



Acid Mine Drainage (AMD)

The **Nagaland Department of Soil & Water Conservation** has highlighted the severe environmental impact of **uncontrolled rat-hole and opencast coal mining**, particularly in the districts of **Wokha, Mon, Mokokchung, Longleng, and Tuensang**. The report warns that **Acid Mine Drainage (AMD)** from abandoned mines has polluted water sources and degraded surrounding ecosystems.

Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) is the **outflow of highly acidic water** from coal and metal mines. It occurs when **sulphide minerals, such as pyrite, react with air and water**, producing **sulphuric acid** that dissolves toxic heavy metals and contaminates nearby rivers, streams, and groundwater.

APSC Relevance: Environment; Geography.