHP. In Fuzzy-AHP, the 466 fuzzy comparison matrix lacks consistency (Duru et al. 2012), which may explain the better 467 performance of AHP over FAHP in the present study. The prediction accuracy of SE is 468 comparable to that of FR in the present study (Fig. 10), which is consistent with others (Youssef 469 470 et al. 2015 and Nohani et al. 2019). However, the spatial distribution of high to very high landslide susceptibility class for all four models is approximately consistent and concentrated 471 along the southern-escarpment and southeast portion of the study area. 472

The findings in the present study can be used for the estimation of the socioeconomic vulnerability to landslides in the study area in terms of socioeconomic losses and downtime (Agrawal et al. 2021). Overall, all four models are acceptable for the landslide susceptibility study of Meghalaya. The landslide susceptibility study is data-driven and controlled by geologic conditions, anthropogenic activity, and LULC. Therefore, the study has some inherent limitations, which can be reduced by applying a high-resolution dataset with advanced data mining techniques and considering temporal variations in the dataset.





Fig. 5 Landslide susceptibility map of Meghalaya using frequency ratio











Fig. 7 Distribution of different susceptibility classes in the study area



Fig. 8 Landslide susceptibility map of Meghalaya using AHP

SI.	Conditioning		1			2			2			1			5			6			7			Q	
No.	Factor		I			Z			3			4			3			0			/			0	
1	Slope (degrees)	1	1	1	3	4	5	1	2	3	2	3	4	4	5	6	1	2	3	5	6	7	2	3	4
2	Aspect				1	1	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	0.25	0.33	0.5	1	2	3	0.25	0.33	0.5
3	Elevation							1	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	4	1	2	3	5	6	7	1	2	3
4	Plan curvature										1	1	1	1	2	3	0.33	0.5	1	1	2	3	1	1	1
5	Distance from													1	1	1	0.17	0.2	0.25	1	1	1	0.22	0.5	1
3	river													1	1	1	0.17	0.2	0.23	1	1	1	0.55	0.5	1
6	Distance from																1	1	1	2	2	1	1	C	2
0	road																1	1	1	2	3	4	1	Z	3
7	Distance from																			1	1	1	0.22	0.5	1
1	faults																			1	1	1	0.55	0.5	1
8	TWI																						1	1	1
9	SPI																								
10	LULC																								
11	NDVI																								
12	Soil texture																								
13	Geomorphology																								
14	Lithology																								
15	Rainfall																								
15	(mm/year)																								

Table 8 Fuzzy-Comparison matrix using TFN, and the weight assigned to each conditioning factor using geometric mean FAHP

492Table 8 (continued)

49	6
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Sl. No.	Conditioning Factor		9			10			11			12			13			14			15		W _{j,FAHP}
1	Slope (degrees)	3	4	5	1	2	3	2	3	4	3	4	5	2	3	4	2	3	4	1	2	3	0.154
2	Aspect	1	1	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.33	0.50	1	1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.040
3	Elevation	2	3	4	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.072
4	Plan curvature	1	2	3	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.33	0.50	1	1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.043
5	Distance from river	1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.20	0.25	0.33	1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.17	0.20	0.25	0.026
6	Distance from road	2	3	4	1	2	3	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	3	0.33	0.50	1	0.092
7	Distance from faults	1	1	1	0.20	0.25	0.33	0.17	0.20	0.25	1	1	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.20	0.25	0.33	0.13	0.14	0.17	0.022
8	TWI	1	2	3	0.33	0.50	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	0.33	0.50	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.050
9	SPI	1	1	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.33	0.50	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.20	0.25	0.33	0.027
10	LULC				1	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	0.33	0.50	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.082
11	NDVI							1	1	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.069
12	Soil texture										1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.17	0.20	0.25	0.034
13	Geomorphology													1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.062
14	Lithology																1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.090
15	Rainfall (mm/year)																			1	1	1	0.136

Table 9 Fuzzy-comparison matrix for different class of each conditioning factors and weight assigned to each class by FAHP

Conditioning Factors		Classes		1			2			3			4			5	
Slope(degree)	<10°	1	1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.17	0.20	0.25	0.13	0.14	0.17

	10° - 20°	2				1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.17	0.20	0.25
	20° - 30°	3							1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.25	0.33	0.50
	30° - 40°	4										1	1	1	0.25	0.33	0.50
	>40°	5													1	1	1
Aspect	Flat (-1)	1	1	1	1	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.13	0.14	0.11	0.13	0.14
	North (0-22.5)	2				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	4
	Northeast (22.5-67.5)	3							1	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	3
	East (67.5-112.5)	4										1	1	1	1	1	1
	Southeast (112.5-157.5)	5													1	1	1
	South (157.5-202.5)	6															
	Southwest (202.5-247.5)	7															
	West (247.5-292.5)	8															
	Northwest (292.5-337.5)	9															
Elevation	<300	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.17	0.20	0.25
	300 - 500	2				1	1	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.33	0.50	1	0.25	0.33	0.50
	500 - 700	3							1	1	1	1	1	1	0.20	0.25	0.33
	700 - 900	4										1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1
	900 - 1100	5													1	1	1
	1100 - 1300	6															
	1300 - 1500	7															
	>1500	8															
Plan curvature	Concave (<-0.05)	1	1	1	1	3	4	5	1	1	1						
	Flat (-0.05-0.05)	2				1	1	1	0.20	0.25	0.33						
	Convex (>0.05)	3							1	1	1						
Distance from river		1															
(m)	<150	1	1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	3	4
	150 - 300	2				1	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	4	3	4	5
	300 - 450	3							1	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	4
	450 - 600	4										1	1	1	1	2	3
	>600	5													1	1	1

Distance from road		1															
(m)	<150	T	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	4	3	4	5	4	5	6
	150 - 300	2				1	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	4	3	4	5
	300 - 450	3							1	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	4
	450 - 600	4										1	1	1	1	2	3
	>600	5													1	1	1
Distance from faults		1															
(m)	<1000	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	3	4
	1000 - 2000	2				1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	4	3	4	5
	2000 - 3000	3							1	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	4
	3000 - 4000	4										1	1	1	1	2	3
	>4000	5													1	1	1
LULC	Waterbodies	1	1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.20	0.25	0.33	0.33	0.50	1	0.17	0.20	0.25
	Dense Vegetation	2				1	1	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.25	0.33	0.50
	Light Vegetation	3							1	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	3
	Agricultural Land	4										1	1	1	0.25	0.33	0.50
	Built Area	5													1	1	1
	Bare Land	6															
NDVI	< 0.015	1	1	1	1	0.14	0.17	0.20	0.14	0.17	0.20	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.25	0.33	0.50
	0.015 - 0.14	2				1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	1	2	3	2	3	4
	0.14 - 0.18	3							1	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	4
	0.18 - 0.27	4										1	1	1	1	2	3
	0.27 - 0.36	5													1	1	1
	0.36 - 0.999	6															
SPI	< 0.13523	1	1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.20	0.25	0.33	0.13	0.14	0.17
	0.13523 - 0.3	2				1	1	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.17	0.20	0.25	0.13	0.14	0.17
	0.3 - 0.6	3							1	1	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.17	0.20	0.25
	0.6 - 1.2	4										1	1	1	0.25	0.33	0.50
	>1.2	5													1	1	1
TWI	<5	1	1	1	1	2	3	4	4	5	6	5	6	7	6	7	8
	05-07.0	2				1	1	1	2	3	4	4	5	6	6	7	8

	07-09.0	3							1	1	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
	09-11.0	4										1	1	1	1	2	3
	>11	5													1	1	1
Rainfall	<2200	1	1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.17	0.20	0.25	0.13	0.14	0.17
	2200 - 3500	2				1	1	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.17	0.20	0.25	0.13	0.14	0.17
	3500 - 4800	3							1	1	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.17	0.20	0.25
	4800 - 6100	4										1	1	1	0.25	0.33	0.50
	>6100	5													1	1	1
Soil texture	Loam	1	1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.14	0.17	0.20	0.13	0.14	0.17			
	Sandy Clay	2				1	1	1	0.14	0.17	0.20	0.13	0.14	0.17			
	Clay Loam	3							1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1			
	Clay	4										1	1	1			
Geomorphology	MDHV	1	1	1	1	4	5	6	3.00	4.00	5.00	6	7	8	6	7	8
	HDP	2				1	1	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	2	3	4	2	3	4
	MDP	3							1	1	1	2	3	4	2	3	4
	PC	4										1	1	1	1	1	1
	AP	5													1	1	1
	W	6															
	HDHV	7															
Lithology	Cn	1	1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.17	0.20	0.25	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.25	0.33	0.50
	Neo	2				1	1	1	0.20	0.25	0.33	0.17	0.20	0.25	0.33	0.50	1
	Pl	3							1	1	1	0.25	0.33	0.50	2	3	4
	Ms	4										1	1	1	4	5	6
	LcP	5													1	1	1
	Pr	6															

501 Table 9 (continued)

Conditioning FactorsClasses6789Wij,FAHP							
	Conditioning Factors	Classes	6	7	8	9	Wij,FAHP

Slope(degree)	<10°	1													0.054
	10° - 20°	2													0.091
	20° - 30°	3													0.157
	30° - 40°	4													0.237
	>40°	5													0.461
Aspect	Flat (-1)	1	0.11	0.13	0.14	0.11	0.13	0.14	0.125	0.143	0.167	0.13	0.14	0.17	0.013
	North (0-22.5)	2	2	3	4	3	4	5	4	5	6	3	4	5	0.228
	Northeast (22.5-	3						_	_				_		
	67.5)		2	3	4	1	2	3	2	3	4	2	3	4	0.186
	East (67.5-112.5)	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	5	6	7	6	7	8	0.160
	Southeast (112.5-	5	1	1	1	1	0	2	4	5	(2	2	4	0 121
	137.3	(1	1		2	5	4	5	6	2	3	4	0.131
	South (157.5-202.5)	0	1	I	1		I	I	2	3	4	2	3	4	0.103
	Southwest $(202.5 - 247.5)$	7				1	1	1	2	2	4	1	C	2	0.001
	247.3) West (247.5.202.5)	0					1	1		5 1	4		2 0.50	3 1	0.091
	West $(247.5-292.5)$ Northwest (202.5)	0							1	1	1	0.55	0.50	1	0.039
	337.5)	9										1	1	1	0.051
Elevation	<300	1	0.17	0.20	0.25	0.17	0.20	0.25	0.25	0.33	0.50				0.043
	300 - 500	2	0.20	0.25	0.33	0.20	0.25	0.33	0.25	0.33	0.50				0.046
	500 - 700	3	0.20	0.25	0.33	0.17	0.20	0.25	0.33	0.50	1				0.068
	700 - 900	4	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.25	0.33	0.50				0.076
	900 - 1100	5	1	1	1	0.33	0.50	1	0.33	0.50	1				0.160
	1100 - 1300	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3				0.212
	1300 - 1500	7				1	1	1	1	2	3				0.234
	>1500	8							1	1	1				0.161
Plan curvature	Concave (<-0.05)	1													0.443
	Flat (-0.05-0.05)	2													0.115
	Convex (>0.05)	3													0.443
Distance from river (m)	<150	1													0.247

	150 - 300	2					0.355
	300 - 450	3					0.195
	450 - 600	4					0.128
	>600	5					0.075
Distance from road		1					
(m)	<150	I					0.402
	150 - 300	2					0.267
	300 - 450	3					0.166
	450 - 600	4					0.101
	>600	5					0.064
Distance from faults		1					
(m)	<1000	T					0.283
	1000 - 2000	2					0.279
	2000 - 3000	3					0.223
	3000 - 4000	4					0.135
	>4000	5					0.080
LULC	Waterbodies	1	0.14	0.17	0.20		0.048
	Dense Vegetation	2	0.17	0.20	0.25		0.065
	Light Vegetation	3	0.25	0.33	0.50		0.202
	Agricultural Land	4	0.20	0.25	0.33		0.105
	Built Area	5	0.25	0.33	0.50		0.183
	Bare Land	6	1	1	1		0.397
NDVI	<0.015	1	0.33	0.50	1.00		0.046
	0.015 - 0.14	2	3	4	5		0.267
	0.14 - 0.18	3	3	4	5		0.325
	0.18 - 0.27	4	2	3	4		0.177
	0.27 - 0.36	5	2	3	4		0.121
	0.36 - 0.999	6	1	1	1		0.065
SPI	< 0.13523	1					0.052
	0.13523 - 0.3	2					0.063
	0.3 - 0.6	3					0.126

	0.6 - 1.2	4								0.252
	>1.2	5								0.507
TWI	<5	1								0.485
	05-07.0	2								0.277
	07-09.0	3								0.126
	09-11.0	4								0.071
	>11	5								0.041
Rainfall	<2200	1								0.049
	2200 - 3500	2								0.062
	3500 - 4800	3								0.125
	4800 - 6100	4								0.261
	>6100	5								0.502
Soil texture	Loam	1								0.057
	Sandy Clay	2								0.077
	Clay Loam	3								0.353
	Clay	4								0.513
Geomorphology	MDHV	1	2	3	4	1	1	1		0.297
	HDP	2	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.13	0.14	0.17		0.059
	MDP	3	0.25	0.33	0.50	0.13	0.14	0.13		0.081
	PC	4	0.17	0.20	0.25	0.13	0.14	0.13		0.032
	AP	5	0.17	0.20	0.25	0.13	0.14	0.13		0.032
	W	6	1	1	1	0.20	0.25	0.33		0.148
	HDHV	7				1	1	1		0.351
Lithology	Cn	1	0.25	0.33	0.50					0.043
	Neo	2	0.25	0.33	0.50					0.065
	Pl	3	1	2	3					0.225
	Ms	4	4	5	6					0.442
	LcP	5	1	1	1					0.104
	Pr	6	1	1	1					0.121





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Fig. 10 ROC curve for all four models using the testing dataset

508 **5. Conclusion**

In this study, FR, SE, AHP, and FAHP models are used to generate the landslide susceptibility
map of Meghalaya state in NER of India. The landslide inventory consisting of 1330 landslide

511 data points is prepared and distributed into a 70/30 ratio to form training and testing datasets.

512 Based on the present study, slope is found as the most influencing factor among the selected

15 conditioning factors. The performance of each model is evaluated by the AUC value based 513 on the testing dataset. The results showed that the prediction accuracy of the AHP model is 514 better than the other three models in the present study, with an AUC value of 0.913 (91.3% 515 prediction accuracy). The produced LSMs reveals that the southern escarpment of the study 516 area, the area in the southeast, and hillslopes along the roads possess great susceptibility for 517 future landslides. If the road network gets affected due to landslide events, the intra-518 519 district/state, inter-district/state connectivity get hampered and impart substantial economic losses to the population in the region. Therefore, the presented LSM for the considered study 520 521 area can help the authorities and decision-makers to plan and manage the risk mitigation strategies for future landslides and plan the sustainable infrastructure development in the region 522 accordingly. 523

524 Declaration of Competing Interests

525 The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or non-financial 526 interests or personal relationships that are directly or indirectly related to the work submitted 527 for publication that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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