



Landslide in Kodagu

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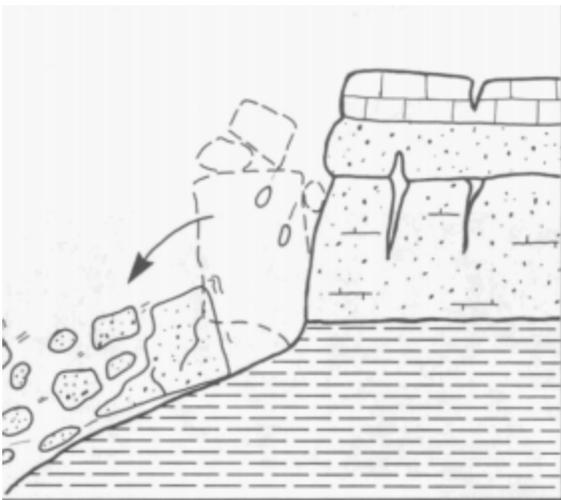
Why in News

Recently, due to heavy rain, numbers of landslides occurred in many parts of India.

Key Points

Landslides:

- A landslide is defined as the **movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope.**
- They are a type of **mass wasting**, which denotes any downward movement of soil and rock under the direct influence of gravity.
- The term landslide encompasses **five modes of slope movement: falls, topples, slides, spreads, and flows.**



- **Causes:**
 - Slope movement occurs when **forces acting downward (mainly due to gravity) exceed the strength of the earth materials** that compose the slope.
 - Landslides are caused due to **three major factors: geology, morphology, and human activity.**
 - **Geology** refers to characteristics of the material. The earth or rock might be weak or fractured, or different layers may have different strengths and stiffness.
 - **Morphology** refers to the structure of the land. For example, slopes that lose their vegetation to fire or drought are more vulnerable to landslides.
 - Vegetation holds soil in place, and without the root systems of trees, bushes, and other plants, the land is more likely to slide away.
 - **Human activity** which include agriculture and construction increase the risk of a landslide.
- **Region:**

Continent-wise, **Asia suffers the maximum damages/losses** due to landslides and within that, South-Asian nations are the worst sufferers **including India** which is one of the worst affected by landslides.
- **Mitigation:**
 - **Restriction on the construction and other developmental activities** such as roads and dams in the areas prone to landslides.
 - **Limiting agriculture** to valleys and areas with moderate slopes.
 - **Control** on the development of large settlements in the high vulnerability zones.
 - **Promoting large-scale afforestation** programmes and **construction of bunds** to reduce the flow of water.
 - **Terrace farming** should be encouraged in the northeastern hill states where Jhumming (Slash and Burn/Shifting Cultivation) is still prevalent.

Source: TH