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Internal Displacement Caused by Disasters

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Why in News

Recently, the '**State of India's Environment 2020 in Figures**' report was published by the **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)**.

It states that India had **around 50 lakh internal displacements** caused by disasters and extreme weather conditions like **floods, cyclones and drought** in 2019.

Key Points

- **Major Findings related to Internal Displacement:**

- According to it, the **internal displacements** in India were the highest in the world in 2019.
 - **Internal Displacement** refers to the **forced movement of people** within the country they live in, **due to conflict, violence, development projects, natural disasters and climate change**.
 - It refers to the number of movements, not people, as individuals can be displaced several times.
- **Natural Disasters:** Displacements due to the flooding caused by the **south-west monsoon** and followed by **Cyclone Fani, Vayu, Bulbul** and **drought** conditions.
- **Forced Migration:** It has also caused many **migrants** to move for work from one state to another.
- **Impact of Covid-19:** Due to the impact of **lockdown** which was imposed to contain the **Covid-19 pandemic**, many workers migrated to their homes because of lack of employment and food.
- **2011 Census Data on Migrant Populations:**
 - There were over **45 crore migrants** in the country at the time, with the vast majority migrating within their own state.
 - In 2011, over **1.7 crore new migrants** had moved for employment purposes, mostly from rural to urban areas.

- **Other Findings:**
 - The **report outlines** the status of **sustainable development, livestock, forests, water, waste, air, land, wildlife and other natural resources, environmental crimes and global economic risk.**
 - **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**
 - India faces major **challenges in achieving** all of the 17 SDGs, especially SDG1 (No Poverty) and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).
 - **Forest Cover and Water Resources:**
 - Forest cover has shrunk in **38% of districts**, while **five out of 21 river basins** are now in a state **of absolute water scarcity.**
 - Only **Punjab** managed to get an average national ranking in the **management of water resources.**
 - **Status of Tigers:**
 - It notes that there were **747 tigers more in 2018 than in 2014.**
 - However, the **net area meant for tiger conservation shrunk** by 179 square kilometres.
 - **Environmental Crime:**
 - The report found that in 2018, total 35,196 environmental crimes were recorded in the country.
 - Majority of those **cases are pending for police verification and in various courts.**
 - **Global Risk:**
 - The **global risk** is determined **as an uncertain event or condition** that can cause **significant negative impact** on several countries or industries in the next ten years.
 - The **top 4 global risks in terms of likelihood** are all found to be environment related as **extreme weather, climate action failures, natural disaster and biodiversity loss.**
 - Under the **top 4 risks in terms of impact**, three were found to be environment related as **climate action failure, biodiversity loss, extreme weather.**
 - In terms of the severity of impact over the next 10 years the top risk is failure **of climate change mitigation and adaptation.**

Way Forward

- The report is an eye opener in terms of issues related to environment and biodiversity, development, poverty and internal migration and will help to understand their impacts.
- It would further facilitate better decision making in mitigating the related problems.

- There is an urgent need to take efforts towards conservation of environment, disposition of cases related to environmental crimes, providing livelihood to the migrants and achieving SDGs.
- For the same, the centre and all the states must collaborate to prevent any loss to the environment and humans as well.

Source: TH