Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2027

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Reports*

Why in news?

The Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2027 was released recently.

- **Climate Risk Index** – 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** – The non-profit Germanwatch at the sidelines of COP 31 to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, currently underway in Antalya, Turkiye.
- **Data source** – By analysing the number of fatalities, affected people, and economic loss caused by extreme weather events based on data from the International Disaster Database (EM-DAT) on extreme weather events and socioeconomic data from the IMF and the World Bank.
- Rather than predicting future climate risks, the index measures the realised human and economic toll of past hydrological, meteorological, and climatological disasters across two timeframes: the preceding year (2025) and a 30-year window (1996–2025).

Key findings

- **Total global toll** – Over 10,000 extreme weather events claimed more than 916,000 lives worldwide and caused nearly USD 4.7 trillion (inflation-adjusted) in direct economic losses between 1996 and 2025.
- **Deadliest Hazard** – Heatwaves accounted for roughly 40% of 30-year fatalities (over 364,000 deaths).
- **Costliest Hazard** – Storms drove 58% of 30-year economic losses and 41% of losses in 2025.
- **2 broad groups** – The report identifies two broad groups: countries hit by exceptionally destructive disasters and those repeatedly exposed to extreme weather.
    - Dominica, Myanmar and Honduras represent the first,
    - India and the Philippines fall in the latter category.
- **Climate change, a global threat** – The index highlights that both developing and developed nations are increasingly experiencing severe climate-related impacts.
- The poorest countries continue to bear the greatest burden of climate disasters despite contributing the least to global emissions.
- **Increase in impact of climate change** – The report showed that while almost all countries in the top rankings are in the Global South, several European countries and

the US appear among the top 30, indicating the rapidly increasing pan-global impact of climate change.

- **Top 3 most climate-vulnerable countries** – Dominica, Myanmar and Honduras based on three-decade vulnerability rankings.
- **Most affected countries in 2025 alone** – For the single-year 2025 ranking, Jamaica, Sri Lanka, and Spain were the hardest-hit nations, followed by Thailand, the Philippines, and Pakistan.
- **Cumulative 30-year impact** – India is among the top 10 countries (ranked 10th) hardest hit by extreme weather events and recorded 436 events since 1996, with 78,000 disaster-triggered deaths, more than 1.2 billion people affected, and direct economic losses exceeding USD 170 billion.
- Floods, cyclones, and heatwaves have caused significant fatalities, displaced millions, and inflicted severe economic losses.
- India was also ranked 28th in the Climate Change Performance Index.
- **Annual 2025 ranking** – In the standalone 2025 assessment, India ranked 12th globally, worsening from 15th in 2024.

Reference

Down to earth | India among top 10 countries hardest hit by extreme weather since 1996

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