

# NEWS TODAY

## ANTHROPOGENIC AND GEOLOGICAL REASONS AMONG MANY FOR JOSHIMATH SINKING

- Joshimath (about 6000ft) in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district is a key transit point for Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib.

- It is bounded by the Karmanasa and Dhaknala streams on the west and the east.

- The Dhauliganga and Alaknanda rivers on the south and the north.

- The first instance of subsidence in Joshimath was reported in 1976 Mishra Commission report.

- Natural factors for subsidence

- Joshimath almost sits on the Vaikrita Thrust (VT), a tectonic fault line and is also very close to main geological fault lines, Main Central Thrust (MCT), and Pandukeshwar Thrust (PT).

- It falls in Zone V of the Seismic Zonation Map.

- The area around it is covered with a thick layer of overburden material making it vulnerable to sinking.

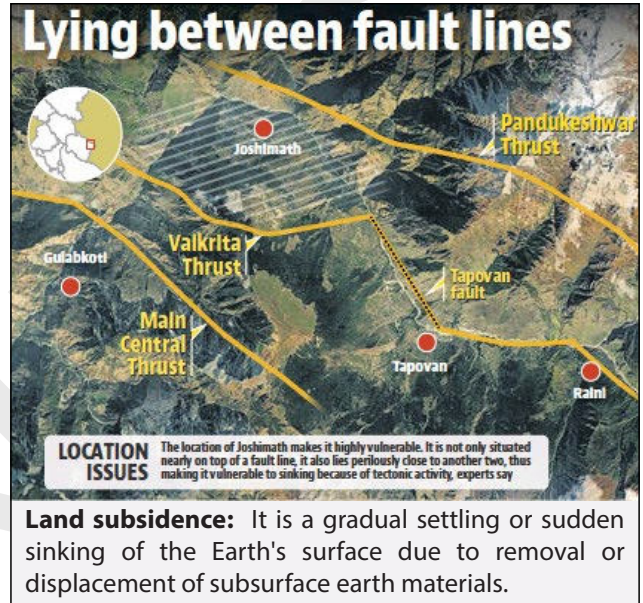
- High snowfall and highly weathered gneissic rocks makes the area prone to landslides.

- The impact of extreme rainfall events impacting the stability of the slope.

- Anthropogenic factors: Unplanned construction and Improper water drainage

- Hydroelectric schemes around Joshimath and Tapovan, including the Vishnugad HE Project has created additional pressure on fragile slope.

- Increase in ground seepage of water from surface, a probable cause for subsidence.



**Land subsidence:** It is a gradual settling or sudden sinking of the Earth's surface due to removal or displacement of subsurface earth materials.

## 1ST ALL INDIA ANNUAL STATES' MINISTERS CONFERENCE ON "WATER VISION@2047" HELD IN BHOPAL

- Following initiatives were launched during it:

- National Framework on Reuse of Treated Waste Water.

- National Framework for Sedimentation Management.

- Sedimentation management enables optimal utilization of reservoir capacity. It focuses on Adaptive structural and functional measures

- Best practices under Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain

- 'Catch the rain' aims to nudge Rain Water Harvesting Structures with people's active participation.

- Inauguration of a sub-portal of 'Jal Itihas' under WRIS portal.

- Jal Itihas showcases selected water heritage structures more than 100 years old.

- India- Water Resources Information System (WRIS) provides a single window solution for all water resources data and standardised information.

- 'Water Vision Park' was proposed to be established to promote idea of afforestation to achieve goal of water conservation.

- Also, key features of Water and Allied Resources Information and Management (WARMIS) were highlighted like Unified data repository, Intelligent Insight into data etc.

- Significance of the conference: It will bring in synergies between different government programmes /schemes in terms of planning, process and implementation.

- It highlighted the need to focus on the 4 Es of Water Governance i.e., Ecology, Equity, Efficiency and Economics.

- Constitutional provisions for water governance:

- State list, entry 17 (Water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage etc);

- Union list, entry 56 (Regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys)



# CENSUS POSTPONED BY AT LEAST 4 YEARS TO 2024-25: OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL AND CENSUS COMMISSIONER OF INDIA

- Citing the **on-going COVID pandemic**, the office of RGI has **extended the deadline of freezing of administrative boundaries to June 30, 2023** (extended multiple times since COVID).
  - As per **Rule 8(iv) of Census Rules, 1990**, the boundaries of the **administrative units shall be frozen from the date intimated by the Census Commissioner**, which shall not be earlier than one year from the Census reference date.
  - As **general elections are scheduled** for early 2024, it would not be possible to **conduct Census operations before polls**.
- **The Census Process:**
  - **Before every Census**, the states are required to provide information to the RGI on changes in the number of administrative units like towns, districts, etc.
    - The number of **districts changed from 640 in 2011 to 736 in 2022**.
  - **After which the Census Operations will be carried out in two phases:**
    - **House listing and Housing Census-** As per the recent amendments to Census Rules this phase also carries **enumeration of National Population Register (NPR)**.
    - **Population Enumeration-** During this **each person is enumerated and her/his individual particulars** (Age, Marital status, Religion, etc).

## INITIATIVES LAUNCHED ON 76TH FOUNDATION DAY OF BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS (BIS)

- BIS was established **under the BIS Act 1986**, assuming the functions of the **erstwhile Indian Standards Institution (ISI)** which was established in 1947.
  - Presently **BIS operates under the framework of the BIS Act of 2016**.
- **Various Initiatives launched were-**
- **Standards National Action Plan (SNAP) 2022- 27:** SNAP to meet the emerging technologies and concerns of **sustainability and climate change**.
  - Will play an important role in steering the **national standardization** efforts.
- **Revised National Electrical Code of India 2023 or NEC 2023:** Prepared by BIS, it provides guidelines for **regulating Electrical Installations practices** across country.
  - India's first NEC was **formulated in 1985** (subsequently revised in 2011).
  - Current revision includes **latest International best practices and addition of special locations** like Hospitals, Community facilities, Hotels, etc.
- **Revision Exercise of National Building Code of India (NBC 2016):** BIS initiated exercise of Revision of NBC to include Sustainable city planning norms; New and sustainable building materials, etc.
- **Standards Clubs in Schools:** Through Standards Clubs, BIS aims to **expose science students** of class 9th and above to the **concepts of Quality and Standardization** through student centric activities.
- **Training courses for national capacity** building for judicious implementation of NBC 2016 and NEC 2023.

### SOME COMMON BIS STANDARDS

- **BIS Hallmark:** Mandatory standard for gold and silver jewellery
- **ISI Mark:** Standards compliance mark for industrial products
- **Ecomark:** Labeling of environment friendly products.
- **Product Certification Scheme:** Applicable for tangible products.
- **Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme:** Overseas applicants/foreign manufacturers are granted a license for the use of the ISI mark.
- **System Certification Scheme:** Applicable for systems/processes.

- The responsibility of **conducting the decadal census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **National Population Register (NPR)** is a register of **all usual residents** of the country regardless of whether they are citizens/non-citizens of India.
  - First **compiled in 2010** and **updated in 2015**.
  - Prepared under **provisions of Citizenship Act 1955 and Rules, 2003**.

## SC DIRECTS PANEL TO EVOLVE FRAMEWORK ON GUIDELINES FOR ROAD SAFETY

- The **SC bench along with CJI**, has highlighted the **immediate necessity to formulate Guidelines** for Road Safety in India.
  - The committee will be led by a former apex court judge, **Justice A.M. Sapre**.
  - It will seek to create State-specific guidelines for the electronic monitoring and enforcement of road safety across States as per **Section 136A of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**.
  - The bench also **acknowledged that speeding is the main cause of fatal accidents** on Indian roads.
- **Motor Vehicle Act, 1988**
  - The act **replaced the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939** and came into force from 1 July 1989.
  - Various sections of it are amended and the recent one in 2022, for third party insurance and creation of Motor Accident Claims Tribunal.
  - **Section 136 (2)** of the act mandates the Centre to "make rules for the electronic monitoring and enforcement of road safety including speed cameras, closed-circuit television cameras, etc.
  - **Sections 215 A and B** of the act, provides for the functions of **electronic monitoring to the States and the formation of a National Road Safety Board in an advisory capacity**.
- According to a **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways report (2021)**, altogether **4,12,432 road accidents** were reported.
  - Steps like **dashboard for road accidents, cashless treatment, acknowledgement of good Samaritans and establishment of National Road Safety Council** have been taken to deal with it.

## ALSO IN NEWS



### First Advance Estimates (FAE)

- India's **GDP (gross domestic product)** may grow **7% for the financial year 2022-23**, according to the first advance estimates released by the **NSO under Ministry of Statistics**.
- About First Advance Estimate (FAE):**
  - First introduced in **2016-17**.
  - They are the **"first" official estimates** of how **GDP is expected to grow** in that financial year.
  - They are also the **"advance" estimates** because they are published long before the financial year (April to March) is over.
- The significance of FAE lies in the fact that they are **the GDP estimates** that the Union Finance Ministry uses to **decide the next financial year's budget allocations**.



### The Indian Telegraph (Infrastructure Safety) Rules 2022

- The Department of Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications has formulated the **Indian Telegraph (Infrastructure Safety) Rules 2022**.
  - Government has established a **pan India telecom infrastructure network**.
  - However, due to **excavation activities by various agencies underground utility assets get damaged**.
  - In the Telecom Sector alone, **there is an economic loss of approx. Rs 3000 Crore/year**.
- Advantage: **Many utilities can be saved from unwanted cuts and wasteful cost towards restoration**.



### Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India), Order 2017 (PPP-MII)

- The Union Government has flagged over a dozen **Restrictive and discriminatory conditions** in tender conditions.
- The tweaking of the tender conditions was in violation **of the Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order, 2017**, issued to protect the interests of local suppliers.
- About PPP-MII:**
  - As per the **order the minimum local content shall ordinarily be 50%**.
  - It was issued **to promote domestic value addition in public procurement**.



### Working Time and Work-Life Balance Around the World Report

- It has been **released by the International Labour Organisation. Key Highlights:**
  - Short-time work and work-sharing** measures helped to reduce the volume of work and save jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Flexible working hours** enabled individuals as well as companies to collectively reduce the hours of work.



### Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 (UAPA Act).

- The Ministry of Home Affairs** has banned the group named People's Anti-Fascist-Front (PAFF) under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 (UAPA Act)**.
  - It is considered as a proxy outfit of the banned terror group **Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) of Pakistan**.
- UAPA Act**
  - The act gives power to the government to declare any organisation as an **"unlawful association"** or a **"terrorist organisation"**.
  - Both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged** under the act.
  - A tribunal headed by a **High court judge** is constituted **by the Central Government** to confirm a ban on a political organisation based on evidence and analysis of the allegations.



### Moirang

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister inaugurated and laid foundation stone of few development projects at **Moirang, Manipur**.
  - Also unveiled **165-foot tall tricolor at historic 'Azad Hind Fauj' Headquarters at Moirang, which is tallest national flag in the entire North East region**.
- About Moirang** (a small town in Bishnupur district of Manipur):
  - Historical importance:** During World War II, **Moirang was headquarters of Indian National Army (INA), Tricolour was unfurled** here in 1944.
  - Cultural importance:** Moirang **Haraoba festival, Khamba- Thoibi dance** originated.
  - Ecological attractions:** Sendra Island, **Keibul Lamjao National Park**, and the **Loktak Lake** etc.



Cloud Forest

- A new report suggested that **Cloud Forest Bond** will incentivise governments to **protect their cloud forests**.
- **About Cloud Forests (montane rainforests):**
  - Refer to vegetation of **tropical mountainous regions** where there is **heavy rainfall and persistent condensation** resulting from **cooling of moisture being pushed upwards by mountains**.
  - Usually characterized by a **persistent, frequent and seasonal low-lying layer** of mist and cloud cover usually at canopy level.
  - Only found in tropical areas with tall mountains.



Sagol Kangjei

- The Home Minister recently inaugurated a 122 ft statute in Manipur, which depicts a Sagol Kangjei player.
  - **Modern polo is said to have originated from Sagol Kangjei**, a sport which is indigenous to Manipur.
  - The **game is played with 7 players on each side**, who are mounted on Manipur Ponies and the ball used is made of bamboo root.
- **Manipur Pony**
  - It is **one of five Indigenous horse breeds** of India.
    - Other 4 are Marwari, Kathiawari, Zanskari and Spiti.
  - The state government has formulated **Manipur Pony Conservation and Development Policy 2016** to save the breed.
  - The **Marjing Polo Complex** was developed by the state to conserve the breed.



Purple Fest

- **The first ever Purple Fest**, which brings together people with disabilities from across the country was inaugurated in Goa
- It is **hosted by the Goa State Commission for Persons with Disabilities** in association with the **Directorate of Social Welfare and Entertainment Society of Goa**.



Place in news

- Abyei**
- **Indian Army has deployed its largest contingent of women Peacekeepers** in a UN mission at Abyei.
    - Abyei is **contentious** region that is **oil-rich near the demarcation line which divides Sudan and the South Sudan**.
  - **Sudan:**
    - It is a **Northeast African Country**, which is bordered by Egypt, Lybia, Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea and opens to the Red Sea.
    - Capital : **Khartoum**.
    - Both **White Nile and Blue Nile**, along with **Atbara river** converge to form the Great Nile in Sudan.
    - The **Marrah Mountain range** is towards its west.
  - **South Sudan:**
    - It is a **landlocked country in East Africa**, surrounded by Sudan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia.
    - **Capital: Juba**
    - **White Nile** is the major river that runs through it.
    - It houses the famous **Southern National park** and the **Boma National parks**.

