

Global Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2025

1. Introduction

- The **Global Climate Risk Index (CRI)** is published annually by **Germanwatch**, a Germany-based environmental think tank.
- It assesses the impact of **extreme weather events** (such as storms, floods, and heatwaves) on countries worldwide.
- The ranking reflects both **the number of lives lost** and **economic losses** due to climate-related disasters.

2. India's Ranking in CRI 2025

- **Long-Term CRI (1995-2024):** India ranked **9th**, showing improvement from **8th** last year.
- **Annual CRI 2024:** India ranked **15th**, improving from **10th** in the previous year.
- The report indicates **progress in India's climate resilience** and **disaster preparedness**, though challenges persist.

3. Key Findings of the CRI 2025 Report

- **Period covered:** 1995-2024 (30 years).
- **Extreme weather events in India:** Around **430 events** recorded.
- **Fatalities:** Over **80,000 deaths**.
- **Economic losses:** Approximately **USD 170 billion**.
- **Release venue:** The report was presented at the **UN Climate Summit (COP30)** in **Belem, Brazil**.

4. Global Context

- Between **1995 and 2024**, the world experienced:
 - Over **9,700 extreme weather events**.
 - Around **832,000 deaths**.

- Economic losses exceeding **USD 4.5 trillion**.
- **Most affected countries (long-term):**
 - **Dominica, Myanmar, and Honduras.**
- **Most affected in 2024:**
 - **St Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, and Chad.**
- Nearly **40% of the global population** (about **3 billion people**) live in the **11 most climate-affected nations**, including **India and China**.

5. India's Climate Challenges

India continues to face **recurrent and severe weather disasters**, including:

- **Cyclones:** Hudhud (2014), Amphan (2020).
- **Floods:** Uttarakhand floods (2013), Kerala floods (2018).
- **Heatwaves:** 1998, 2002, 2003, and 2015.
- **Droughts and erratic monsoons** affecting agriculture and livelihoods.

These recurring disasters highlight India's **high exposure and vulnerability** to climate variability.

6. Reasons for India's Improved Ranking

- **Enhanced early warning systems** for cyclones and floods.
- **Better disaster preparedness** and response mechanisms.
- Implementation of **climate adaptation and mitigation policies** at national and state levels.
- **Community-based disaster management** and focus on **resilient infrastructure**.
- Strengthening of **institutional mechanisms** for rapid recovery and risk reduction.

7. Major Government Initiatives

- **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)** (2008):

- Framework for 8 national missions (e.g., solar energy, sustainable agriculture, water, Himalayan ecosystem).
- **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):**
 - Launched by India in 2019 to promote climate-resilient infrastructure globally.
- **State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs):**
 - Localised strategies aligned with NAPCC goals.
- **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):**
 - Strengthening preparedness, early warning systems, and disaster response capacity.
- **Renewable Energy Expansion:**
 - Target of **500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030** and achieving **Net Zero by 2070**.

8. Exam-Oriented Key Facts

Aspect	Details
Report Name	Global Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2025
Released By	Germanwatch (Germany-based NGO)
Released At	COP30, Belem, Brazil
India's Rank (Long-Term)	9th (1995-2024)
India's Rank (2024 Annual)	15th
Fatalities (India, 1995-2024)	80,000+
Economic Losses	~USD 170 billion
Most Affected Countries (Long-Term)	Dominica, Myanmar, Honduras
Most Affected in 2024	St Vincent & the Grenadines, Grenada, Chad

9. Global and Policy Implications

- **Developing nations** remain the most vulnerable to climate change despite contributing the least to emissions.
- Even **industrialised nations** (like the US, France, Italy) appear in the top 30, showing that **no country is immune**.
- **Repetitive climate shocks** in nations such as India, Haiti, and the Philippines hinder long-term recovery.
- There is a **pressing need for climate finance**, technology transfer, and **capacity-building** support to developing countries.

10. The Road Ahead for India

- Continue investing in **climate-resilient infrastructure** and **nature-based solutions**.
- Strengthen **local-level adaptation** and **early warning systems**.
- Enhance **coordination between national and state agencies** for disaster management.
- Promote **green financing, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture**.
- Engage actively in **global climate negotiations** to ensure equitable climate finance and technology access.

11. Conclusion

India's improved position in the Global Climate Risk Index 2025 reflects **progress in resilience and policy action**, yet underscores **ongoing vulnerabilities** to climate extremes. Sustained efforts in **mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable development** are crucial to safeguard livelihoods, ecosystems, and economic stability in the face of a warming planet.

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