

Researchers in state prepare to predict landslides in face of climate change

Gauree.Malkarnekar
@timesgroup.com

Panaji: In the climate change scenario, Goa will witness erratic rainfall patterns, which means not only long dry spells but also sudden bursts of heavy showers, which are known to trigger landslides. Currently, the state is severely lacking in historic landslide data, making it difficult to predict vulnerable spots for the future.

To fill this data gap, researchers have decided to create an inventory of landslides with details of the time and rainfall received during the period to enable accurate prediction of landslides.

After the massive landslide in the forests of Satre in



File photo

Experts said data shows that extreme weather events have increased in Goa

Sattari in 2021, the state government formed a committee to map landslide hotspots in Goa, and a few vulnerable spots were found, including at Satre and Mauxi in Sattari,

areas near Sanvordem, and in parts of Canacona.

Faculty at BITS Pilani Goa campus, who is also among the scientists who helped prepare the State Action Plan on

Climate Change (SAPCC) for Goa, Rajiv Kumar Chaturvedi, said that being part of the state committee to map landslide prone zones made the team realise the data gaps.

"There are only four papers published in Goa on landslides, which means we do not know much about landslides in Goa. After the major landslide in Satre, in North Goa, we collected data from 73 points and another three points where landslides had occurred. But we did not have a time stamp for these points. So now we are preparing an independent inventory of landslides for Goa," said Chaturvedi.

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