



The Jaintia Students' Union has filed a **PIL before the Meghalaya High Court** challenging the public hearing for a proposed Shree Cement mining project. The petition seeks to prevent irreversible damage to the ecologically fragile **Karst ecosystems of Jaintia Hills**, which develop in soluble rocks such as limestone and dolomite through water-driven dissolution.

Karst ecosystems support specialised biodiversity, including **troglobites**—animals adapted exclusively to underground cave environments, such as blind fish and cave-dwelling snails. Mining in such landscapes can threaten caves, groundwater systems and specialised species, highlighting the need to balance mineral development with ecological protection.

APSC Relevance: Environmental Governance; Northeast Ecology.