

Destroyed. Displaced. Defeated.

Tracing The Forces That Uproot Lives, Homes, Histories & Even Futures

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Home isn't just brick and mortar, it's festivals under banyan trees, fields sown with hope, and childhood stories passed down through generations. Yet for millions, home is a memory fading in the rearview mirror. Displacement is not a single tragedy; it is a recurring reality - sometimes sudden, like a flood; sometimes silent, like a drought; and sometimes deliberate, when bulldozers or bombs arrive to redraw the map. The outcome is alike: lives interrupted, dreams delayed and identities fractured.

Nature's ruthless hands

The earth does not knock before it strikes. In March, 2025, Myanmar was hit by a 7.7-magnitude quake, the strongest in a century, killing over 5,000. Months later, in August, Afghanistan lost 2,200 lives to another quake that levelled villages. Türkiye still bears the wounds of its 2024 disaster, while floods in Jammu and Kashmir and a cloudburst in Uttarkashi reminded India that even the Himalayas aren't spared. Disasters may last only seconds, but their aftermath lingers for decades to come. It causes casualties, but the bigger story is displacement: people forced to restart their lives away from the land that was once home.



Growth, but at what price?

Yet, nature is not the only cause of displacement. Some of its drawn in the blueprints. The Narmada Valley project alone uprooted over 3.2 lakh people, and across India, more than 50 million have been displaced by dams, mines, and infrastructure. Mining belts in Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh continue to push communities out in the name of growth. Globally, China's Three Gorges Dam relocated 1.3 million people, Brazil's Belo Monte displaced 20,000, and US highways have cut through neighbourhoods, displac-

ing millions. On ledgers, these projects seem like progress, but on the ground, they hit livelihoods, severing a sense of belonging. Development builds the bridges, but often by uprooting the ground.

Wars that redraw homes

If nature is merciless, humans are known to be even more cruel. The 1947 partition of India and Pakistan displaced nearly 15 million people, tearing apart families and communities. Today, that cycle continues - over 11 million people have fled the Russia-Ukraine conflict, 1.7 million Palestinians are in

relief camps in Gaza, Syria has over 13 million displaced, and the Rohingya crisis forced out more than one million lives. The UNHRC counts 120 million people displaced globally. Wars dismantle not just homes, but histories. While broken walls can be rebuilt, losing the feeling of ownership can last generations.

Climate's silent push

Unlike earthquakes or war, climate change is a slow eviction notice. Families move in peace until one day, the land they lived on becomes unlivable. Rising sea threat-

ens the very existence of the Maldives, where 80% of land lies below one metre above sea level. In India's Sundarbans, the submerging of villages in water has forced thousands inland. Across Africa's Sahel, over 2 million have been driven away because of drought, and the Bangladesh floods - linked to climate change - affect more than 4 million people yearly. The cruel irony is that those who are least responsible for emissions are often the ones first to lose their homes. Climate displacement is not just environmental, it is also unjust to victims.

A future worth rebuilding

Displacement does rob people of the place they once called home and their dignity, yet it reveals a deep resilience - from Afghan mothers rebuilding their lives to Palestinian children finding joy in camps. But resilience isn't enough. The path forward demands action: slowing climate change, rethinking development, choosing peace over conflict, restoring dignity through education, fair compensation, and humanitarian aid. All these are possible only if we are unified. We are talking about actual lives, not just numbers on papers. Only by acting promptly, can we hope to protect innocent communities. Otherwise, their precious homes, histories, and futures will be lost to the forces beyond their control.**GT**

THE GT POLL

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- a) Yes
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part Teacher' Special Edition, featuring four pages (pages 5-8) dedicated to Hindi. As you explore these pages, let the sweetness of our Devanagari drive you through India's rich culture and charm.

What's inside



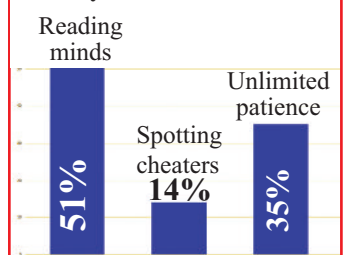
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