

Major Natural Disasters in India

Incidents, Causes and Consequences

No.	 Incident and Year	 Type	 Place	 Reason	 Consequences
1	Latur (Killari) Earthquake, 1993	 Earthquake	Maharashtra 	Intraplate fault movement with a shallow focus (M 6.2)	About 10,000 deaths and around 50 villages destroyed. Showed that peninsular India is also vulnerable.
2	Odisha Super Cyclone, 1999	 Cyclone	Odisha (Paradip, Jagatsinghpur) 	Warm Bay of Bengal, low pressure, storm surge	About 10,000 deaths and huge crop and livestock loss. Led to the creation of OSDMA .
3	Bhuj Earthquake, 2001 (26 Jan)	 Earthquake	Gujarat (Bhuj, Anjar) 	Fault movement in the Kutch region (M 7.7)	About 20,000 deaths and massive economic loss. Led to the Disaster Management Act 2005.
4	Indian Ocean Tsunami, 2004 (26 Dec)	 Tsunami	Tamil Nadu (Nagapattinam), Andaman and Nicobar, Andhra, Kerala	Sumatra-Andaman undersea earthquake (M 9.1 to 9.3), Indian plate subducting under the Burma plate	Over 10,000 deaths in India, fishing villages destroyed. Led to the early warning centre INCOIS , Hyderabad.
5	Mumbai Floods, 2005 (26 July)	 Flood	Maharashtra 	944 mm rain in 24 hours (human factors: choked drains, Mithi River encroachment)	About 1,000+ deaths , city paralysed, huge property loss.

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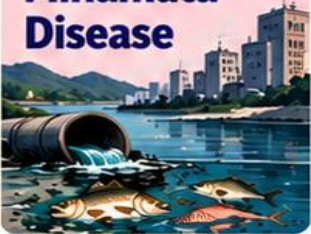
No.	Incident and Year	Type	Place	Reason	Consequences
6	Kosi Flood, 2008	 Flood	North Bihar 	Embankment breach at Kusaha (Nepal), river changed course (Kosi is the "Sorrow of Bihar")	About 3 million people affected , mass displacement.
7	Kedarnath / Uttarakhand Disaster, 2013	 Cloudburst and flash flood	Uttarakhand (Rudraprayag) 	Cloudburst plus glacial melt (human factors: unregulated construction, hydro projects)	About 5,700 presumed dead , pilgrims stranded, roads and bridges destroyed.
8	Cyclone Phailin, 2013	 Cyclone	Odisha and Andhra Pradesh 	Warm Bay of Bengal	About 1 million evacuated , deaths kept very low. A model of preparedness.
9	Marathwada / Latur Drought, 2015-16	 Drought	Maharashtra 	Monsoon failure (human factors: groundwater overuse, water-intensive crops)	Water trains, farmer distress and suicides , migration.
10	Kerala Floods, 2018	 Flood	Kerala 	Record monsoon rainfall (human factors: dam releases, floodplain encroachment)	Worst flood in a century, about 480 deaths , about 1 million in relief camps.



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Major Anthropogenic Disasters

Incidents, Causes and Consequences

No.	Disaster	Place	Year	Reason	Consequences
1	Bhopal Gas Tragedy 	 Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India	 2-3 Dec 1984	Methyl isocyanate (MIC) leak from the Union Carbide pesticide plant. Water entered a storage tank, and safety systems were poor.	About 3,000 immediate deaths and over 5 lakh people affected , with long-term illness. Led to the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act 1991.
2	Chernobyl 	 Pripyat, Ukraine (USSR)	 26 Apr 1986	Reactor No. 4 exploded during a safety test (INES level 7).	Radiation spread across Europe, a 30 km exclusion zone , Pripyat abandoned, long-term cancers.
3	Three Mile Island 	 Pennsylvania, USA	 1979	Cooling failure and operator error caused a partial core meltdown (INES level 5).	Limited radiation release, but it changed US nuclear safety policy.
4	Hiroshima and Nagasaki 	 Japan Hiroshima Nagasaki JAPAN	 6 and 9 Aug 1945	Atomic bombs dropped in World War II.	Over 1 lakh deaths by the end of 1945 (estimates vary), long-term radiation illness and cancers.
5	Minamata Disease 	 Minamata, Japan Minamata JAPAN	 1956	The Chisso Corporation dumped methylmercury, which entered fish and then people.	Neurological damage and birth defects. Led to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (2013).

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No.	Disaster	Place	Year	Reason	Consequences
6	Itai-itai Disease 	 Toyama, Japan (Jinzu River)	 Early 20th century, recognised in 1950s-60s	Cadmium from mining polluted river water and rice fields.	Severe bone and kidney damage with extreme pain ("ouch-ouch" disease).
7	Seveso Disaster 	 Seveso, Italy	 1976	Dioxin (TCDD) released from a chemical plant.	Soil contamination, animal deaths, evacuation, skin disease (chloracne) . Led to the EU Seveso Directive.
8	Love Canal 	 New York, USA	 1978	Toxic waste buried in a canal, then built over with homes and a school.	Health emergency and evacuation. Led to the Superfund Act (CERCLA, 1980).
9	Sandoz Spill 	 Basel, Switzerland (Rhine)	 1986	Warehouse fire runoff carried chemicals and pesticides into the Rhine.	Mass fish deaths along the Rhine. Led to stronger river pollution controls.
10	Great Smog of London 	 London, UK	 Dec 1952	Coal smoke trapped by a temperature inversion.	About 4,000 or more deaths (later estimates are higher). Led to the Clean Air Act 1956.
11	Agent Orange 	 Vietnam	 1961-71	US military sprayed the dioxin-containing herbicide during the Vietnam War.	Forest and mangrove destruction , dioxin contamination, birth defects and cancers.



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Significant Natural Disasters Around the World

No.	Disaster	Place	Year	Reason	Consequences
1	 Indian Ocean Tsunami	Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India (Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar), Thailand 	 26 Dec 2004	 Sumatra-Andaman undersea earthquake (M 9.1 to 9.3), with the Indian plate subducting under the Burma plate.	 About 2.3 lakh deaths across 14 countries, over 10,000 in India. Led to the Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (INCOIS, Hyderabad).
2	 Bhuj Earthquake	Bhuj, Gujarat, India 	 26 Jan 2001	 Fault movement in the Kutch region (M 7.7).	 About 20,000 deaths , massive economic loss. Led to the Disaster Management Act 2005.
3	 Latur (Killari) Earthquake	Latur, Maharashtra, India 	 30 Sep 1993	 Intraplate fault movement with a shallow focus (M 6.2).	 About 10,000 deaths , around 50 villages destroyed. Showed that peninsular India is also vulnerable.
4	 Odisha Super Cyclone	Odisha, India 	 29 Oct 1999	 Warm Bay of Bengal, low pressure, storm surge.	 About 10,000 deaths , huge crop and livestock loss. Led to the creation of OSDMA.
5	 Kedarnath (Uttarakhand) Flood	Uttarakhand, India 	 June 2013	 Cloudburst plus glacial melt (human factors: unregulated construction, hydro projects).	 About 5,700 presumed dead , pilgrims stranded, roads and bridges destroyed.
6	 Nepal (Gorkha) Earthquake	Nepal (felt in Bihar and UP) 	 25 Apr 2015	 Indian-Eurasian plate collision (M 7.8).	 About 9,000 deaths in Nepal, about 80 in India. Heritage sites in Kathmandu damaged.

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