In the wake of a 6.1 magnitude earthquake striking near Jajarkot on November 6, 2023, Nepal is grappling with the aftermath as reports indicate challenges in the region. Nepal’s Earthquake Woes: Government Response Concerns, published by Nepal Governance Weekly, provides insights into the situation.

1. Nepal’s Chief Justice Bishwobhakta Prasad Shrestha is under scrutiny for unfounded promises to verify 661 Supreme Court vacancies. Critics argue that the court system remains underfunded, with a backlog of cases.

2. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority has initiated preparations to reconstruct damaged houses in Jajarkot within a year. However, skepticism lingers regarding the government’s ability to fulfill this commitment, especially considering Nepal’s past struggles in completing the reconstruction from previous earthquakes.

3. Seismologists have long predicted earthquakes in the western part of Nepal. But only recently has the government constructed a ‘Temporary Earthquake Measurement Center’ in Chainpur, Bajhang, responding to the escalating frequency of seismic activity.

4. Nepal Governance Weekly notes that the government’s response efforts included the establishment of a Prime Minister’s Disaster Relief Fund aimed at aiding the victims, amounting to nearly NRs. 600 million. Amidst this backdrop, there is growing concern over the disbursement of funds, with reports suggesting that these resources are accumulating in district headquarters, failing to reach the earthquake-stricken communities due to transportation challenges.

5. In the wake of a 6.1 magnitude earthquake striking near Jajarkot on November 6, 2023, Nepal is grappling with the aftermath as reports indicate challenges in the region. The earthquake claimed the lives of 150 individuals, leaving hundreds of houses damaged and a region in need of urgent assistance. The government’s response included the establishment of a Prime Minister’s Disaster Relief Fund aimed at aiding the victims, amounting to nearly NRs. 600 million. Amidst this backdrop, there is growing concern over the disbursement of funds, with reports suggesting that these resources are accumulating in district headquarters, failing to reach the earthquake-stricken communities due to transportation challenges.

6. Nepal’s government has approved Social Media Guidelines, crafted by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, to curb the misuse of platforms like Facebook, TikTok, and Twitter for incitement and hate promotion. Platforms must register and obtain a government license within three months, renewing it every six years. The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, to curb the misuse of platforms like Facebook, TikTok, and Twitter for incitement and hate promotion. Platforms must register and obtain a government license within three months, renewing it every six years.

7. Nepal holds the third-lowest Human Development Index (HDI) in South Asia. Despite favorable social indicators, the country’s per capita income remains second lowest, influencing its overall HDI. Although slated for developing status in 2026, Nepal falls below per capita income thresholds.

8. Madhesh Province in Nepal has issued a 30-day ultimatum to the federal government, demanding a resolution of concerns regarding police deployment, civil service allocation, trust-owned land management, and forest-related rights. The provincial government claims the federal government is hindering the development efforts in the region.

9. Nepal’s government has added three cricket stadiums – Girija Suntali Foundation’s cricket stadium in Chitwan – to the National International Cricket Stadium in Bharatpur, and the Dhurmus building a new airport when the Biratnagar Airport is just an hour away. Critics argue against building new airports when the Biratnagar Airport is just an hour away.

10. The Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation in Nepal faces a renewed debate over the construction of an airport in Chronic, originally planned in 2003. The project, which has been revised multiple times, remains non-existent. Despite the Ministry’s recent indication to proceed with the project, it has failed to garner interest.

Governing Issues of the Week

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