




National Climate Vulnerability Assessment Report

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Why in News

The **Department of Science and Technology** has released a report titled '**The Report Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation Planning in India Using a Common Framework**'.

Key Points

- **About the Report:**
 - It **identifies the most vulnerable states and districts in India with respect to current climate risk** and key drivers of vulnerability.
 - It **aids in prioritizing adaptation investment**, developing and implementing adaptation programs.
 - The assessment is unique as it uses a common framework across the states & union territory to make them comparable thereby **empowering the decision-making capabilities** at the policy and administrative levels.
 - Some **key indicators** for the assessment include percentage of population living below the poverty line; income share from natural resources; the proportion of marginal and small landholdings, women's participation in the workforce; density of healthcare workers etc.
 - It is **part of the capacity building programme** under the two missions of the **National Action Plan on Climate Change** (total 8 missions).
 - National Mission on Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE)
 - National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC).

- **Key Findings of the Report:**

- **Highly Vulnerable States:** It identified Jharkhand, Mizoram, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, and West Bengal as states highly vulnerable to climate change.
- **Lower-middle Vulnerable States:** Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Sikkim and Punjab.
- **Low Vulnerable States:** Uttarakhand, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Nagaland, Goa and Maharashtra.
- **Highly Vulnerable Districts:** Among all states, **Assam, Bihar, and Jharkhand have over 60% districts** in the category of **highly vulnerable districts**.

Vulnerability scores in all the districts of India lies in a very small range. It shows that **all districts & states are somewhat vulnerable with respect to current climate risk in India.**

- **Significance of the Findings:**

- The assessments can be used for India's reporting on the **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** under the **Paris Agreement**.
NDCs embody efforts by each country **to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.**
- These assessments will help support India's National Action Plan on Climate Change.
- It will contribute to the development of more targeted climate change projects and will support the implementation of the **State Action Plans on Climate Change**.
- It will help in developing adaptation projects for the Green Climate Fund, **Adaptation Fund and funds from multilateral and bilateral agencies**.
- It will **also benefit climate-vulnerable communities** across India through development of better-designed climate change adaptation projects.

Climate Risk

- **Climate-related extremes, such as heat waves, droughts, floods, cyclones, and wildfires**, reveal significant vulnerability and exposure of some ecosystems and many human systems to current climate variability.
- Differences in vulnerability and exposure **arise from non-climatic factors and from multidimensional inequalities** often produced by uneven development processes. These differences shape differential risks from climate change.
- According to **The Germanwatch Global Climate Risk Index-2019**, **India was ranked 5th out of 181 countries**, implying an extremely high exposure and vulnerability.

Source: PIB