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REPORTS & INDICES

World Risk Report 2024 — World Risk Index

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SUBJECTS COVERED

ENVIRONMENT

GEOGRAPHY

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

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ISSUING BODY

Bundnis Entwicklung Hilft & Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV), Ruhr University Bochum

FREQUENCY INDIA'S RANK TOP PERFORMER

Annual 3 / 193 0 Monaco (lowest risk: 0.18)

KEY FINDINGS

- India ranks 3rd highest risk globally with a WRI score of 40.96
- Philippines tops with highest risk (46.91), followed by Indonesia (41.13)
- Monaco has the lowest risk score of 0.18
- 193 countries assessed, covering over 99% of the world's 8 billion population
- Asia and the Americas are the primary global risk hotspots
- 2024 theme: Multiple Crises — examining the compounding effect of climate hazards and armed conflict

ABOUT THE INDEX

The World Risk Index (WRI) is the centrepiece of the annual World Risk Report, published by the German alliance Bundnis Entwicklung Hilft in collaboration with the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) at Ruhr University Bochum. The 2024 edition was released on 9 September 2024.

The WRI measures disaster risk for 193 countries based on three main components:

- **Exposure** — a country's exposure to climate-related natural hazards (earthquakes, storms, floods, droughts, sea-level rise)
- **Vulnerability / Susceptibility** — how susceptible a population is to damage from these hazards (infrastructure, nutrition, housing, economic conditions)
- **Lack of Coping and Adaptive Capacities** — ability of governance, healthcare systems, and social structures to respond to and recover from disasters

A higher WRI score indicates greater disaster risk. The index ranges from 0 (no risk) to a theoretical maximum of 100.

The 2024 report’s special focus is on **Multiple Crises** — how climate-related disasters interact with and amplify the effects of armed conflict, food insecurity, and displacement.

INDIA’S PERFORMANCE

India ranks **3rd globally** with a WRI score of **40.96**, making it one of the highest-risk countries in the world. This ranking reflects India’s extreme exposure to multiple natural hazards — including floods, cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, and heatwaves — combined with significant vulnerability in terms of population density, poverty levels, and infrastructure gaps.

Among **G20 nations**, Indonesia (2nd, score 41.13) and India (3rd, score 40.96) are the two most at-risk countries.

India’s high rank is primarily driven by its enormous exposure to climate hazards across diverse geographies — from Himalayan flash floods to coastal cyclones — and the vulnerability of its large rural population.

Top 10 Highest-Risk Countries

RANK	COUNTRY	WRI SCORE
1	Philippines	46.91
2	Indonesia	41.13
3	India	40.96
4	Colombia	~39
5	Mexico	~38
6	Myanmar	35.80
7	Mozambique	~35
8	Russia	~34
9	Bangladesh	~33
10	Pakistan	~32

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF LATEST EDITION

- The Philippines has the highest disaster risk for the second consecutive year (46.91)

- 8 out of 10 highest-risk countries are in Asia and the Americas
- Monaco (0.18), Andorra, and Liechtenstein have the lowest disaster risk scores globally
- The report highlights how armed conflict compounds climate disaster impacts — conflict-affected countries have 40% higher mortality from natural hazards
- Small Island Developing States (SIDS) remain disproportionately vulnerable despite low absolute exposure
- The report calls for integrated risk governance that addresses climate and conflict risks simultaneously

UPSC RELEVANCE

WRI issuing body, India's rank, top/bottom countries, three components of WRI, total countries assessed

Mains GS-1: *Physical geography — India's disaster-prone regions, impact of climate change on natural hazards*

Mains GS-3: *Disaster management, NDMA, SDMA, Sendai Framework, climate adaptation,*

resilient infrastructure **Interview:** *"India is the third most disaster-prone country. What structural reforms in disaster governance would you recommend?"*

RELATED TERMS

Disaster Management

Climate Change



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