



# Anasagar Lake

## Why in News?

[The Supreme Court](#) ordered the Rajasthan government to remove **the Seven Wonders** and **Food Court** built on the banks of **Ana Sagar Lake in Ajmer**.

## Key Points

- **About the issue:**
  - **The Supreme Court** has directed **Seven Wonders Park** to be demolished or shifted to another location within **six months**, while the **food court** has been ordered to be completely demolished by **7th April 2025**.
  - Additionally, the court clarified that the amount of new [wetlands](#) damaged in **the city area** must be developed.
  - [The National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#) had also taken a tough stand on damaging the wetland area of the lake.
- **Petition**
  - A former councilor of Ajmer had **raised objections regarding illegal construction** on the banks of Ana Sagar Lake.
    - He alleged that this **construction was done in disregard of the wetland area and the master plan**.
  - Regarding this, he had filed a petition in NGT, after which orders were issued to remove the construction in August 2023.
  - **The Ajmer Development Authority** appealed against these orders in the Supreme Court in January 2024.

## Anasagar Lake

- Located in Ajmer, it is an **artificial lake**, built by Prithviraj Chauhan's father **Arunoraj or Anaaji Chauhan** in the middle of the twelfth century (1135-1150 AD).
  - Due to being constructed by Anaaji, this lake was named **Aana Sagar or Ana Sagar**
- The Ana Sagar lake is spread over **an area of about 13 km**.
- Later, the Mughal ruler **Jahangir built Daulat Bagh**, also known as **Subhash Udyan**, in the courtyard of the lake.
- **Shah Jahan** constructed a **marble Baradari (pavilion)** around it in **1637 AD**, which further **enhances the beauty of the lake**.
- Ana Sagar Lake, besides being **the main water source of Ajmer**, plays an important role in the conservation of **local biodiversity and migratory birds**.

# NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

*The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialised body for swift resolution of environmental and natural resource cases.*

## About

- ④ **Establishment:** By National Green Tribunal Act 2010
- ④ **Objective:** Quick resolution of environmental & natural resource cases
- ④ **Case Resolution:** Within 6 months
- ④ **Places of Sitting:** New Delhi (Principal), Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai

## Structure

- ④ **Composition:** Chairperson, Judicial Members, and Expert Members
- ④ **Tenure:** Up to 5 years/until age 65 (no reappointment)
- ④ **Appointments:** Chairperson - Central Government (with the CJI's consultation)
  - 10-20 judicial members & 10-20 expert members - Selection Committee

India is the third country globally (after Australia and New Zealand) and the first developing nation to establish a specialised environmental tribunal like NGT.

## Powers & Jurisdiction

- ④ **Jurisdiction:** Civil cases on environmental issues and rights
- ④ **Suo Motu Powers:** Granted since 2021
- ④ **Roles:** Adjudicatory, preventative, and remedial
- ④ **Procedures:** Follows Principles of natural justice
  - Not bound by the CPC, 1908 or Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- ④ **Principles:** Sustainable Development; Precautionary; Polluter pays
- ④ **Orders:** Executable as civil court decrees; offers relief and compensation (**decisions are binding**)
- ④ **Appeals:** Tribunal can review its decisions.
  - If decision fails - Appeal to the SC to be filed within 90 days

## NGT deals with Civil Cases under

- ④ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- ④ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977
- ④ Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- ④ Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- ④ Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- ④ Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
- ④ Biological Diversity Act, 2002



Drishti IAS