



Global Drug Policy Index 2021

Why in News

Recently, the inaugural **Global Drug Policy Index** was released by the **Harm Reduction Consortium**.

- It is a **data-driven global analysis of drug policies** and their implementation which comes at a time when the Indian government is reviewing the provisions of the [Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic substances act 1985](#).
- The **Harm Reduction Consortium** is a **global consortium of networks** aiming to challenge the global "[war on drugs](#)", scale up access to harm reduction services, and advocate for increased resources for harm reduction.

// RANKINGS OF SELECTED COUNTRIES

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE
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TOP 5

1	Norway	74/100
2	New Zealand	71/100
3	Portugal	70/100
4	UK	69/100
5	Australia	65/100

18	India	46/100
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BOTTOM 5

26	Mexico	35/100
27	Kenya	34/100
28	Indonesia	29/100
29	Uganda	28/100
30	Brazil	26/100

Key Points

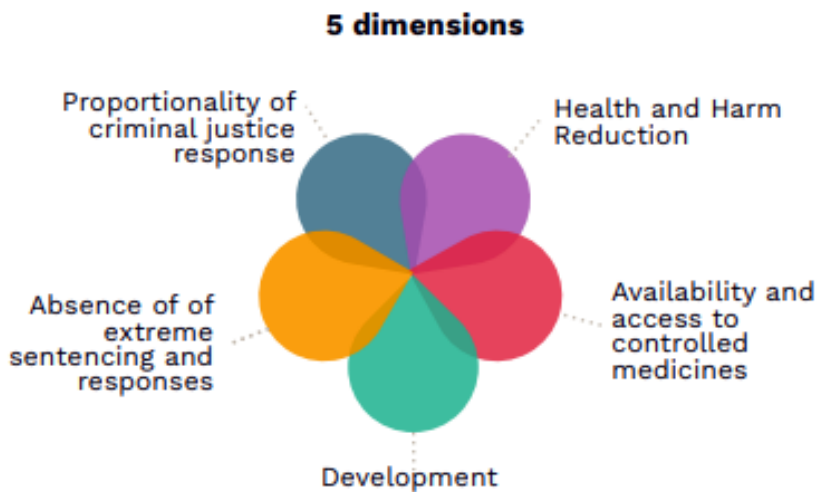
- **About the Index:** It is a unique tool that documents, measures and compares national-level drug policies.
 - It provides each country with a score and ranking that shows how much their drug policies and their implementation align with the [United Nations principles of human rights, health and development](#).
 - The Index provides an essential accountability and evaluation mechanism in the field of drug policy.
 - It evaluates the performance of 30 countries covering all regions of the world.

Accountability and evaluation tool on national drug policies

Grounded in recommendations promoted by the UN

Focusing on 5 dimensions

Covering 30 countries



Objectives

Map the range of drug policy responses around the world

Identify key aspects of drug policy needing urgent action

Facilitate discussions on reform options

Guide national-level policy making priorities and reforms

Major Findings:

- The **global dominance of drug policies based on repression and punishment** has led to low scores overall, with a median score of just 48/100, and the top-ranking country (Norway) only reaching 74/100.
- Standards and expectations from civil society experts on drug policy **implementation vary from country to country.**
- **Inequality is deeply seated** in global drug policies, with the top-ranking 5 countries scoring 3 times as much as the lowest-ranking 5 countries.
 - This is in part due to the colonial legacy of the 'war on drugs' approach.
- Drug policies disproportionately **affect people marginalised** on the basis of their gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and socio-economic status.
- There are **wide disparities between state policies** and how they are implemented on the ground.
- With a few exceptions, the **meaningful participation** of civil society and affected communities in drug policy processes **remains severely limited.**

India's Performance:

- **Ranking:**
 - India's rank is 18 out of 30 countries. It has an overall score of 46/100.
- **Scores:**
 - Using extreme sentencing and responses, it has a score of 63/100.
 - Health and harm reduction, 49/100.
 - Proportionality of criminal justice response, 38/100.
 - Availability and access of internationally controlled substances for the relief of pain and suffering, 33 /100.

[Source: IE](#)

