

# Predicting Landslides through Satellite Imagery Analysis and Machine Learning

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**Abstract:** The effects of climate change on landslides become more apparent, this work presents a novel method of landslide prediction by combining cutting-edge machine learning algorithms with Google Earth satellite images. Using digital image processing and Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques, the proposed method extracts important parameters, like elevation and slope, from high-resolution satellite data. Landslides are becoming a critical threat due to their increasing frequency, necessitating accurate prediction and early warning systems. Then, an intricate digital elevation model (DEM) is created and utilized as an input for more complex machine learning models, such as CNN and polygonal neural networks. Precise prediction of probable landslide events across large, susceptible areas is made possible by this novel combination. Landslides may have a major negative impact on human life and the economy, but the integrated method greatly improves the accuracy of early detection. The results demonstrate the efficacy of this innovative approach in delivering precise and timely forecasts, signifying a significant advancement in the evaluation of geotechnical hazards and proactive risk control for expansive, high-risk regions. In order to meet the urgent need for proactive mitigation in the face of climate-induced risks, this research presents a strong foundation for comprehensive landslide prediction.

**Keywords:** *Landslide Prediction, Satellite Imagery Analysis, Machine Learning Algorithms, Digital Elevation Model (DEM), Geotechnical Hazard Assessment*

## 1. Introduction

Our research identifies the Kasar area in the western Indian state of Maharashtra as a crucial focal point, addressing the increasing issues caused by landslides, especially in light of the changing climate. Due to the rising frequency of landslides in this area, a thorough strategy for risk reduction and prediction is required. In order to improve the accuracy of landslide prediction in the Kasar area, our study uses a complex combination of satellite images, rainfall data, and sophisticated GIS technologies [1]. We utilize Google Earth's high-resolution satellite images to capture the dynamic dynamics of the landscape, producing a digital elevation model (DEM), slope, flow direction, and soil properties, among other vital data inputs. We incorporate rainfall, a significant landslide trigger, into our research to take into consideration the temporal dynamics of the area [2]. We generate a wide range of inputs, such as weight factors, water weight, cohesion, friction, soil depth, and other parameters, by acquiring and analysing a variety of geospatial datasets. These inputs help to provide a thorough understanding of the landscape's susceptibility to landslides [3].

DEM and slope make it possible to carefully inspect slope gradients and elevation differentials, which is crucial for locating regions that may be unstable. Furthermore, our prediction models are enhanced by the flow direction and soil properties, which are contained in data like soil depth and flow direction. Our methodology goes one step further and takes the impact of water into account by incorporating

information such as water weight into the evaluation [4]. Through files like cohesion and friction, we also explore the geotechnical features of the area by adding cohesion, friction, and other pertinent data. As a supplement to our research, the inclusion of rainfall data represented by files like KS and FZLIT offers a comprehensive picture of the interaction between geological and climatic elements in causing landslides [5].

Essentially, the goal of our research is to present a comprehensive and detailed understanding of the Kasar region's vulnerability to landslides [6]. We hope to contribute to the particular context of Kasar as well as the larger field of geotechnical hazard assessment by combining state-of-the-art geospatial technologies, satellite imagery, and rainfall data [7]. This will allow us to provide insights that can guide proactive risk management strategies in areas that are vulnerable to landslides.

We chose to concentrate on the Kasar region because of the area's increased susceptibility to landslides and the resulting socioeconomic effects. Kasar's complicated geology and quickly shifting climatic patterns make it a perfect case study for improving landslide prediction techniques [8]. We are able to extract important data from the satellite photos, such as elevation and slope, by utilizing digital image processing and GIS tools. A comprehensive digital elevation model is subsequently built using this data, offering a fundamental comprehension of the topographical features influencing the dynamics of landslides [9]. Our goal is to provide a

comprehensive understanding of the climatic factors influencing geological events in the Kasar region by analysing rainfall data to understand the patterns of precipitation over time and how they relate to the occurrence of landslides [10]. Our all-encompassing strategy minimizes the possible damage to people and the local economy while simultaneously addressing the urgent need for precise forecasting and establishing a framework for preventive actions.

## 2. Literature Review

The landslide susceptibility prediction literature review provides a detailed overview of approaches and issues in the subject. To anticipate landslides in varied terrains, researchers used a variety of approaches, including image processing and machine learning. Data scarcity, algorithm complexity, and model generalization concerns have been noted as challenges, generating proposed remedies like as enhancing datasets and refining algorithms. The poll emphasizes the significance of rigorous validation and collaboration among academics, business, and government. Ongoing hurdles, such as computational complexity and data heterogeneity, underline the importance of ongoing research to improve the efficiency and accuracy of landslide susceptibility prediction models in real-world applications.

This comprehensive literature survey serves as a foundational step in our research journey, aiming to distill valuable insights and methodologies from a diverse range of studies on landslide susceptibility prediction. The objective is to identify prevailing challenges, innovative approaches, and potential solutions that will inform and shape our own research endeavors in this critical field. By examining the methodologies employed in existing studies, we seek to gain a nuanced understanding of the current landscape, contributing to the development of a robust and effective approach in landslide susceptibility prediction. This survey, therefore, acts as a guide, helping us navigate through existing knowledge and gaps, ultimately enhancing the depth and impact of our research in this vital domain. In order to detect landslide-vulnerable zones in the Western Ghats, Guru et al. [11] used image processing and machine learning. To increase accuracy, their approaches combined cutting-edge algorithms with data from remote sensing. Even though data scarcity and algorithm complexity were obstacles, the results indicated increased accuracy. Robust validation, algorithm reduction, and mass data collecting are necessary to overcome problems. Future studies should concentrate on pooling data, improving algorithms, and adding a variety of environmental factors for more accurate evaluations of landslide susceptibility in difficult terrains such as the Western Ghats. Using machine learning and image processing, Niño de Guzman Tito et al. [12] developed techniques for satellite image categorization in environmental change prediction.

Although they encountered issues with noise and inconsistent data, their results demonstrated a promising level of accuracy. The authors suggested resolving class imbalance, improving preprocessing methods, and creating noise-resistant algorithms for better predictions in order to get around them. Using machine learning techniques, Sheng et al. [13] created landslide susceptibility prediction models in the Yinghu Lake Basin. Random forests, logistic regression, and support vector machines were among the techniques used. Findings showed that landslide susceptibility may be effectively predicted, offering insights into the distribution of landslides. The dynamic character of landslide processes and data constraints were among the difficulties. Future studies should concentrate on enhancing dataset quality, applying high-resolution images, and combining more environmental factors for more precise forecasts in the Yinghu Lake Basin in order to overcome obstacles. A unique technique for satellite image processing in landslide detection was presented by Sharma et al. [14] in their literature review. The new method showed encouraging results in correctly identifying areas that are vulnerable to landslides. Nonetheless, difficulties were noted, including cloud cover and different resolutions. In order to address these issues, the authors stressed the need for continued study into technique improvement, including machine learning for enhanced performance, and suggested putting in place sophisticated algorithms that could handle a variety of situations. Python system using machine learning models for assessing the vulnerability of regions to landslides was created by the Guo et al. [15]. The results show that prediction accuracy has improved. Generalization of the model and data quality are challenges. In order to overcome this, further research should be done on improving datasets, investigating sophisticated algorithms, and adding more environmental factors for increased robustness.

Using Genetic Algorithm Optimized Machine Learning, Zheng et al. [16] created a unique approach for landslide susceptibility prediction. Their methodology greatly increased accuracy. Parameter tweaking and handling heterogeneous data presented challenges. Future research should concentrate on improving model adaptability to various environmental situations and automating parameter adjustment in order to overcome challenges. A review of the literature on landslide susceptibility assessments utilizing machine learning and geospatial technologies was carried out by Mohapatra et al. [17] approaches like the ones by used machine learning and GIS with remote sensing to provide an accurate evaluation. The results were encouraging, but there were still issues with model generalization, uncertainty, and data quality. To overcome these obstacles and provide more accurate landslide susceptibility estimates, it is necessary to resolve input data

uncertainties, investigate sophisticated algorithms, and improve data quality. Several machine learning methods, Tingkai et al. [18] investigated the longevity of landslide dams. The findings provided insights into the dynamics of dams. Data quality and algorithmic complexity were challenges that may be overcome for future research with better data collection and increased model resilience leading to more precise predictions. For the purpose of analyzing satellite images for mining, agriculture, and the environment Antonio et al. [19] created techniques that combine image processing and machine learning. Improved accuracy was evident from the results. Model generalization problems and data quality are among the challenges. To overcome, prioritize improving model robustness, streamlining data collection, and fostering cooperation between academics, business leaders, and legislators. A landslide-risk prediction system that uses Web GIS and machine learning was introduced by Tengtrairat et al. [20]. The outcomes showed that accuracy has improved. The difficulties lie in the computational complexity, data quality, and model generalization. For efficient landslide-risk assessments, addressing these calls for improving model training, streamlining data collection, and developing computational techniques.

In order to identify landslides in the Himalayas, a group of authors led by Meena et al. [21] created machine learning algorithms and used U-Net. Their techniques showed increased accuracy in difficult terrain. Notwithstanding the achievements, problems such as sparse data and intricate geography persist. To overcome this, more datasets must be added, machine learning models must be improved, and cutting-edge methods specific to the Himalayas must be put into practice. Landslide susceptibility prediction was enhanced by authors Wang et al. [22] in their International Journal of Intelligent Systems study. To increase accuracy, they implemented a machine learning technique called Genetic Algorithm Optimized. Outcomes demonstrate an advantage over conventional techniques. On the other hand, computational complexity is a difficulty. Future research should concentrate on maximizing scalability and efficiency for real-world use in landslide-prone locations. In their evaluation of landslide susceptibility prediction techniques, Fan et al. [23] put a special emphasis on deep learning and machine learning models. They draw attention to the work of earlier scholars, such as Wang et al. and Li et al. The authors highlight the significance of improving prediction skills while introducing innovative models. Findings show that these models are useful, but there are still issues with data scarcity and model interpretability. The report suggests combining sophisticated data collection, algorithms that improve interpretability, and reliable uncertainty quantification techniques to overcome these issues. Utilizing machine learning algorithms, He et al. [24]

assessed Xining City's susceptibility to landslides on the Loess Plateau. Advanced geographic data analysis was used in their procedures. While data restrictions and model uncertainty provide obstacles, the results yielded insightful information about the danger of landslides. It will need stronger models, better data, and the addition of new factors to overcome these obstacles and provide forecasts that are more accurate. A worldwide landslide susceptibility prediction model was created by Tang, et al. [25] utilizing an automated machine learning (AutoML) framework. To increase precision and productivity, the technique made use of a variety of machine learning algorithms included into Auto ML. Though difficulties with data heterogeneity and model interpretability were noted, the results revealed encouraging results overall. It will be necessary to improve model interpretability, optimize computational performance for real-world applications, and refine Auto ML methods for a variety of data types in order to overcome these obstacles.

Previous research on landslip susceptibility faced obstacles such as a lack of data, algorithm complexity, and model generalization concerns across a variety of terrains. In order to overcome these challenges, future research should concentrate on rigorous validation, algorithm simplification, and comprehensive data collecting. Improving dataset quality, employing high-resolution photos, and including varied environmental elements would improve accuracy, particularly in difficult terrains like the Himalayas. To solve model generalization, uncertainty, and data quality concerns, input data uncertainties must be addressed, innovative methods must be used, and overall data quality must be improved. Prioritizing model robustness, simplified data gathering, and stakeholder participation is critical, as is incorporating cutting-edge methodologies appropriate to geographical locations. Using approaches such as AutoML and uncertainty quantification to reduce computational complexity and increase interpretability, landslip susceptibility prediction models will be more effective in actual applications.

## 2.1 Key Findings from Literature survey

- Leverage advanced algorithms and harness the power of remote sensing data to significantly improve the accuracy of landslide prediction models.
- Address challenges related to data scarcity by emphasizing mass data collection efforts. Simultaneously, implement advanced algorithms to navigate through the complexities inherent in landslide prediction.
- Prioritize the implementation of robust validation processes, ensuring the reliability and credibility of the developed models.
- Enhance the accuracy of evaluations by incorporating a

diverse array of environmental factors, particularly crucial in challenging terrains such as those found in the Western Ghats.

- Tackle issues associated with noise and inconsistent data through the strategic employment of data augmentation techniques and preprocessing enhancements.
- Overcome data constraints by integrating high-resolution images into the analysis. Foster collaboration for efficient data collection and drive computational advances to address complexity, thereby improving the overall generalization of the prediction models.

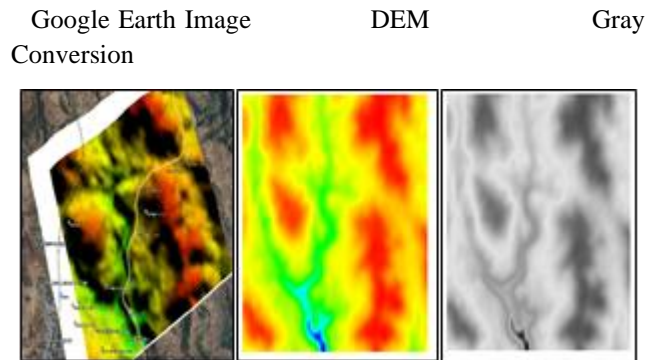
### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1 Rainfall Dataset

Use The first phase in our process entails identifying and acquiring the necessary datasets for landslip prediction. Our major goal is to collect satellite photos of landslide-prone areas as well as rainfall datasets. Conducting extensive surveys leads us to the sources of these datasets, and for quick data retrieval, we use internet tools such as Bhuvan, Google Earth, and government websites. After obtaining the datasets, processing processes are carried out to prepare them for following operations. The collection contains both geographical data from satellite photos and temporal data from the rainfall database [26]. These processed materials serve as the foundation for our experiments. To address the impact of vertical restrictions, further processing is performed on the pictures to identify and include vertical limits. The dataset is the foundation of our study, allowing us to experiment with various machine learning techniques and combinations of them. The cyclical nature of information collecting, processing, and experimentation assures a thorough and refined approach to obtaining our desired landslip prediction accuracy outcomes [27].

#### 3.2 Geospatial Analysis

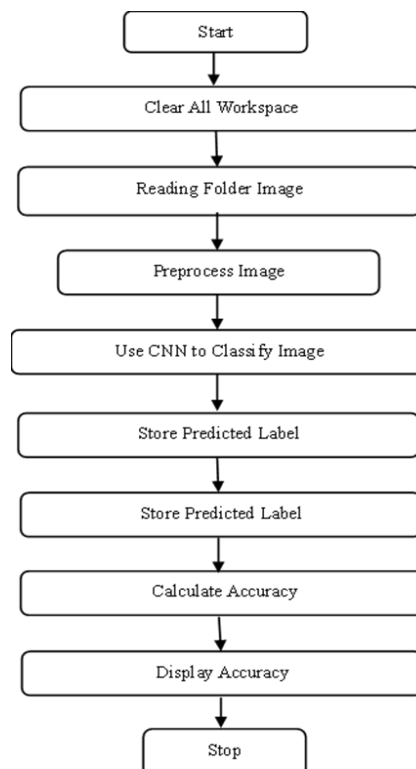
Fig.1. depicts as we extract specific imagery from satellites from Google Earth, our focus shifts to the Kasar area. The photos gathered serve as the foundation for further investigations, beginning with the visualization of Digital Elevation Models (DEMs). The DEM depicts topographical elements in great detail, providing insights into terrain properties [28]. Following DEM visualization, the procedure moves on to Grey Conversion, a critical step in translating visual data into an analysis-ready format. This grayscale depiction allows for a more detailed assessment of elevation fluctuations, which aids in the identification of potentially landslide-prone locations. The use of Google Earth data, DEM visualization, and Grey Conversion prepares the ground for the detailed geospatial analysis that is essential to our landslip prediction technique [29].



**Fig. 1.** Satellite Image Extraction and Geospatial Analysis Workflow for Landslide Prediction in the Kasar Region.

#### 3.3 System Architecture

Fig.2. displays Satellite photos are gathered from sources such as Google Earth and digitally processed to generate both DEM (Digital Elevation Model) and TIF files in this complete geospatial analysis and landslip prediction system. These files serve as the starting point for later analysis. The rainfall database is checked against a predefined threshold value, and the system is trained using both digitally processed photos and rainfall data. The technology uses machine learning algorithms to do complex computations based on accessible landslip photos and the rainfall database [30]. This integrated system predicts landslides at several levels, providing a proactive and data-driven approach to assessing and mitigating landslide risk.



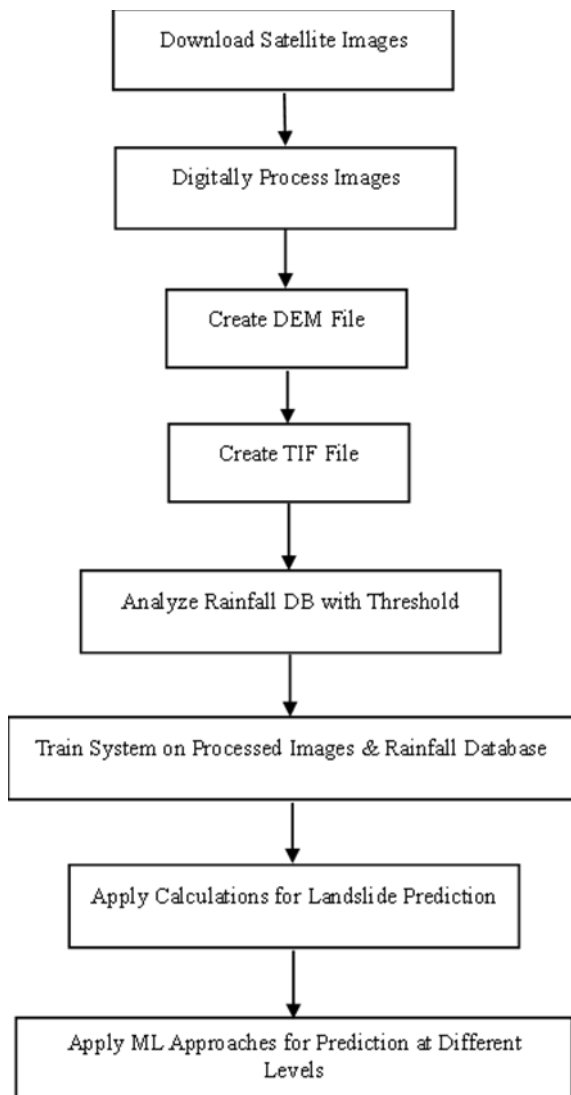
**Fig.2.** System Architecture

#### 3.4 Convolution Neural Network

Fig.3. shows the convolution layer, as the name indicates, is critical to how CNNs work. The layer settings are centered on the usage of learnable kernels. These kernels are typically low in spatial dimensions yet span throughout the whole depth of the input.

When data enters a convolution layer, it convolves each filter across the spatial dimensions of the input to form a 2D activation map. These activation maps can be represented graphically [31].

**Fig.3.** Proposed Flowchart for Convolution Neural Network Architecture



Loads a pre-trained Convolution Neural Network (CNN)

Fig.4. illustrates A polygon is nothing more than an ordered collection of vertices. In order to fill polygons with a particular colour, it is necessary to identify the pixels that lie both within and outside of the polygon [35].

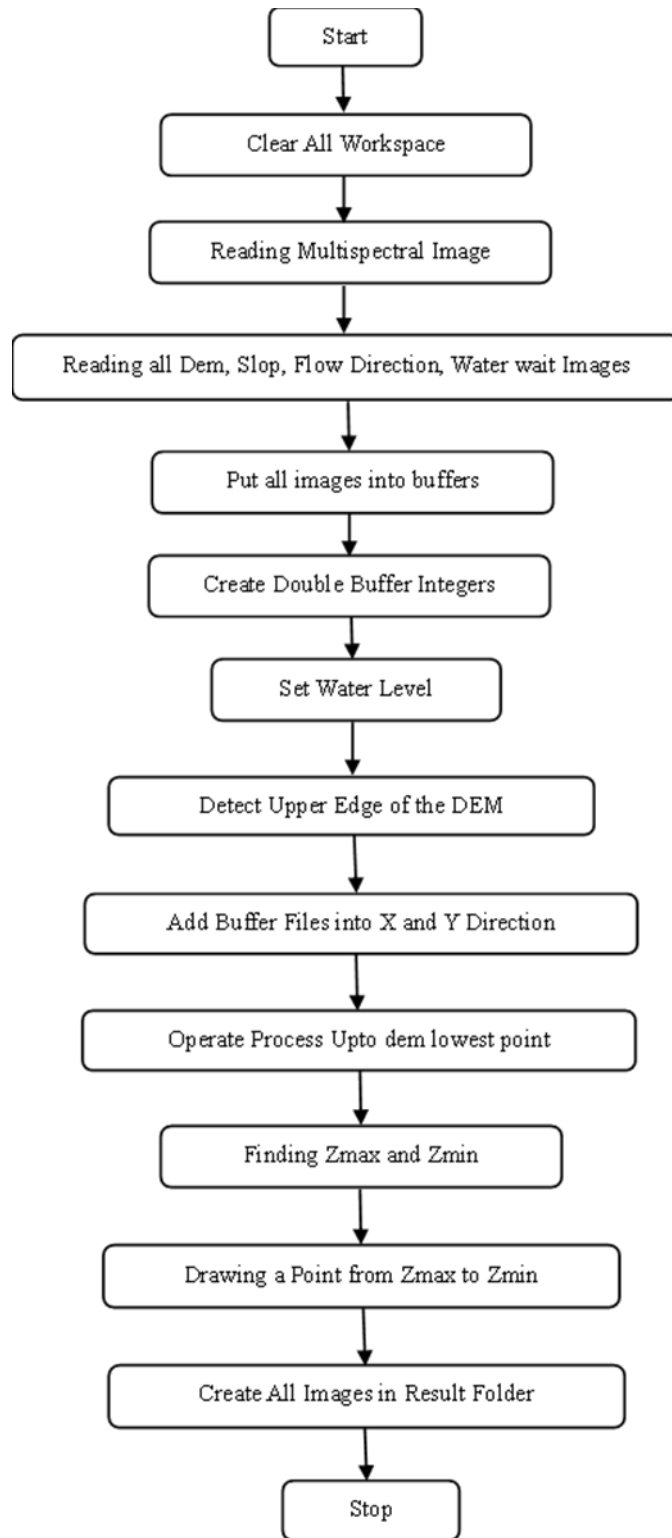
model called Alex Net. The variable net will hold the loaded model. This checks if the file List is empty, indicating that there are no image files in the folder. This initializes an array called predicted Labels to store the predicted labels for each image [32]. It's initially filled with zeros and converted to a categorical array. Suppose that we have some  $N \times N \times$  square neuron layer which is followed by our convolution layer [33]. If we use an  $m \times m \times$  filter  $\omega$ , our convolution layer output will be of size  $(N-m+1) \times (N-m+1) \times (-+1)$ . In order to compute the pre-nonlinearity input to some unit  $x_{ijl}^{\ell}$  in our layer, we need to sum up the contributions (weighted by the filter components) from the previous layer cells [34].

$$x_{ij}^{\ell} = \sum_{a=0}^{m-1} \sum_{b=0}^{m-1} \omega_{ab} y_{(i+a)(j+b)}^{\ell-1} \quad (1)$$

This is a convolution, which we can express in Matlab via `conv2(x, w, 'valid')`

### 3.5 Polygon

#### 3.5.1 Implementation of Polygon



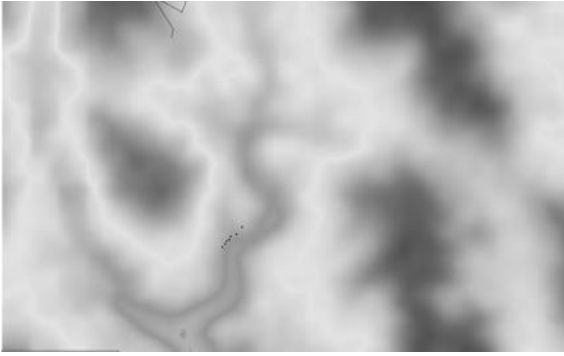
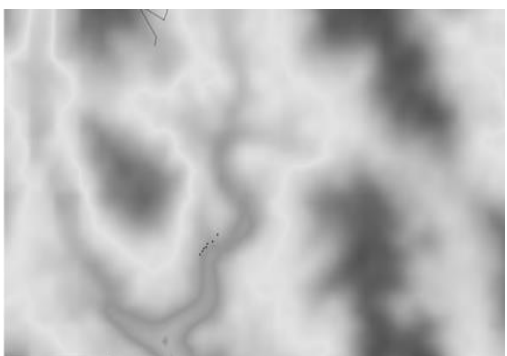
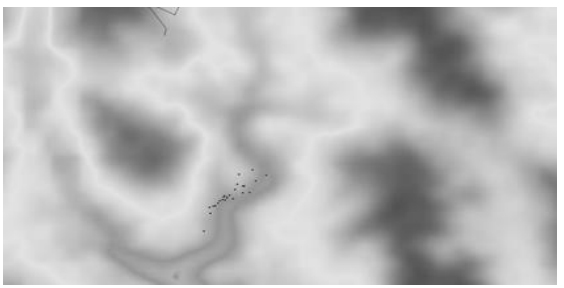
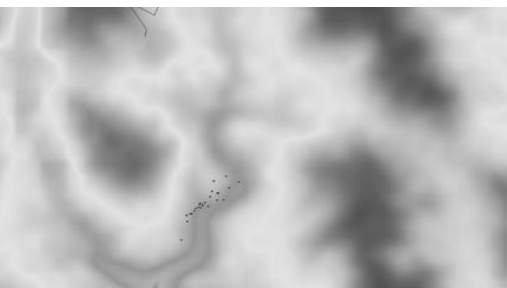
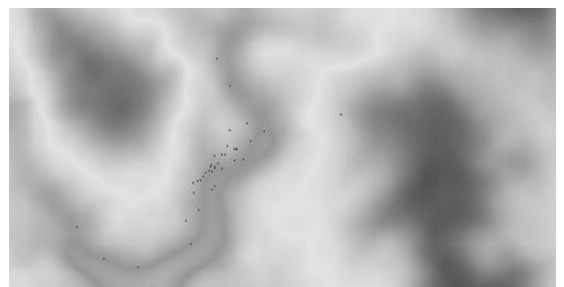
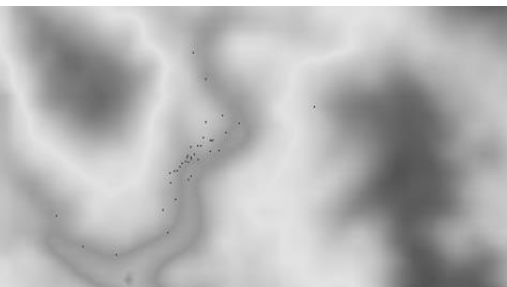
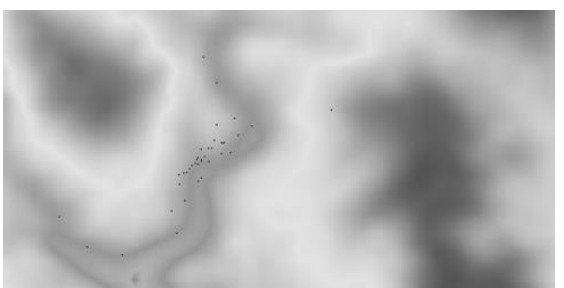
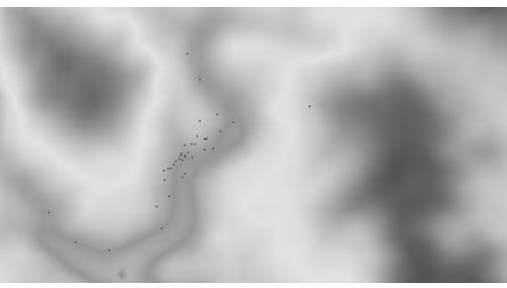


**Fig.4.** Proposed Polygon Workflow

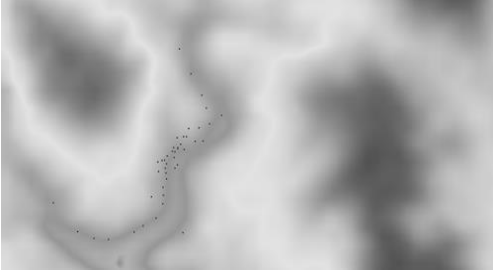
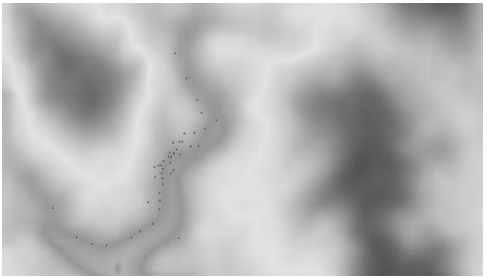
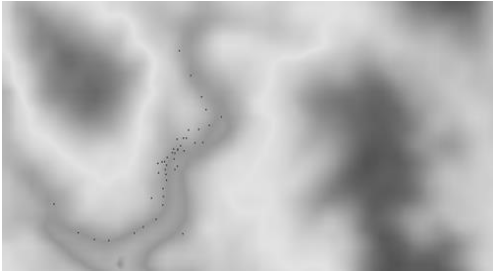
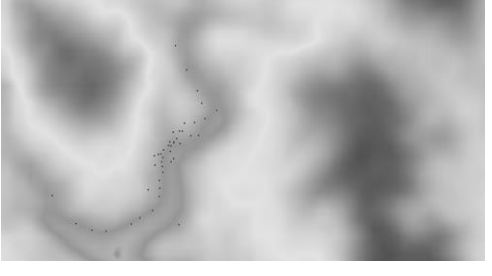
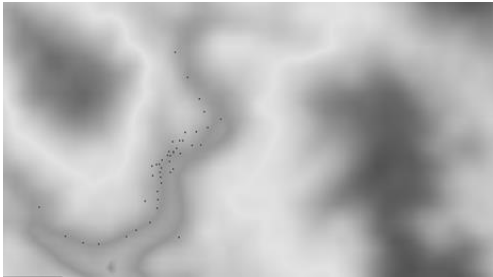
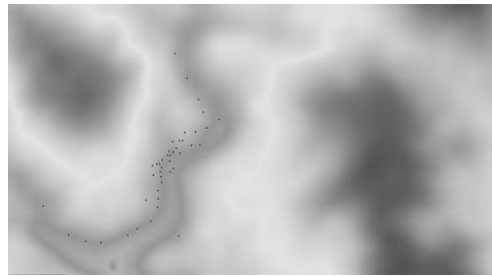
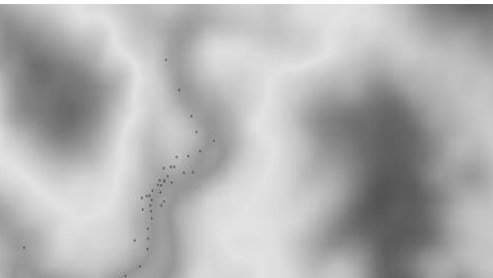
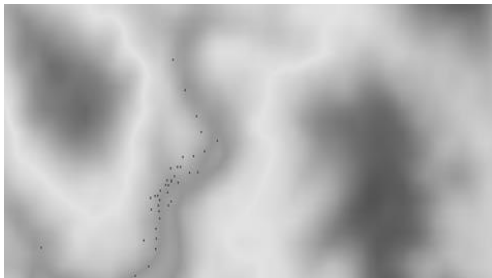
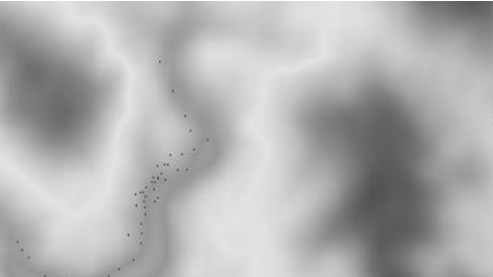
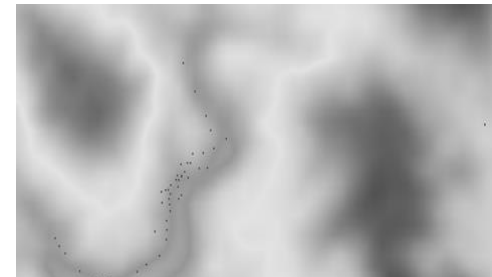
#### 4. Results

The results include an in-depth assessment of landslip hazard according to rainfall amounts (1200 mm to 11000 mm). The 864001mm critical threshold appears, indicating increased danger.

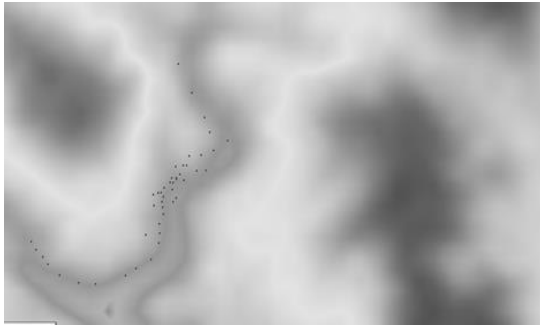
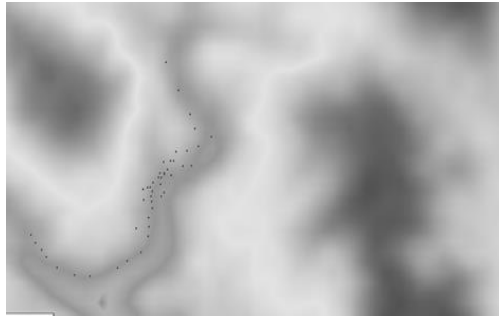
Visualizations that highlight efficient risk management are presented in pre/post prediction settings (Figures 5, 6, 7, 8). For more informed decision-making, this integrated method improves

**Table 1:** - Landslide Predictive Analysis based on W1(Minimum) and W2(Maximum) with Respective Rainfall (mm) the accuracy of landslip prediction

Rainfall	Minimum (W1)	Maximum (W2)
1200mm		
2000mm		
3000mm		
4000mm		
5000mm		

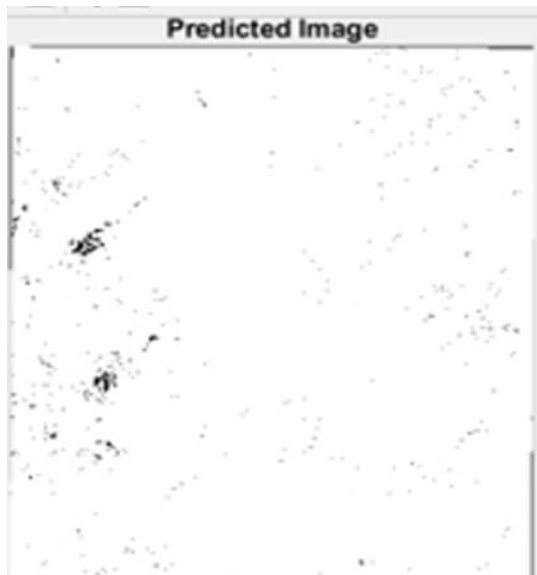
6000mm		
7000mm		
8000mm		
9000mm		
10000mm		



11000mm		
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The table 1 precisely depicts the relationship between rainfall levels in millimeters and landslide vulnerability, providing a detailed assessment of minimal and maximum possibilities. We specify the lowest circumstances under which landslides may occur in the "W1" column, offering insight into the threshold amounts of rainfall that trigger the commencement of instability. The "W2" column, on the other hand, depicts the highest chance of landslides at various rainfall intensities, offering information on the upper limits of susceptibility. This refined technique enables a more in-depth knowledge of the dynamic link between precipitation and landslide events, which is critical for effective risk management and early warning systems. The table's systematic organization of data serves as a significant tool for decision-makers and geotechnical professionals, allowing them to make educated decisions about the possible landslide risk associated with varying levels of rainfall.

Utilizing Advanced Rainfall Analysis: 864001mm as a Critical Threshold for Landslide Prediction and Mitigation Strategies

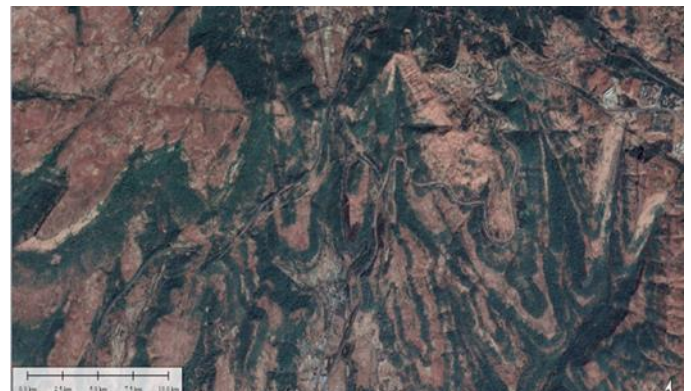


**Fig.5.**864001mm of Rainfall for Landslide Prediction

Fig 5 shows using sophisticated rainfall analysis, our work reveals a key threshold of 864001mm as a pivotal point for landslide prediction and mitigation techniques. The accompanying visualization, which is contained inside the

submitted image, depicts the landscape's vulnerability to landslides at this exact rainfall level. This number acts as a significant indication, indicating when landslide susceptibility reaches a critical level, necessitating quick attention and proactive mitigating actions. The visualization is a significant tool for stakeholders and decision-makers, providing a clear and succinct picture of the increased risk associated with this specific intensity of rainfall. This knowledge is useful in refining and executing targeted landslide prediction and mitigation measures, resulting in more effective risk management in sensitive areas.

#### 4.1 Prediction



**Fig.6.** Before prediction (2018)

Fig. 6 depicts the conditions and terrain previous to the landslide prediction, with a particular emphasis on the year 2018. This visual depiction captures the geographical features, terrain qualities, and weather conditions that existed at the period. provided the starting point for later landslide prediction study, capturing the Kasara of the terrain before any predictions or interventions were made. It serves as an important reference point, providing information on the environmental elements and probable triggers that may have contributed to the landslide risk.



**Fig.7.** After Prediction (2022)

The conditions and landscape after the year 2022, post the landslide prediction process. The locations marked as having a higher risk of landslides are displayed in the image, which summarizes the results of the predictive research. The integrated model uses rainfall data and digitally processed satellite images. A crucial result that highlights possible areas of concern and provides a foundation for focused mitigation actions is the data shown in Fig.7.



**Fig.8.** Visualization based on before prediction and after prediction for Landslide

Fig.8. uses a scatter plot to offer a thorough visualization of the results of the Landslip prediction, clearly illustrating the changes in the landscape conditions before and after the predictive analysis. The scatter plot provides a detailed analysis of the locations that are expected to be vulnerable to landslides by graphically representing important data elements, such as risk levels and topographical features. Every point on the scatter plot represents a distinct site, and its placement indicates the estimated landslide risk determined by the integrated model that combines rainfall data and digitally processed satellite imagery. The figure's use of a scatter plot improves the interpretability of the prediction findings by providing information about the possible landslide events' geographical distribution and assisting in the identification of high-risk areas. This visualization is a useful tool for decision-makers and academics looking for a full knowledge of the landslide prediction system's effectiveness.

## 5. Conclusion

a new comprehensive method for landslide prediction by

combining high-resolution Google Earth satellite images with state-of-the-art machine learning techniques. The study uses digital image processing, GIS tools, and rainfall data to provide a comprehensive knowledge of landslide vulnerability, with a focus on the susceptible Kasar area in Maharashtra, India. With a focus on rigorous validation and thorough data collecting, the offered technique skillfully tackles issues like data scarcity and algorithm complexity. After being verified by geospatial analysis, the newly developed landslide prediction method shows promise as an effective and efficient forecasting tool. The rainfall threshold of 864001mm is a critical signal for increased danger that should trigger preventative actions. Figures 6, 7, and 8's visualizations offer fascinating insights into the dynamics of the terrain and the effectiveness of the prediction system. This research makes a substantial contribution to proactive landslide risk management and provides a useful tool for academics and decision-makers addressing concerns associated with climate change. The results indicate a significant progress in the field of geotechnical hazard assessment, providing a solid basis for further investigations into climate-related hazards and risk prediction for susceptible areas.

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## Author contributions

**Anup Kadu<sup>1</sup>:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Software, Field study, Implementation, Extraction of parameters, Creation and utilization Writing-Original draft preparation, Software, Validation, Field study, Visualization **DR. Raj Mishra<sup>2</sup>:** Investigation, Expertise, Guidance on ML models, Manuscript contribution, Writing-Reviewing and Editing.

## Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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