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How do extreme climate events impact Asia?

- Asia has warmed faster than the global average since 1960, the World Meteorological Organization's 2023 'State of the Climate in Asia' report said.

Impact:

- More than 80% of these events were related to storms and floods.
- The report also recorded several parts experiencing severe heat waves, leading to multiple fatalities.
- A prolonged heat wave engulfed large parts of South and South-East Asia in April and May, affecting areas from Bangladesh and eastern India to southern China.
- Tropical cyclone Mocha, which affected Myanmar and Bangladesh in May 2023, was the strongest cyclone in the Bay of Bengal in the last decade.
- In India, floods and landslides in August 2023, primarily in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, killed at least 25.
- Lightning accounted for 1,200 deaths around India through the year.

Measures:

- An early-warning system is an integrated process that monitors, predicts, and forecasts hazards.
- Warning and dissemination was the strongest area under the framework for Asia while risk knowledge was the weakest.
- According to the report, fewer than half of all Asian countries have the tools to mitigate climate change impact.

'Navaratna' status to IRDEA

- The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency has been awarded the 'Navaratna' status by the Central Government.
- The total number of Public Sector Undertakings with this status has increased to 17.
- The government is awarding Navratna status to leading public sector organizations of the country.
- These companies can make investments up to Rs 1,000 crore without the approval of the central government. These can be invested up to 30 percent of their value in a year.