

DAILY PT POINTERS

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The Hindu: Disaster Management – GSIII (Page 7)

IIT-Delhi team makes first hi-res landslide risk map for India

The 'Indian Landslide Susceptibility Map' is the first of its kind by virtue of being on a national scale, leaving out no locations in the country. The map and the researchers' study will be published in the journal *Catena* in its February 2024 issue.

by Anil Subramanian

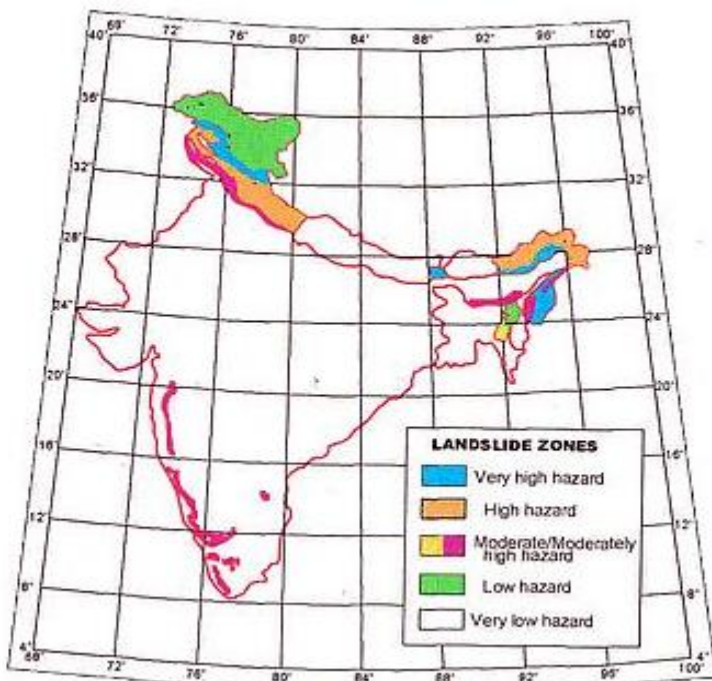
In late 2023, torrential rains during the northeast monsoon triggered heavy floods and landslides in hilly States in North India, killing hundreds of people. Given the number of fatalities due to landslides in India, a national landslide susceptibility map can help assess risks and help with mitigation strategies. Unfortunately, landslide susceptibility maps for the whole country of India, on an international scale, do not exist. The Department of Hydrogeology, IIT-Delhi, has taken the lead to make one.

Data with limited landslide records are a common problem in India. IIT-Delhi developed an analytical workflow to identify very localised areas in which landslide susceptibility is high. "We worked with landslide susceptibility data that is not available at the national level," Dr. Saikat Ghosh, a postdoctoral fellow at IIT-Delhi, says. "We used first-order landslide data in the country to build and validate a machine-learning model. Then, the model identifies the factors that are most susceptible to landslides, such as slope, soil cover, and vegetation, and how they vary across the country. The closer the landslide is to the main mountain ranges, the more prone it is to landslides."



THE GIST

Landslides are a local and deadly problem. They are less widespread and harder to track and study with satellites. Landslide susceptibility maps can help assess risks and help with mitigation strategies.



- Landslides denotes any down-slope movement of soil and rock under the direct influence of gravity.
- Landslides are a unique and deadly problem in India. Unlike floods, they're less widespread and harder to track and study with satellites.
- Landslides happen in very localised areas and affect only about 1-2% of the country. As a result, there is much less data of sufficient quality for typical machine-learning models to work with.

Do you know ?

India has the highest mountain chain on earth, the Himalayas, which are formed due to collision of Indian and Eurasian plate, the northward movement of the Indian plate towards China causes continuous stress on the rocks rendering them friable, weak and prone to landslides and earthquakes

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: (GSIII-Economy)-Page 8

First Advance Estimates of India's GDP out: What are they, and what do the data show?

The First Advance Estimates released on Friday are the last GDP data released before the Union Budget is presented. They also provide the first complete picture of economic growth in the 10 years of the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



- India's GDP will grow by 7.3% in the current financial year (2023-24), slightly faster than the 7.2% growth in 2022-23, the First Advance Estimates (FAEs) released by the government.
- The FAE are presented at the end of the first week of January every year.
- They are only the first estimates of growth for that financial year. By the end of February, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will release the Second Advance Estimates and, by the end of May, the Provisional Estimates.

Indian Express: (GSII-Judiciary)-Page 8

Justice Gavai nominated as SC Legal Services Committee Chairman: What law says on free legal aid in India



What does the committee's mandate say, and who nominates members to it? What is the need for legal aid? We explain.

- Supreme Court judge Justice BR Gavai has been nominated as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC)
- The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee was constituted under Section 3A of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, to provide “free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of society”, in cases falling under the top court’s jurisdiction.
- Section 3A of the Act states that the Central Authority (the National Legal Services Authority or NALSA) shall constitute the committee.
- It consists of a sitting SC judge, who is the chairman, along with other members possessing the experience and qualifications prescribed by the Centre. Both the chairman and other members will be nominated by the CJI. Further, the CJI can appoint the Secretary to the Committee.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Defense/Governance

Ministry of Panchayati Raj



SVAMITVA Scheme wins Best Innovation Award for Innovation Sandbox presentation during Public Policy Dialogues–2024 at Indian School of Business, Hyderabad

SVAMITVA Scheme has been saturated with generation of property cards of all inhabited villages of Haryana, Uttarakhand, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Goa

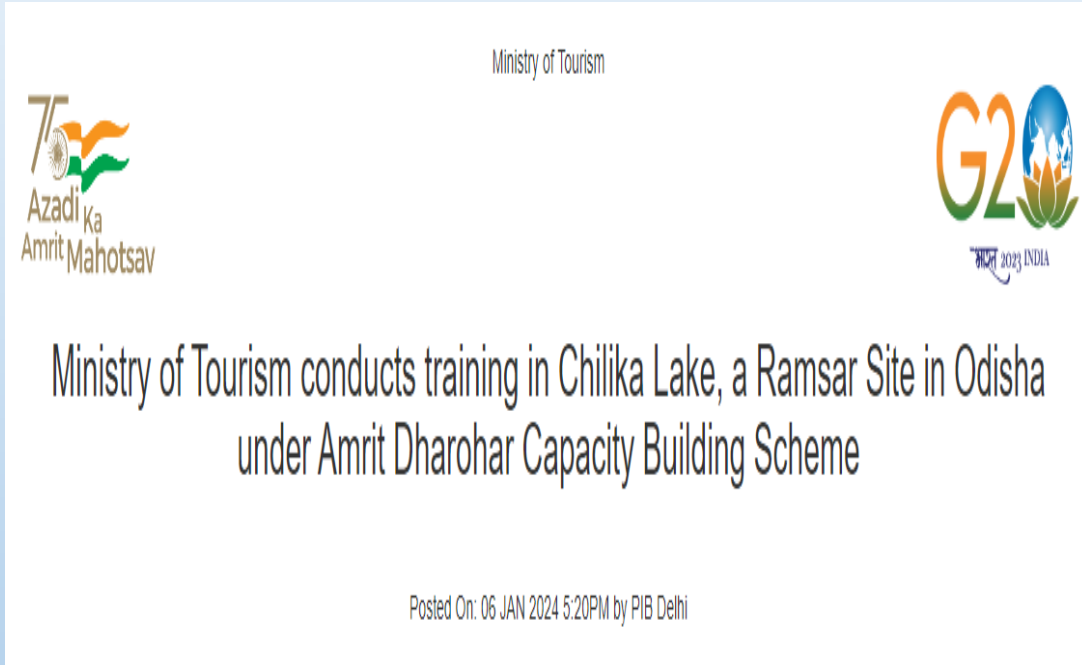
Drone survey has been completed in 2.90 lakh villages and 1.66 crore property cards have been prepared for 1.06 lakh villages so far

Posted On: 06 JAN 2024 1:17PM by PIB Delhi

- SVAMITVA Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is a Central Sector Scheme that has significantly contributed to the empowerment of rural communities in India. By leveraging cutting-edge drone surveys and GIS mapping technology, the scheme ensures accurate demarcation of land parcels, thereby mitigating disputes and providing individuals with property records of rights i.e. SVAMITVA Property Cards, thereby facilitating monetization of properties, enabling bank loans and comprehensive village-level planning.
- This integration of technology not only streamlines the documentation process but also marks a significant step towards a more transparent and efficient land administration system, fostering socio-economic progress in rural areas.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Environment



- Chilika Lake is a brackish water lake and a shallow lagoon with estuarine character spread across the districts of Puri, Khurda and Ganjam in the state of Odisha in eastern India.
 - the largest brackish water lake in Asia
 - Chilika Lake is a Ramsar site
 - It is the largest wintering ground for migratory waterfowl found anywhere on the Indian sub-continent.



HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB: Defence



About iDEX

- iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence), the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Defence, Govt of India launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2018.
- The objective of the scheme is to cultivate an innovation ecosystem in the Defence and Aerospace sector by collaborating with startups, innovators, MSMEs, incubators, and academia. iDEX offers grants and support for R&D with significant potential for future adoption in Indian defence and aerospace.

Do you know ?

- India is the world's largest defence equipment importer and is expected to spend around USD 220 Billion in the coming decade to modernize its armed forces.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Economy



- The establishment of the Inland Waterways Development Council in October 2023 by the Government of India underscores its commitment to comprehensive development of inland waterways and the associated Inland Water Transport (IWT) ecosystem for improved cargo efficiency, passenger movement, and river cruise tourism, with active participation from States and Union Territories.