National Green Tribunal

Why in News?

The Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), by suo motu has directed the Kerala to remove the biomedical and mixed solid waste dumped in villages of Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu.

- **Established in** – ***2010***, as per the *National Green Tribunal Act*.
- It was setup as per recommendations of the Supreme Court, Law Commission and India's international law obligations to develop national laws on environment.
- **Specialised judicial body** – It is equipped with expertise solely for the purpose of *adjudicating environmental cases* in the country.
- **Task** – Providing effective & expeditious remedy in cases relating to
  - Environmental protection
  - Conservation of forests and other natural resources
  - Enforcement of any legal right relating to environment
- **Tribunal's orders** – They are binding and it has *power to grant relief* in the form of compensation and damages to affected persons.
- **Composition** – It has a presence in ***5 zones***

North Zone of NGT	Delhi
Central Zone of NGT	Bhopal
East Zone of NGT	Kolkata
South Zone of NGT	Chennai
West Zone of NGT	Pune

- The Principal Bench is situated in the North Zone, headquartered in Delhi.
- **Headed by** – The Chairperson who sits in the Principal Bench and has
  - At least 10 but not more than 20 *judicial members* and
  - At least 10 but not more than 20 *expert members*.

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

- **Simple approach** – Aggrieved parties may approach the Tribunal in person by submitting an application and *no need of advocate*.
- **Orders are binding** – Its orders are enforceable and has *powers of a civil court* under

the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

- **Orders are not final** – It has powers to review its own decisions and if this fails, the decision can be challenged *before the Supreme Court within 90 days*.

Recent Activities of NGT
• NGT had sought a reply from the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and others regarding the declining state of Varkala cliff in Kerala. • NGT has sought responses from some ministries of the Union government on a plea seeking implementation of a star-rating system. • NGT eastern bench in Kolkata has ordered a stay on road construction work inside the Barak Bhuban wildlife sanctuary in Assam's Cachar district. • NGT principal bench has taken suo moto cognizance of alleged tree felling and burning near Talacauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

References

1. The Hindu| Clearing of dumped Biomedical Wastes
2. NGT| National green Tribunal

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