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MAGAZINE NOTES

Caste, Climate Change, and Interlinked Vulnerabilities

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SOCIAL ISSUES

ENVIRONMENT

GS1

GS3

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

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Caste, Climate Change, and Interlinked Vulnerabilities

 **Down to Earth** Chapter 13 · 1 min read ·

Geography of Vulnerability

- Urban migration to escape rural caste stigma forces Dalits into low-lying, **flood-prone informal settlements**
- State-sponsored resettlement often pushes them into remote marshlands — ghettoisation
- **71% of Dalits are landless labourers** — land-based government disaster compensation entirely bypasses them (“No land = No compensation”)

Impact

- Post-disaster debt traps are severe
- After **2018 Kerala floods**, nearly **80% of girls** in affected slums dropped out of school
- Relief camp discrimination further exacerbates suffering

Way Forward

- Implement **caste-sensitive disaster planning** (social vulnerability mapping)
- Shift from remote resettlement to **in-situ slum upgrading**
- Ensure financial inclusion: targeted disaster credit for landless labourers

UPSC Angle

- **GS1:** Society, social stratification, urbanisation
- **GS3:** Disaster management, climate change

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CASTE & CLIMATE NEXUS:

Dalit landless labourers: 71%

2018 Kerala floods: 80% girls in affected slums dropped out of school

Key issue: land-based compensation excludes landless

Solution: caste-sensitive disaster planning, in-situ upgrading



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