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Global Climate Risk Index 2021

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Why in News

The international environmental think tank 'Germanwatch' released the **Global Climate**

Risk Index 2021.

Ranking 2019 (2018)	Country
1 (54)	Mozambique
2 (132)	Zimbabwe
3 (135)	The Bahamas
4 (1)	Japan
5 (93)	Malawi
6 (24)	Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
7 (5)	India
8 (133)	South Sudan
9 (27)	Niger
10 (59)	Bolivia

- This is the **16th Edition** of the Index. It is published **annually**.

- **Germanwatch**, based in **Bonn and Berlin (Germany)**, is an **independent development and environmental organisation** which works for sustainable global development.

Key Points

- **About the Index**
 - The Index **analyses the extent** to which **countries** and **regions** have been affected by the **impacts of weather-related loss events** (storms, floods, heat waves etc.).
 - The impact is calculated in terms of **fatalities** and **economic losses**, both.
 - The most recent data available **for 2019** and from **2000 to 2019** were taken into account.
 - The 2021 Index **does not include data from United States of America**.
 - The Climate Risk Index clearly signals that repercussions of escalating climate change can no longer be ignored, on any continent or in any region.
 - Impacts from extreme-weather events **hit the poorest countries hardest** as these are particularly vulnerable to the damaging effects of a hazard, have a lower coping capacity and may need more time to rebuild and recover.
 - **High-income countries** are also getting severely **impacted by climate change**.

- About 2021 Findings

CRI 2000-2019 (1999-2018)	Country
1 (1)	Puerto Rico
2 (2)	Myanmar
3 (3)	Haiti
4 (4)	Philippines
5 (14)	Mozambique
6 (20)	The Bahamas
7 (7)	Bangladesh
8 (5)	Pakistan
9 (8)	Thailand
10 (9)	Nepal

- **Mozambique, Zimbabwe** as well as the **Bahamas** were the **most affected countries in 2019**.
- For the period from **2000 to 2019**, **Puerto Rico, Myanmar and Haiti** rank **highest**.
- **Storms and their direct implications**- precipitation, **floods** and **landslides**, were one major cause of losses and damages in 2019.
- Of the ten most affected countries in 2019, six were hit by **tropical cyclones**. Recent science suggests that the **number of severe tropical cyclones will increase** with every tenth of a degree in global average temperature rise.
- **Eight out of the ten countries** most affected by the quantified impacts of extreme weather events in 2019 **belong to the low- to lower-middle income category**. Half of them are **Least Developed Countries**.

- **India's Position:**
 - India has **improved its rankings** from last year. It is **ranked 7th in the 2021 Index** as compared to **5th in 2020 Index**.
 - The **Indian monsoon lasted a month longer than usual** in the year 2019, with surplus rains causing major hardship. The rain was 110% of normal, which is the **most since 1994**.
 - The **floods caused by heavy rains** were responsible for 1800 deaths and led to **displacement of 1.8 million people**.
 - Overall, **11.8 million people were affected** by the intense monsoon season and the **economic damage** caused was estimated to be **US\$ 10 billion**.
 - India was **hit by a total of 8 tropical cyclones**. Of which, **Cyclone Fani** (May, 2019) caused the maximum damage.
 - The **Himalayan glaciers, the coastlines, and the deserts in India** have been severely affected by global warming.
 - The Report also points to an **increase in the number of heat waves**, increased intensity and frequency of **cyclones** and an **increased rate of melting of glaciers** in India.
- **Suggestions:**
 - The **global Covid-19 pandemic** has reiterated the fact that **both risks and vulnerability are systemic and interconnected**. It is therefore important to **strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable** against different types of risk (climatic, geophysical, economic or health-related).
 - After the international climate policy process stalled in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, expectations regarding progress on the **long-term finance goal and adequate support for adaptation** lie in 2021 and 2022.
 - The process needs to deliver:
 - a decision on how the **need for support for vulnerable countries** concerning **future loss and damage** is to be determined on an ongoing basis.
 - the necessary steps to **generate and make available financial resources** to meet these needs.
 - strengthening the **implementation of measures** for adapting to climate change.
 - **Effective climate change mitigation and adaptation** to prevent or minimize potential damage.

Source:TH