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Climate Risk Index 2027: reading India's rank and the method

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Why in the news?

Germanwatch presented the Climate Risk Index 2027 at COP31 on 17 November 2026. It looks back at the human and economic impacts of weather-related extreme events. India ranks tenth for 1996-2025 and twelfth for 2025. A lower rank number means greater recorded impact.

Six indicators and their weighting

The index uses six indicators: absolute fatalities and fatalities per 100,000 people; absolute numbers affected and affected people per 100,000; and absolute economic losses and losses relative to GDP. Purchasing power parity is used for the absolute-loss indicator. Relative indicators receive double weighting in the average ranking.

Recorded impacts in India

For India, the report records 436 events over 1996-2025, more than 78,000 fatalities and over $170 billion in inflation-adjusted losses. These are historical impacts recorded in the report, not a forecast. The narrative loss figure is distinct from the PPP-based absolute-loss indicator used in the index method.

Absolute and relative impacts

Dominica, Myanmar and Honduras lead the long-term ranking. Both absolute and relative measures matter: a large country can have a high total toll, while a smaller country may experience a much larger proportional shock. Data gaps, including underreporting of heat-related deaths, limit comparison.

Uses and limits

The index can inform debates on adaptation, disaster preparedness and Loss and Damage finance. It should not be used as a standalone forecast for risk planning. It also differs from the Climate Change Performance Index, which concerns climate performance rather than this ranking of realised impacts.

Prelims Practice Questions

Question 1

Consider the following statements about CRI 2027:

1. It assesses historical extreme-weather impacts.

2. Absolute and relative numbers of people affected are indicators.

3. It is a certain prediction of future losses.

Which statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

▼ **Answer and Explanation**

Correct answer: (a)

1 is correct: The index looks back at recorded impacts.

2 is correct: Both measures of people affected are included.

3 is incorrect: Historical impacts are not a certain forecast.

Question 2

What are India's ranks for 2025 and 1996-2025 respectively in CRI 2027?

(a) 10 and 12

(b) 12 and 10

(c) 12 and 12

(d) 10 and 10

▼ **Answer and Explanation**

Correct answer: (b)

The annual rank for 2025 is 12 and the long-term rank for 1996-2025 is 10.

Question 3

Consider the following statements about the CRI method:

1. It uses six indicators.

2. Relative indicators receive double weighting in the average ranking.

Which is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

▼ **Answer and Explanation**

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Correct answer: (c)

1 is correct: Fatalities, people affected and losses each have absolute and relative measures.

2 is correct: The method gives relative indicators double weighting.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Who publishes CRI 2027?

Germanwatch, which presented it at COP31 on 17 November 2026.

What are India's two ranks?

Twelfth for 2025 and tenth for 1996-2025. A lower rank number means greater recorded impact.

How many indicators are used?

Six: absolute and relative measures of fatalities, people affected and economic losses.

Is it a forecast or the CCPI?

No. CRI assesses historical extreme-weather impacts. CCPI is a different index concerned with climate performance.

Sources

- https://www.germanwatch.org/en/93614
- https://www.germanwatch.org/en/93639
- https://www.germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/2026-11/CRI-2027-Full%20Report-English%20(6MB).pdf

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