

Joshimath area highly unstable: GSI report

Sanjay Dutta | TNN

New Delhi: A sudden outburst of silt-laden water from Jaypee colony at Marwari, located in the lower part of the Joshimath slope, led to ground fissures and cracks last year in the Uttarakhand pilgrim town spanning the localities of Marwari, Singdhar, Manoharbagh and Sunil Gaon, the final Geological Survey of India report on land subsidence in the area said.

The burst of water was triggered by a breach in a water body perched at shallow depth close to the surface. The report said leakage from drilling of a tunnel for NTPC's 520 MW Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project had no relation with it. In 2010, a multi-disciplinary team under the then Chamoli district magistrate too had found no evidence of the tunnel work inducing instability in the Joshimath area. The tunnel was completed in 2011.

Residents and activists opposed to hydel projects, however, had blamed the tunnel for the subsidence seen between Jan 2 and Jan 8 last year. A state government assessment report, prepared by a multi-disciplinary team of experts, had in Sept said 1,403

TOP 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

1 New construction should not be allowed

2 Strictly regulate construction activities in Auli and upper part of hill slopes

3 Avoid road-widening activities along Joshimath-Auli road



4 Areas between Sunil Gaon, Manoharbagh, Singdhar and Marwari be left without any construction of buildings and developed only as a green belt

5 Develop area-wise site-specific surface and underground drainage network and connect them to main cross-drainage network



Low-risk zone

> Part of Sunil ward, Ravigram and banks of Alaknanda river

High-risk zone

> Sunil, Marwari, Manoharbagh, Singdhar, Upper Bazar, Lower Bazar and Gandhinagar wards

of the 2,152 houses in the township were affected. It said 472 houses had to be rebuilt and 931 houses repaired or retrofitted in line with the 'build back better' principle.

The GSI report echoes findings of several multidisciplinary panels since 1976. It described the Joshimath area as highly unstable because it lies on landslide mass of boulders in the loose matrix of sandy and clayey material. So, when the natural drainage is disturbed by unplanned in-

frastructure, water accumulates underground and erodes the structure/slopes, leading to subsidence.

"The unique conditions at Joshimath, with respect to hydrogeological conditions and the slope forming material, appears to be more sensitive to the anthropogenic interferences since most of the ground cracks/subsidence have occurred in the urban clusters/settlements and cultivated lands," the report said.

CAA to be implemented in 7 days, says minister

Govt May Soon Notify Rules For Enforcement

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New Delhi: Union minister Shantanu Thakur on Monday said Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) would be implemented in the next seven days, reinforcing the possibility of an early rollout of the law Modi government enacted in 2020 in the face of widespread protests.

"I can guarantee that in the next seven days, not just in West Bengal, but CAA will be implemented across India," Thakur, junior ports & shipping minister, said while addressing a public gathering at Kakdwip in Bengal's South 24 Parganas. The statement came amid gathering indications of the Centre no-

'ELECTION RHETORIC', SAYS TMC

WHAT'S THE ACT

➤ Citizenship (Amendment) Act, notified in 2020, seeks to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim immigrants, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis, and Christians, from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who entered India before Dec 31, 2014

WHY NOW?

➤ Union minister Shantanu Thakur, BJP MP from Bengal's Bongaon, which has a substantial population of

Matua community, made announcement Sunday. Matuas, comprising a significant portion of state's SC popn, have been migrating to Bengal since the 1950s, fleeing religious persecution in erstwhile East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. Matuas anticipated to reap most benefits of CAA implementation

➤ Trinamool spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said BJP's raising of issue ahead of LS polls is 'just election rhetoric'

tifying rules for the implementation of the law.

The changes in the Act aim to provide Indian citizenship to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghan nationals from Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Christian, Buddhist and Parsi communities who had migrated to India before Dec 31,

2014. Though the Act was notified in early 2020, guidelines crucial for its implementation could not be framed — first because of protests against the exclusion of Muslims from its ambit and later because of the Covid pandemic.

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Maldives oppn planning to move impeachment motion against prez

3 Members Of Muizzu's Cabinet Denied Approval In House

Male: Maldives main opposition party, MDP, which holds a majority in parliament, is planning to submit a motion to impeach President Mohamed Muizzu even as three members of his cabinet were denied approval during a parliamentary vote on Monday, according to local media reports.

The development comes a day after clashes broke out in parliament on Sunday between pro-government MPs and opposition lawmakers over differences on the approval of four members of the pro-China president's cabinet.

Videos on social media showed at least one MP bleeding from the neck after being caught up in a violent scum inside the chamber, leading to the temporary suspension of sittings. Legislators were seen yanking off microphones and using plastic trumpets to disrupt proceedings. Another MP pressed his knee on the neck of a rival to pin him down till two others came to the rescue of the victim. The sessions were suspended close to midnight.

It was the first time since the country adopted a new hybrid constitution in 2008 — with a president as the chief executive — that presidential nominees have been challenged. Later Monday, Muizzu said he reappointed the posts.

Muizzu, 45, defeated India-friendly incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the presidential runoff last September.



The constitution dictates that the president can be impeached with 56 votes. Opposition party MDP has 45 MPs in 80-member parliament and its ally Democrats have 13

“MDP, in partnership with Democrats, have gathered enough signatures for an impeachment motion. However, they have yet to submit it,” Sun.com reported, quoting a lawmaker from MDP. “The Constitution, along with parliament’s standing orders, dictates that the president can be impeached with 56 votes,” Sun.com said. Parliament recently amended its standing orders to make it easier to submit impeachment motions.

The Maldivian parliament has 80 members. Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) has 45, followed by its ally Democrats (DEM) with 13 members. Of the ruling coalition of PPM-PNC, Progressive Party of the Maldives has two while People’s National Congress has 13. There are three independents while Jumhooree Party and Maldives Development Alliance have two each.

The gathering of signatu-

res for the motion comes a day after PPM-PNC coalition submitted no-confidence motions against speaker Mohamed Aslam and deputy speaker Ahmed Saleem — both from MDP.

Earlier in the day, parliament voted to deny approval to housing minister Ali Haidar Ahmed, Islamic minister Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed, and attorney general Ahmed Usham, while economic minister Mohamed Saeed narrowly survived the same fate himself, Sun.com reported.

After MDP and DEM decided to withhold parliamentary approval for four members of Muizzu’s cabinet, MPs from the PPM/PNC coalition initiated a protest, obstructing the sitting. On Nov 20 last year, Muizzu made a formal request for the approval of his cabinet, two days after his administration took office.

Parliament was to vote on the cabinet on Dec 18, but the original report by the Government Oversight Committee was rejected. Parliament held an extraordinary sitting on Sunday to vote on the committee’s new report, which was passed on Dec 30, Sun.com reported. But just ahead of the vote, MDP issued a three-line red whip to deny approval to the four cabinet members.

Earlier on Jan 24, calling India the “most long-standing ally,” MDP and DEM had expressed concern about Muizzu’s “anti-India stance.” PTI

India can aspire to be \$7tn economy by 2030: Review

'Possible To Grow Above 7% In Coming Years'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Indian economy is likely to achieve a growth rate of 7% in fiscal year 2025 after growing at or above 7% in 2023-24, driven by resilient domestic demand despite risks and uncertainties in the global economic landscape, according to a review of the economy unveiled on Monday.

It also said India can aspire to become a \$7 trillion economy in the next six-seven years (by 2030) asserting that this would be a significant milestone in the journey to delivering quality of life and standard of living that match and exceed the aspirations of the Indian people.

"If the prognosis for FY25 turns out to be right,

60, 7, 3, 2 YRS...HOW INDIA'S JOURNEY TO EACH TRILLION KEEPS GETTING SHORTER

Govt's economic review released on Monday targets \$7 trillion GDP by 2030. Barring an unforeseen shock, the goal is achievable



that will mark the fourth year post-pandemic that the Indian economy will have grown at or over 7%. That would be an impressive achievement, testifying to the resilience and potential of the Indian economy. It augurs well for the future," V Anantha Nageswaran, chief eco-

nomical advisor in the finance ministry said in the review. National Statistical Office estimates the economy will grow 7.3% in 2023-24 while Reserve Bank of India has projected a 7% growth rate for the current fiscal year.

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Navy rescues crew of hijacked Iranian vessel off Somalia coast

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In another swift operation on the high seas, an Indian warship intercepted an Iranian-flagged fishing vessel hijacked by pirates along the east coast of Somalia and ensured the safe release of all 17 crew members on Monday morning.

Patrol vessel INS Sumitra responded to a distress message about the hijacking of fishing vessel Iman, which had been boarded by pirates who took the crew hostage late on Sunday night.

INS Sumitra intercepted the vessel and "acted in accordance with the established SOPs (standard operating procedures) to coerce the pi-

INS Sumitra responded to a distress message about hijacking of the Iranian-flagged vessel that had been boarded by pirates, who took the crew hostage late on Sunday night

rates for safe release of crew along with the boat", a Navy officer said. "The action led to the pirates fleeing the vessel in their skiffs," he said.

The mission-deployed Indian warships on anti-piracy and maritime security

operations in the Indian Ocean Region symbolise the Navy's resolve towards safety of all vessels and seafarers at sea, he added.

The latest operation comes two days after Indian guided-missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam had come to the aid of Marshall Island-flagged tanker Marlin Luanda hit by an anti-ship ballistic missile fired by Houthi rebels of Yemen in the Gulf of Aden.

Escalating attacks by Houthi rebels and Somali pirates on merchant ships transiting through Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea had disrupted maritime trade between Europe and Asia over the last few months.

India to become **3rd largest economy** with **GDP of USD 5 trillion** in 3 years: Nirmala

NEW DELHI, Jan 29 (PTI)

INDIA is expected to become the third-largest economy in the world with a GDP of USD 5 trillion in the next three years and touch USD 7 trillion by 2030 on the back of continued reforms, the Finance Ministry said on Monday.

Ten years ago, India was the 10th largest economy in the world, with a GDP of USD 1.9 trillion at current market prices.

Today, it is the 5th largest with a GDP of USD 3.7 trillion (estimate FY24), despite the pandemic and despite inheriting an economy with macro imbalances and a broken financial sector, said the Ministry's January 2024 review of the economy. "This ten-year journey is marked by several reforms, both substantive and incremental, which have significantly con-



tributed to the country's economic progress," it said. These reforms, it added, have also delivered an economic resilience that the country will need to deal with unanticipated global shocks in the future.

The Ministry said that in the next three years, India is expected to become the third-largest economy in the world, with a GDP of USD 5 trillion.