

Climate Risk Index, 2026

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment | Geography

Why in news?

A new German watch report, 'Climate Risk Index 2026', reveals worldwide extreme weather claimed over 8lakh lives between 1995-2024.

- It is an <u>annual report</u> that ranks countries based on the <u>human and</u> <u>economic impact of extreme weather events</u>, such as storms, floods, and heatwayes.
- First published in 2006.
- Released by German watch, an environmental think tank.
- **Data Source** EM-DAT international disaster database, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank.
- Methodology 3 Hazard Categories

Hydrological	Floods, glacial lake outbursts
Meteorological	Storms, cyclones
Climatological	Heatwaves, wildfires

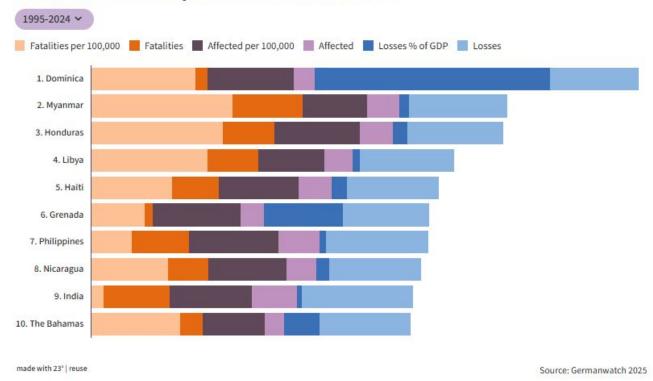
- The index captures **short-term impact** (events from the year preceding publication) & **long-term impact** (cumulative data from the past 30 years).
- Indicators & Weightage
 - Number of deaths Weight: 1/6
 - \circ Number of deaths per 100,000 inhabitants Weight: 1/3
 - \circ Sum of losses in US\$ in purchasing power parity (PPP) Weight: 1/6
 - Losses per unit of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Weight: 1/3
- Ranking A higher rank indicates greater vulnerability and damage, often linked to anthropogenic climate change.

Key findings

- Top 3 Most Affected Countries Dominica, Myanmar, and Honduras.
- Continuous threats category India, Philippines, Nicaragua, and Haiti.

All of the **top ten** countries on the list are in the **Global South**.

Climate Risk Index: Top 10 Most Affected Countries



- **Total Global Impact** Between 1995 and 2024, more than 8lakh people were killed across the world as a direct result of extreme weather events caused economic losses to the tune of over \$4.5 trillion.
- **Trend** Vulnerable nations face recurring disasters with little recovery time, exacerbated by climate change.

India's Position & Impact

- Rank 9th most climate-affected country globally (Ranks 15 for 2024).
- Extreme Events (1995-2024) Major events include heatwaves, floods, cyclones, intense monsoons, landslides, and droughts.
- Over 1 billion people affected, more than 80,000 fatalities reported which resulted in *inflation-adjusted losses* of around \$170 billion.
- Nature of Risk India faces compound and continuous risks, with events like Cyclone Amphan (2020) and the 2024 monsoon floods highlighting systemic vulnerabilities.

References

1. The Hindu | Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2026 report

2. Germanwatch | Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2026 report

