



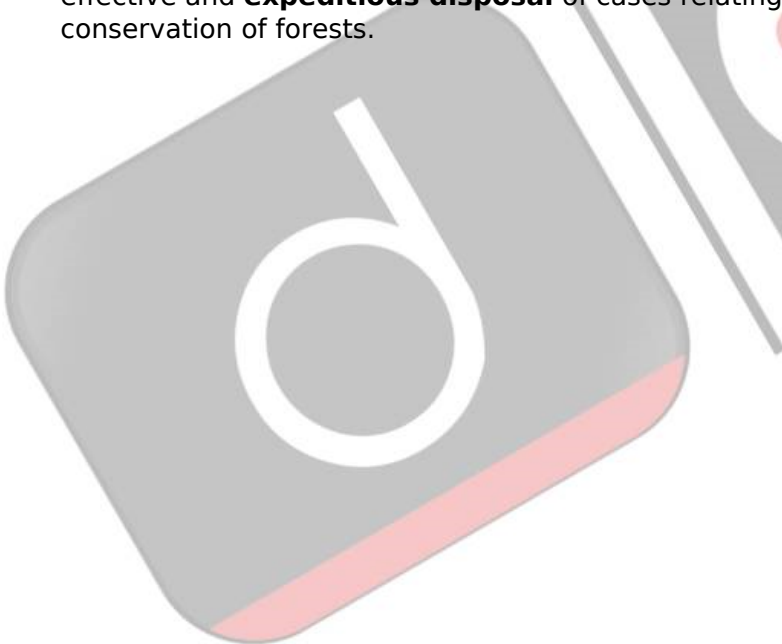
NGT's Directive on Zoning of Nainital

[Source: IE](#)

Recently, the [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#) ordered classifying **Nainital town** into **prohibited, regulated, and development zones**.

- This zoning aims to limit the environmental impact of **unchecked urbanisation** and **manage development** responsibly.
- The NGT emphasised the concept of **"carrying capacity,"** which refers to the **maximum population and development** that Nainital can support without degrading its environment.
 - The felling of **oak and deodar trees** for parking construction near hotels has caused major **ecological damage** in Nainital's catchment area, affecting [Nainital Lake's recharge](#).
- Nainital Lake is a **lunar-shaped freshwater lake** that was formed due to [tectonic movements](#). It is located in the **Kumaon region** in Uttarakhand.
- NGT is a **statutory body** established under the **National Green Tribunal Act, 2010** for effective and **expeditious disposal** of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests.

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NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

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

About

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

Structure

- 🕒 **Composition:** Chairperson, Judicial Members, and Expert Members
- 🕒 **Tenure:** Up to 5 years/until age 65 (no reappointment)
- 🕒 **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

- 🕒 **Jurisdiction:** Civil cases on environmental issues and rights
- 🕒 **Suo Motu Powers:** Granted since 2021
- 🕒 **Roles:** Adjudicatory, preventative, and remedial
- 🕒 **Procedures:** Follows Principles of natural justice
 - 🕒 Not bound by the CPC, 1908 or Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- 🕒 **Principles:** Sustainable Development; Precautionary; Polluter pays
- 🕒 **Orders:** Executable as civil court decrees; offers relief and compensation (**decisions are binding**)
- 🕒 **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

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



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Read More: [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/ngt-s-directive-on-zoning-of-nainital>