

India 9th among nations hit by climate change

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INDIA ranks among the ten countries most affected by extreme weather events over the past three decades, according to the latest Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2026 released by Germanwatch at COP30 in Belém, Brazil. Covering data from 1995 to 2024, the index places India ninth, highlighting its growing vulnerability to heat waves, floods and cyclones that have intensified under global warming.

During this period, India endured nearly 430 extreme weather events, from deadly heat waves and intense monsoons to devastating cyclones, resulting in over 80,000 deaths, 1.3 billion people affected, and economic losses of nearly \$170 billion. The report identifies India as a country suffering from "continuous climate threats", where recurring disasters leave little time for recovery before the next event strikes. Floods and landslides triggered by heavy monsoons continue to cause widespread destruction, as seen in the 2013 Uttarakhand floods, 2019 monsoon floods and recurring deluges in Assam and

Kerala. Meanwhile, heat waves with temperatures near 50°C, as recorded in Gujarat, Rajasthan and UP, have become more frequent.

"Countries such as India, Haiti and the Philippines face particular challenges, as they are hit by floods, heat waves or storms so regularly that entire regions can hardly recover before the next event," said Vera Künzel, senior advisor on climate adaptation and human

rights at Germanwatch.

"Without more long-term support and adaptation finance, they face insurmountable challenges."

The CRI 2026 shows that extreme weather has claimed over 832,000 lives globally and caused \$4.5 trillion in economic losses over 30 years. Storms accounted for the greatest monetary damage (58% of losses), floods affected nearly half of all victims, and heat waves and storms caused two-thirds of all fatalities.

India's inclusion among the top 10 nations underscores how the Global South bears the brunt of climate impacts despite contributing the least to global emissions.



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