

India ranks 177 out of 180 in Environmental Performance Index 2018

The Report on Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2018 finds that air quality is the leading environmental threat to public health. The biennial report is produced by researchers at Yale and Columbia Universities in collaboration with the World Economic Forum. The tenth EPI report ranks 180 countries on 24 performance indicators across 10 issue categories covering environmental health and ecosystem vitality. Switzerland leads the world in sustainability, followed by France, Denmark, Malta, and Sweden.

Switzerland's top ranking reflects strong performance across most issues, especially air quality and climate protection. In general, high scorers exhibit long-standing commitments to protecting public health, preserving natural resources, and decoupling greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from economic activity.

India and Bangladesh come in near the bottom of the rankings, with Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Nepal rounding out the bottom five. Low scores on the EPI are indicative of the need for national sustainability efforts on a number of fronts, especially cleaning up air quality, protecting biodiversity, and reducing GHG emissions, said the researchers. Some of the lowest-ranking nations face broader challenges, such as civil unrest, but the low scores for others can be attributed to weak governance, they note.

EPFI Key rankings

- The United States places 27th in the 2018 EPI, with strong scores on some issues, such as sanitation and air quality, but weak performance on others, including deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions. This ranking puts the United States near the back of the industrialized nations, behind France (2nd), the United Kingdom (6th), Germany (13th), Italy (16th), Japan (20th), and Canada (25th).
- Of the emerging economies, China and India rank 120th and 177th respectively, reflecting the strain population pressures and rapid economic growth impose on the environment, note the researchers. Brazil ranks 69th, they add, suggesting that a concerted focus on sustainability as a policy priority will pay dividends – and that the level and pace of development is just one of many factors affecting environmental performance. Sustainability outcomes among emerging economies remains highly variable.
- Seychelles ranks as the most-improved country over the past decade, due largely to its commitment to combating greenhouse gas emissions. São Tomé and Príncipe, Kuwait, and Timor-Leste also increased their ranking due to several factors, including the establishment of areas protecting biodiversity and habitat. Burundi, Central African Republic, Madagascar, the Bahamas, and Latvia slipped significantly in environmental performance, largely due to sub-par performance on climate change. All trend analyses are based on backcasting this year's EPI methods on historical data.

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	REG	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	REG	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	REG
1	Switzerland	87.42	1	61	Kuwait	62.28	5	121	Thailand	49.88	12
2	France	83.95	2	62	Jordan	62.20	6	122	Micronesia	49.80	13
3	Denmark	81.60	3	63	Armenia	62.07	17	123	Libya	49.79	16
4	Malta	80.90	4	64	Paru	61.92	6	124	Ghana	49.66	11
5	Sweden	80.51	5	65	Montenegro	61.33	18	125	Timor-Leste	49.54	14
6	United Kingdom	79.89	6	66	Egypt	61.21	7	126	Senegal	49.52	12
7	Luxembourg	79.12	7	67	Lebanon	61.08	8	127	Malawi	49.21	13
8	Austria	78.97	8	68	Macedonia	61.06	19	128	Guyana	47.93	20
9	Ireland	78.77	9	69	Brazil	60.70	7	129	Tajikistan	47.85	27
10	Finland	78.64	10	70	Sri Lanka	60.61	6	130	Kenya	47.25	14
11	Iceland	78.57	11	71	Equatorial Guinea	60.40	2	131	Bhutan	47.22	15
12	Spain	78.39	12	72	Mexico	59.69	8	132	Viet Nam	46.96	16
13	Germany	78.37	13	73	Dominica	59.38	5	133	Indonesia	46.92	17
14	Norway	77.49	14	74	Argentina	59.30	9	134	Guinea	46.62	15
15	Belgium	77.38	15	75	Malaysia	59.22	7	135	Mozambique	46.37	16
16	Italy	76.96	16	76	Antigua and Barbuda	59.18	6	136	Uzbekistan	45.88	28
17	New Zealand	75.96	1	77	United Arab Emirates	58.90	9	137	Chad	45.34	17
18	Netherlands	75.46	17	78	Jamaica	58.58	7	138	Myanmar	45.32	18
19	Israel	75.01	1	79	Namibia	58.46	3	139	Côte d'Ivoire	45.25	18
20	Japan	74.69	1	80	Iran	58.16	10	140	Gabon	45.05	19
21	Australia	74.12	2	81	Belize	57.79	10	141	Ethiopia	44.78	20
22	Greece	73.60	18	82	Philippines	57.65	8	142	South Africa	44.73	21
23	Taiwan	72.84	2	83	Mongolia	57.51	9	143	Guinea-Bissau	44.67	22
24	Cyprus	72.60	19	84	Serbia	57.49	20	144	Vanuatu	44.55	7
25	Canada	72.18	20	84	Chile	57.49	11	145	Uganda	44.28	23
26	Portugal	71.91	21	86	Saudi Arabia	57.47	11	146	Comoros	44.24	24
27	United States of America	71.19	22	87	Ecuador	57.42	12	147	Mali	43.71	25
28	Slovakia	70.60	1	88	Algeria	57.18	12	148	Rwanda	43.68	26
29	Lithuania	69.33	2	89	Cabo Verde	56.94	4	149	Zimbabwe	43.41	27
30	Bulgaria	67.85	3	90	Mauritius	56.63	5	150	Cambodia	43.23	19
30	Costa Rica	67.85	1	91	Saint Lucia	56.18	8	151	Solomon Islands	43.22	8
32	Qatar	67.80	2	92	Bolivia	55.98	13	152	Iraq	43.20	17
33	Czech Republic	67.68	4	93	Barbados	55.76	9	153	Laos	42.94	20
34	Slovenia	67.57	5	94	Georgia	55.69	21	154	Burkina Faso	42.83	28
35	Trinidad and Tobago	67.36	1	95	Kiribati	55.26	4	155	Sierra Leone	42.54	29
36	St. Vincent & Grenadines	66.48	2	96	Bahrain	55.15	13	156	Gambia	42.42	30
37	Latvia	66.12	6	97	Nicaragua	55.04	14	157	Republic of Congo	42.39	31
38	Turkmenistan	66.10	7	98	Bahamas	54.99	10	158	Bosnia and Herzegovina	41.84	29
39	Seychelles	66.02	1	99	Kyrgyzstan	54.86	22	159	Togo	41.78	32
40	Albania	65.46	8	100	Nigeria	54.76	6	160	Liberia	41.62	33
41	Croatia	65.45	9	101	Kazakhstan	54.56	23	161	Cameroon	40.81	34
42	Colombia	65.22	2	102	Samoa	54.50	5	162	Swaziland	40.32	35
43	Hungary	65.01	10	103	Suriname	54.20	15	163	Djibouti	40.04	36
44	Belarus	64.98	11	104	São Tomé and Príncipe	54.01	7	164	Papua New Guinea	39.35	21
45	Romania	64.78	12	105	Paraguay	53.93	16	165	Eritrea	39.34	37
46	Dominican Republic	64.71	3	106	El Salvador	53.91	17	166	Mauritania	39.24	38
47	Uruguay	64.65	3	107	Fiji	53.09	6	167	Benin	38.17	39
48	Estonia	64.31	13	108	Turkey	52.96	24	168	Afghanistan	37.74	22
49	Singapore	64.23	3	109	Ukraine	52.87	25	169	Pakistan	37.50	23
50	Poland	64.11	14	110	Guatemala	52.33	18	170	Angola	37.44	40
51	Venezuela	63.89	4	111	Maldives	52.14	10	171	Central African Republic	36.42	41
52	Russia	63.79	15	112	Moldova	51.97	26	172	Niger	35.74	42
53	Brunei Darussalam	63.57	4	113	Botswana	51.70	8	173	Lesotho	33.78	43
54	Morocco	63.47	3	114	Honduras	51.51	19	174	Haiti	33.74	12
55	Cuba	63.42	4	115	Sudan	51.49	14	175	Madagascar	33.73	44
56	Panama	62.71	5	116	Oman	51.32	15	176	Nepal	31.44	24
57	Tonga	62.49	3	117	Zambia	50.97	9	177	India	30.57	25
58	Tunisia	62.35	4	118	Grenada	50.93	11	178	Dem. Rep. Congo	30.41	45
59	Azerbaijan	62.33	16	119	Tanzania	50.83	10	179	Bangladesh	29.56	26
60	South Korea	62.30	5	120	China	50.74	11	180	Burundi	27.43	46

Source: PHD Research Bureau, compiled from the report on Environmental Performance Index 2018

Analysis of India's Ranking

According to the 2018 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) India is the fourth worst country in the world when it comes to handling environmental issues, — the green rankings released on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum meet in Davos. Out of 180 countries, India ranked 177, only better in environmental performance than the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh and Burundi. This is especially worrying because India's rank was 141 IN 2016 .

India's low scores are influenced by poor performance in the in Environmental Health policy objective. Deaths attributed to PM2.5 have risen over the past decade and are estimated at 1,640,113, annually (Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation,

2017). Despite government action, pollution from solid fuels, coal and crop residue burning, and emissions from motor vehicles continue to severely degrade the air quality for millions of Indians.

Policy Objectives

objective	CURRENT RANK	CURRENT SCORE	BASELINE RANK	BASELINE SCORE
 Environmental Performance Index	177	30.57	177	30.59
 Environmental Health	180	9.32	180	5.36
 Ecosystem Vitality	140	44.74	108	47.41

Source: PHD Research Bureau, compiled from the report on Environmental Performance Index 2018

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Warm regards,

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