

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 annual report that ranks countries based on the **human and economic impact of extreme weather events**, such as storms, floods, and heatwaves.
- **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

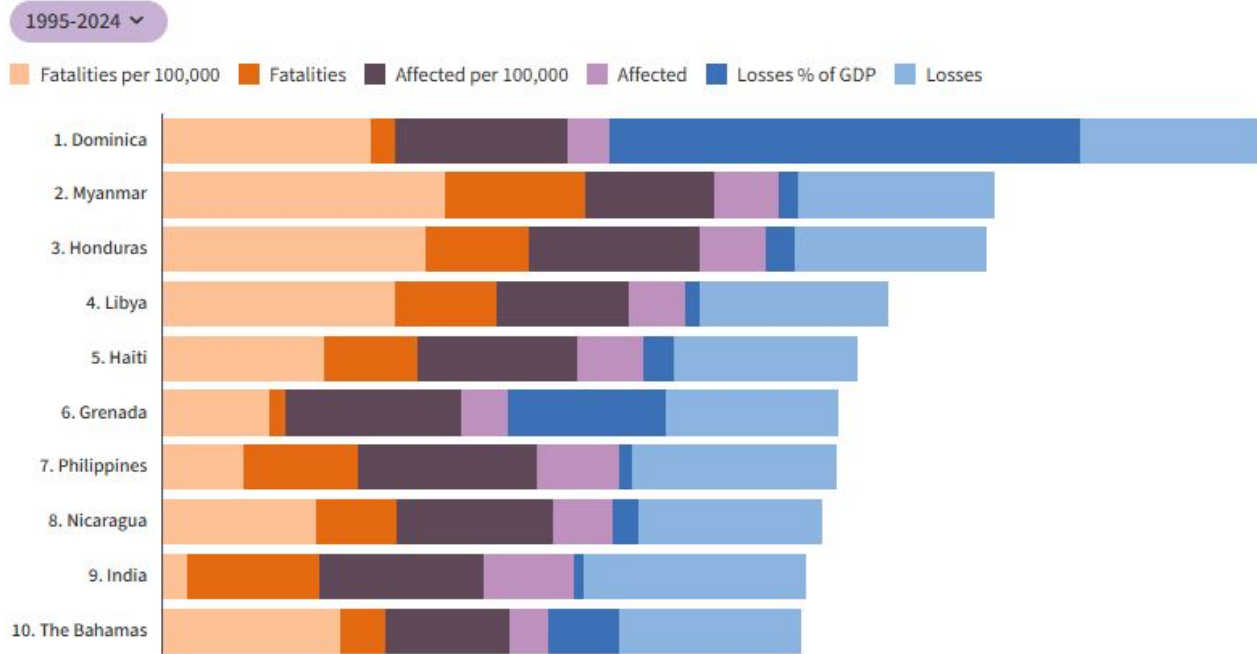
- The index captures **short-term impact** (events from the year preceding publication) & **long-term impact** (cumulative data from the past 30 years).
- **Indicators & Weightage**
 - **Number of deaths** - Weight: 1/6
 - **Number of deaths per 100,000 inhabitants** - Weight: 1/3
 - **Sum of losses 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



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Source: Germanwatch 2025

- **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](#)

