



01 August 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p>Causes of the Wayanad Landslides</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geoscientist C.P. Rajendran identifies several factors contributing to the recent landslides in Wayanad. <p>Key points: These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deforestation: Initiated in the 1980s for tree plantations, this has altered soil conditions. Decayed root systems left cavities in the soil, making it more prone to landslides. Unplanned Construction: Inadequate planning and quarrying have likely exacerbated the landslide risk. Climate Variability: The region experienced around 1830 mm of rainfall in the past 30 days, contributing to soil saturation and instability. The high-intensity rainfall acted as a critical trigger for the landslides. <p>Previous Incidents and Research Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puthumala Landslide (August 29, 2019): Research indicated this landslide began small but grew due to fragile, rain-saturated soil. The massive slide involved rocks and mud, collapsing part of the hill. Mundakkai and Chooralmala Landslides (July 29, 2024): Similar soil conditions and geology as Puthumala. The landslides were worsened by the same soil piping mechanisms and heavy rainfall. <p>Future Precautions and Strategies Updating Risk Assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landslide Susceptibility Maps: Agencies like the State Disaster Management should update these maps. It is uncertain if the Mundakkai area is included in the high-risk zones on current maps. Modern tools such as satellite observations and digital elevation models can improve risk mapping. <p>Government Policies and Land Management</p>
--	--



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policy Formation: The government needs to develop clear land management policies based on updated zoning maps. Involving local communities in these decisions is crucial. ● Long-Term Strategies: Addressing annual floods and landslides affecting vulnerable populations is essential. ● Kerala should implement creative yet practical measures for environmental management and land use, considering its high population density and ecological fragility.
<p>Kerala High Court</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Kerala High Court is set to launch a new initiative aimed at increasing transparency and accessibility within the judiciary. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Initiative Launch Date: August 1, 2024. ● Livestreaming Technology: An in-house developed application will be used, marking a departure from external platforms like YouTube. ● Objective: To enhance transparency and public access to judicial proceedings. ● Full Bench Members: The livestream will feature Acting Chief Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque, Justice Shoba Annamma Eapen, and Justice S. Manu.
<p>National Green Tribunal</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On August 1, 2024, the Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) took suo motu action regarding the severe landslides in Wayanad, Kerala. <p>Suo moto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Definition: Suo Moto Cognizance is a Latin term referring to an action taken by a government agency, court, or other central authority based on its own recognition or awareness of an issue. ● Court's Role: Courts may exercise Suo Moto Cognizance when they come across information, often through media or third-party notifications, indicating a violation of rights or a breach of duty. <p>Legal Provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public Interest Litigation (PIL): Articles 32 and 226 of the Indian Constitution provide the framework for filing PILs in the Supreme Court and High Courts, respectively. This framework



empowers the courts to initiate legal actions based on their own recognition of matters.

Supreme Court's Powers:

- **Article 131 of the Indian Constitution grants the Supreme Court original jurisdiction** over disputes between states or between the center and states. This provision allows the Supreme Court to directly address such cases without going through lower courts or reviewing their judgments.

Judicial Activism:

- **Reflection of Activism:** Actions taken under Suo Moto Cognizance by Indian courts often reflect judicial activism, where the judiciary proactively addresses issues to ensure justice and uphold rights.

National Green Tribunal (NGT):

- **Establishment:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established in **2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act.**
- It is a **specialized body for the expeditious disposal of cases related to environmental protection** and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- **Objective:**
 - **The primary objective of the NGT is to ensure effective and timely resolution of environmental disputes.**
 - It aims to provide a dedicated forum for addressing environmental issues and enforcing legal rights related to the environment.
- **Jurisdiction:** The NGT has jurisdiction over all civil cases involving substantial questions relating to the environment, including the enforcement of legal rights related to the environment. It can hear cases under various environmental laws, such as:
 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
 - The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
 - The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
 - The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- **Structure:** The NGT consists of a **Chairperson, Judicial Members, and Expert Members.** The Chairperson is a retired Supreme Court judge, and the Judicial Members are retired High Court judges. Expert Members are individuals with professional



മലയാളം

ADDA PEDIA

To get free Live Classes,
Materials Scan this QR Code &
Download our Adda247 App



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

qualifications and experience in environmental and related fields.

Copyright © by Adda247

All rights are reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission of Adda247.