Resilience Planning - Kerala Floods

What is the issue?

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- Kerala is witnessing historic rainfalls in disastrous proportions, with South west monsoon.
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- The impact of the flood has highlighted the need for governments to strengthen resilience planning.
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What is the catastrophic impact?

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- Monsoon rainfall on several districts of Kerala has come as a reminder of unpredictable natural disasters.
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- More than three dozen people have died.
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- An estimated Rs. 8,000 crore worth of economic assets had been lost.
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- The gates of reservoirs in the Idukki system, and several other dams have been opened. Click here to know more
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- This has inundated the habitations downstream.
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- About 60,000 people whose dwellings suffered damage were lodged in relief camps.
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- Landslips caused by incessant showers have caused damage to houses, roads and other structures.
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What is the changing climate scenario?

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- Kerala’s unusually heavy monsoon this year is in contrast to the long-period trend of rainfall.
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- According to an analysis of data on the monsoon between 1954 and 2003, overall this part of the country had become drier in summer.
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- Nevertheless, there is an emerging frequency of destructive flash floods in rare events as this.
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- This trend is only expected to become stronger in the coming period.
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How to deal with it?

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- With its efficient primary health care network, Kerala can take all measures to avoid epidemics.
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- However, the evolving climate pattern points to the need for governments to strengthen their resilience planning.
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- It should begin with a programme to relocate people away from hazard zones along the rivers.
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- But finding suitable land is a challenge in a populous, forested State as that of Kerala.
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Source: The Hindu

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