Climate Risk Index 2027: India among the hardest-hit countries

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News

Germanwatch, a German environment and development organisation, released the 'Climate Risk Index 2027' (CRI 2027) on 17 November 2026 on the sidelines of the UN climate conference COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye. Countries are ranked by deaths, people affected and economic losses from extreme weather events; event data come from the EM-DAT database and socio-economic data from the IMF and the World Bank. For the 30 years 1996–2025, Dominica, Myanmar and Honduras are the three most affected countries and India is 10th; in the single-year ranking for 2025, Jamaica, Sri Lanka and Spain are the top three and India is 12th. Over these 30 years India saw 436 extreme weather events that killed more than 78,000 people, affected over 1.2 billion and caused losses above US$170 billion, Down To Earth reported. Globally, nearly 10,000 events killed more than 916,000 people, with direct losses of about US$4.7 trillion. In the previous edition, CRI 2026 (COP30, Belém), India was 9th.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Release	Germanwatch – 17 Nov 2026, COP31, Antalya (Türkiye)
Indicators	Deaths, people affected, economic loss; EM-DAT, IMF, World Bank data
India (1996–2025)	10th
India (2025)	12th

Point	Details
Long-term top 10	Dominica, Myanmar, Honduras, Libya, Haiti, Grenada, Philippines, Nicaragua, Bahamas, India
2025 top three	Jamaica, Sri Lanka, Spain
India's toll	436 events; 78,000+ deaths; 1.2 bn+ affected; US$170 bn+
Global toll	~10,000 events; 916,000+ deaths; ~US$4.7 trillion
Previous edition	CRI 2026 (1995–2024) – India 9th

Background

- Germanwatch: a non-governmental organisation with offices in Bonn and Berlin, Germany; it has published the Climate Risk Index since 2006. The UNFCCC secretariat is also in Bonn. With partners, Germanwatch also publishes the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI); India slipped to 28th in CCPI 2027.
- Two kinds of risk: top-ranked countries fall into two groups – those hit by rare but exceptionally devastating events, like Dominica, Myanmar and Honduras, and those hit so repeatedly by floods, heatwaves and storms that they have little time to recover, like the Philippines and India. Nine of the top ten are lower- or upper-middle-income economies; the Bahamas is the only high-income country among them. Dominica, a small Caribbean island nation, tops the list.
- Indian events: the report cites the 1998 Gujarat cyclone, the 1999 Odisha super cyclone, the 2013 Uttarakhand floods, cyclones Hudhud (2014) and Amphan (2020), floods across 13 States in 2019, and heatwaves of about 50°C in 1998, 2002, 2003 and 2015. In 2025 Cyclone Ditwah hit Sri Lanka and Category-5 Hurricane Melissa hit Jamaica.
- Economy and policy: India's population is many times that of the countries ranked above it, so its absolute losses are huge. Such indices are used at COP meetings to press the case for adaptation finance and 'loss and damage' funding.

Tamil Nadu link: The CRI gives no State-wise ranks. Tamil Nadu link: at a 2022 workshop, States including Tamil Nadu said that during cyclones, floods and lightning they used the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)-based Integrated Alert System, built by C-DOT with NDMA, to send local-language alerts that helped save lives (PIB). Cyclone Ditwah in 2025 also brought heavy rain to Tamil Nadu's coastal and delta districts.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Release: Germanwatch – 17 Nov 2026, COP31, Antalya (Türkiye); Indicators: Deaths, people affected, economic loss; EM-DAT, IMF, World Bank data; India (1996–2025): 10th; India (2025): 12th.

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. What is India's rank in the long-term (1996–2025) ranking of the Climate Risk Index 2027?

A) 7th

B) 10th

C) 13th

D) 16th

Answer: B – Explanation: 10th; 12th in the single-year list for 2025. In the previous CRI 2026 (1995–2024) India was 9th.

2. Which German city hosts both an office of Germanwatch and the UNFCCC secretariat?

A) Bonn

B) Berlin

C) Frankfurt

D) Munich

Answer: A – Explanation: Bonn. Germanwatch also has a Berlin office, but the UNFCCC secretariat is only in Bonn.

3. Which Caribbean island nation tops the long-term (1996–2025) ranking of CRI 2027?

A) Dominica

B) Jamaica

C) Haiti

D) Grenada

Answer: A – Explanation: Dominica, followed by Myanmar and Honduras. Jamaica (Hurricane Melissa) tops the single-year list for 2025.

4. Besides the Climate Risk Index, which other annual index does Germanwatch publish with partners?

A) Env. Performance Index

B) Global Hunger Index

C) Climate Change Perf. Index

D) Emissions Gap Report

Answer: C – Explanation: CCPI – India 28th in the 2027 edition. EPI – Yale; Global Hunger Index – Welthungerhilfe; Emissions Gap Report – UNEP.

5. Which body developed NDMA's CAP-based Integrated Alert System used by States including Tamil Nadu during disasters?

A) ISRO

B) IMD

C) NIC

D) C-DOT

Answer: D – Explanation: C-DOT – the Department of Telecom's R&D centre, with NDMA; built to ITU standards, it sends local-language SMS and cell-broadcast alerts.

Sources: Down To Earth; Down To Earth (CCPI); Germanwatch; Nature World News; Deccan Herald (CRI 2026); PIB. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.