

Human face of migrant crisis: victims of climate change and collateral damage of COVID-19

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Unprecedented Times



- We have never seen such disruption
- We have never seen such loss of livelihoods; such suffering of the poor; such loss of life (>5 million cases; 330,000 deaths globally)
- We have never imagined such a collapse of our economies – like a pack of cards it would seem that the world around us has been wiped out
- The worst hit are the poor; disadvantaged – black; brown or poor

Double-jeopardy



- The poor are:
- **Most vulnerable** to the virus because of their living conditions; congested homes and dirty surrounding with no water or sewage management
- **Most vulnerable** because of the collapse of the economy – they are suffering and this is not right. **Not acceptable**

COVID-19: has made invisible visible



- Massive movement of labour
 - Brought to light, what we have always said – **people are leaving rural areas to come to cities; to move to new countries**
 - They are leaving **because option for livelihood security are reducing** – ‘push’ is more than ‘pull’ factor – agrarian distress combined with ‘not-so-natural’ weather events are driving people out of homes
 - **Massive gaps in data** – census is ten years out of date; global data does not capture internal migrants (COVID-19 has brought out this fact)
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- But migrants were international ‘hot-potato’: the face of international politics – often divisive and polarised



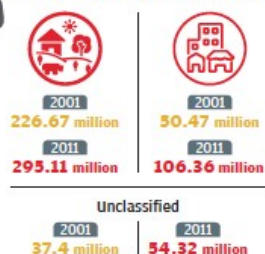
Migration for employment

Women accounted for over 80 per cent of the marginal migrant workforce in 2011, who are unemployed for at least half of the year

Overall migrant population up by 44.9%



Rural migrate more than urban



Rural areas see more immigration



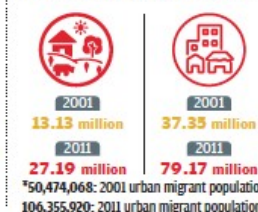
This is because a major portion of the migration happens within the state from one rural area to another

Rural population* migrate most to other rural areas



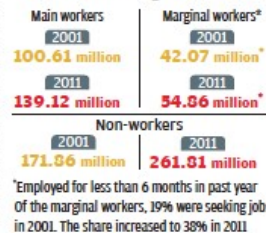
* 226,667,548: 2001 rural migrant population
295,114,410: 2011 rural migrant population

Urban population* migrate most to other urban areas



*50,474,068: 2001 urban migrant population
106,355,920: 2011 urban migrant population

Worker-wise migrant population



*Employed for less than 6 months in past year
Of the marginal workers, 19% were seeking jobs in 2001. The share increased to 38% in 2011

While men account for bulk of main workers, women have a higher share in marginal workers



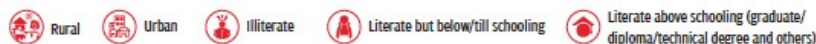
Source: Table D-6: Migrants by place of last residence, economic activity, age, sex and duration of residence in census 2001 and 2011
Figures rounded off to two places of decimal; due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures

Sourced from upcoming State of India's Environment 2020: In Figures to be released on June 5

NEW MIGRANTS

Most of the population that have migrated for work less than 10 years ago have not studied beyond schooling

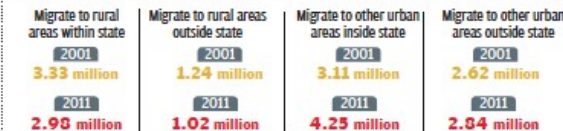
There has been a 23 per cent increase in the population that has migrated for work in the decade before the two census



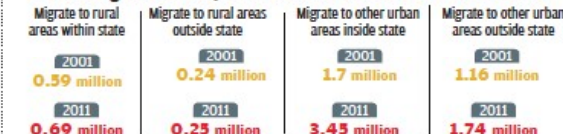
Most new migrants* are from rural areas



Most new rural migrants go to urban areas within state for work



Urban migrants also prefer other urban areas within state

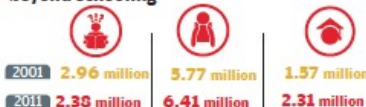


* migrated 0-9 years ago

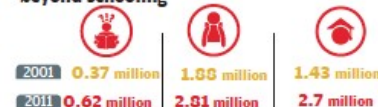
Population who have studied till schooling migrate the most



21% rural migrants in 2011 studied beyond schooling



44% urban migrants in 2011 studied beyond schooling



Source: Table D-7: Migrants by place of last residence with duration 0-9 years reporting 'work/employment' as reason for migration by age, sex and educational level in census 2001 and 2011

Figures rounded off to two places of decimal; due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures

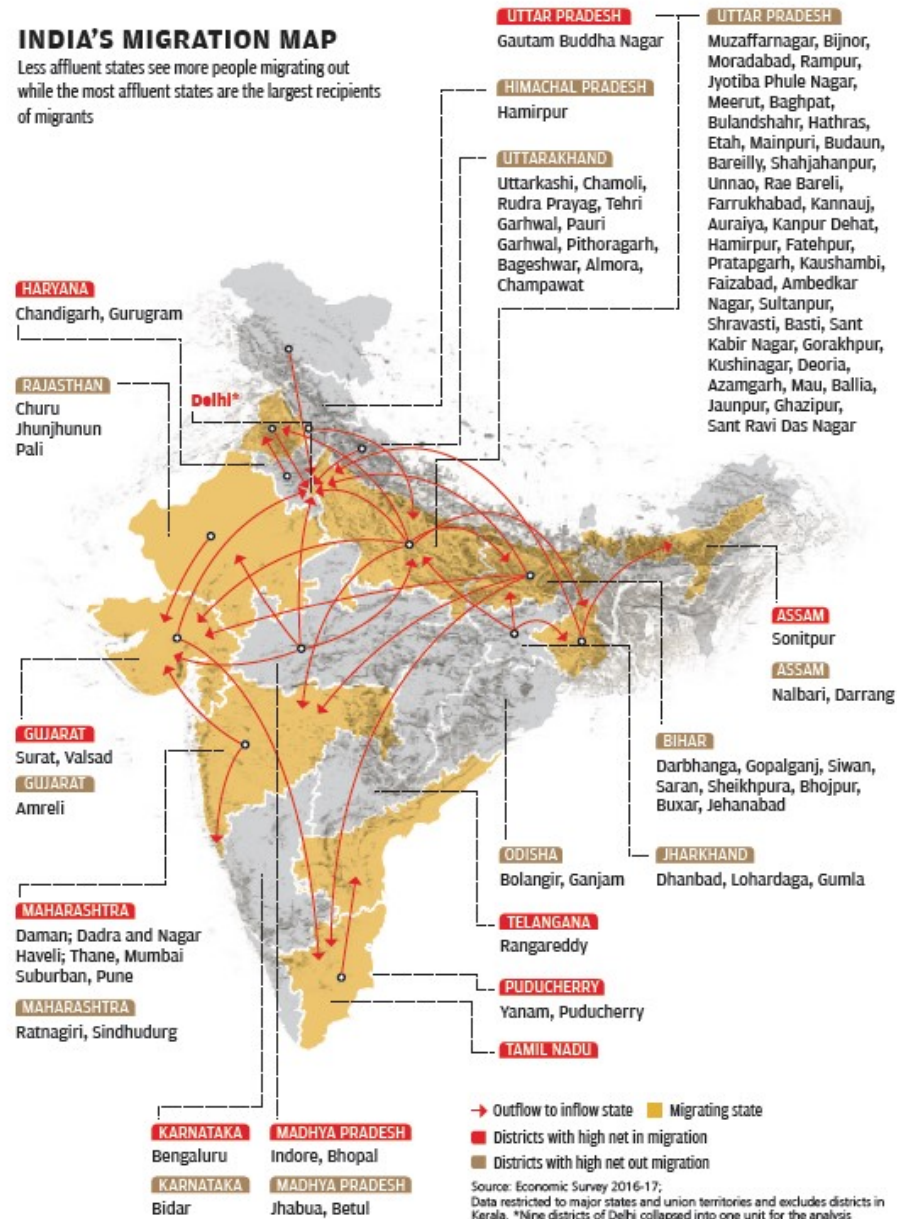
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Migration: where they come from?

INDIA'S MIGRATION MAP

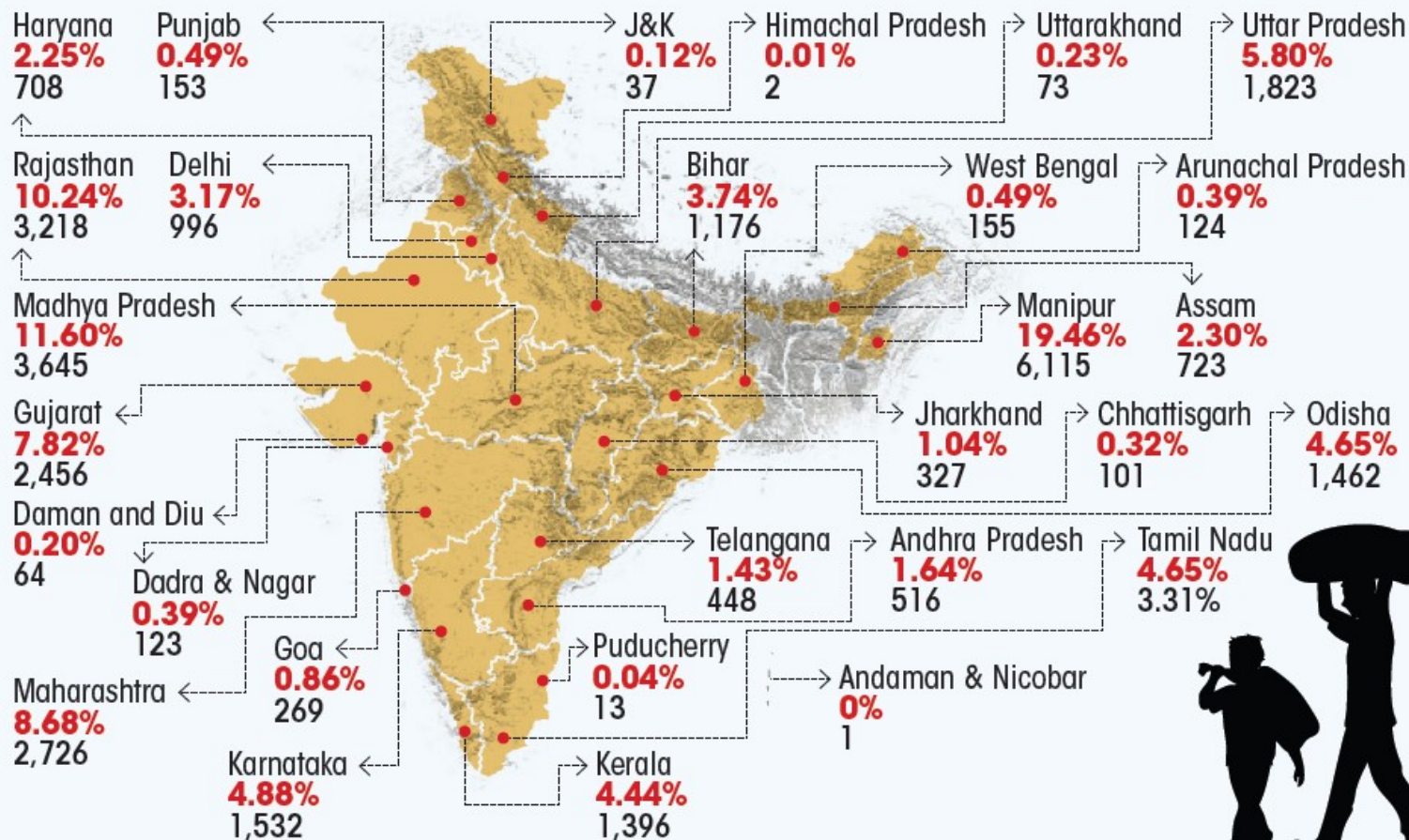
Less affluent states see more people migrating out while the most affluent states are the largest recipients of migrants



Pinned down

Nearly 58 per cent of the stranded migrants are in five states

Figures are based on a survey with a sample size of 31,423 migrants stuck during COVID-19 lockdown across India



Source: Ekta Parishad; Data for period April 11-May 20, 2020



More than 21.5 lakh migrants have been transported to their home states through 1600 "Shramik Special" trains till May 19.
PIB data

Join-dots

Climate change and extreme weather/**cyclones**



- More than enough evidence to show that extreme and variable rain events are linked to climate change – increase of floods and then droughts
- More than enough evidence to show that intensity of tropical cyclones is increasing; becoming more unpredictable and causing more long-term ecological and livelihood damage

Join-the-dots

Internal displacement Drought-flood-crop loss-cyclones not single day events

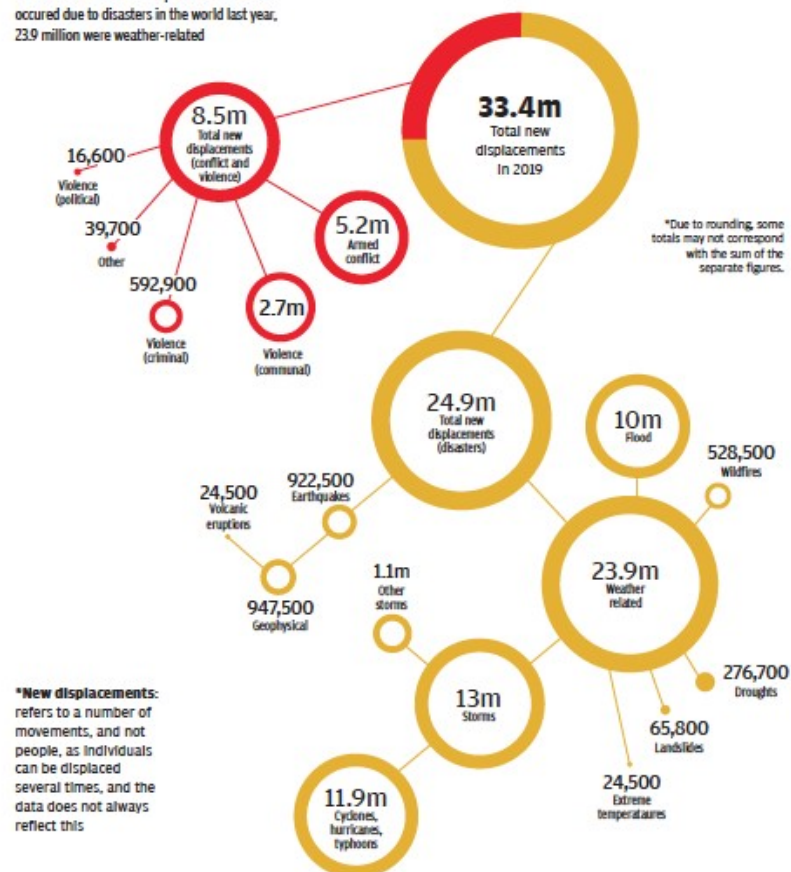


- Cripple people
- Destroy livelihoods
- Take away development dividend
- As events become more frequent, survival becomes more difficult
- No option but to move – migrate – **to cities to new countries**

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

by disasters and conflicts

Of the 24.9 million new displacements* that occurred due to disasters in the world last year, 23.9 million were weather-related



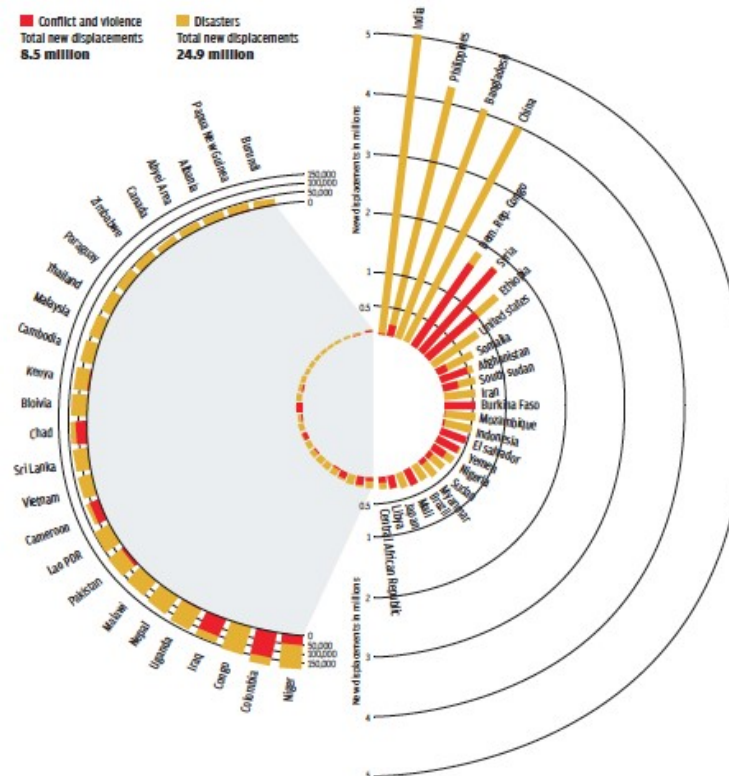
***New displacements:** refers to a number of movements, and not people, as individuals can be displaced several times, and the data does not always reflect this

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre 2020

Sourced from upcoming State of India's Environment 2020. In Figures to be released on June 5

50 WORST HIT COUNTRIES

India alone accounted for over 20 per cent of all new displacements in 2019

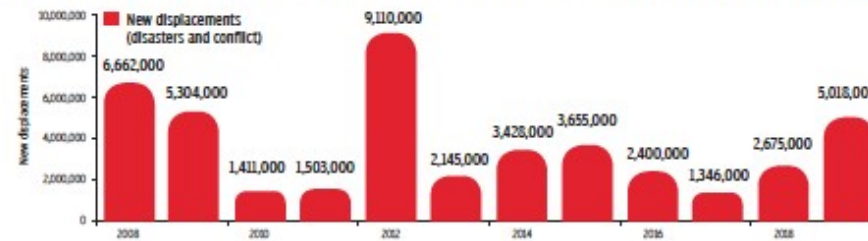


Source: United Nations Environment Food and Agriculture Organization and others

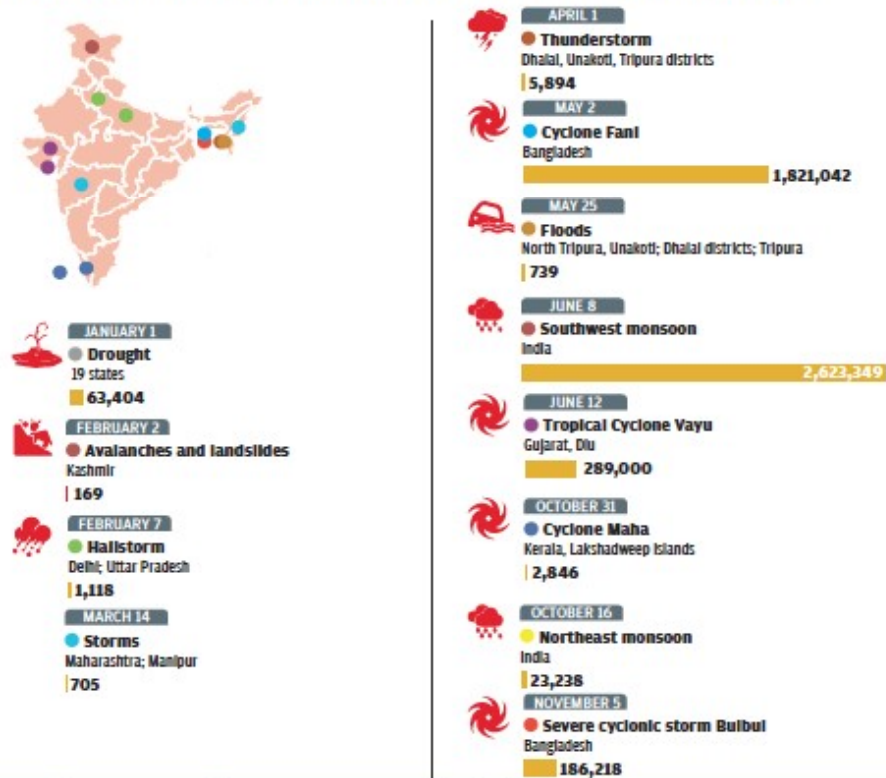
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Disastrous for India

An average of around 3.6 million people a year were displaced between 2008 and 2019, the majority by flooding during the monsoon. India is also prone to other sudden and slow-onset hazards including earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, storm surges and drought



12 disasters that led to internal displacements in India in 2019



Sourced from upcoming State of India's Environment 2020. In Figures to be released on June 5



Pincer attack

Desperate to leave; desperate to return



- **Future of work**

- COVID-19 has made the invisible, visible
- We have seen massive migrant movement; in our world and in the rich world
- Earlier people were desperate to leave their home; because of poverty; lack of livelihood; climate risks because of variable weather and agrarian distress – **now they are desperate to return**
- **What then is the future of work? Is this the opportunity to invest – big time – to build resilience in local-rural economies.**
- **Come up with a new compact between rural-urban; invest in ecological and livelihood security through MNREGA**

Future of production: What migrants did for work?

Uncertain times



Daily wage earners account for 37% of the people who are trying to return home

31,423
Total migrants
surveyed



Women
25.59%
8,041



Men
52.95%
16,640



Children
21.46%
6,742

Daily Wage Earners



Out of total migrant
adults (24,681)



11%
2,627



26%
6,538

Farm labourers*



Out of total migrant
adults (24,681)



12%
2,971



14%
3,478

Industrial labourers**



Out of total migrant
adults (24,681)



8%
1,881



22%
5,495

Services***



Out of total migrant
adults 24,681



2%
562



5%
1,129

*Includes labourers, fishing and poultry; **Includes construction workers, highway workers, industrial labourers and others

***Includes domestic workers, labourers in hotels, carpenters, electricians, masons and others

Source: Ekta Parishad; Data for period April 11-May 20, 2020



Possible future?

- **Future of production**
- **Till now we have built economies by discounting labour and environment;** migrants work in the worst conditions in our cities; high risk of pollution; occupational hazard; no housing; no water..
- But not surprising because trade as moved where countries/regions can out-compete because of low costs;
- **Can this be reversed?**
- Will we pay higher costs of goods; will our economies **become less dependent on consumption-led growth**; more on well-being led growth

No signs yet of this green-human development led recovery. **But this is the time of revenge of nature**..so hopefully we will learn; will change