



Global Liveability Index: EIU

Why in News

Auckland (New Zealand) has topped the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Global Liveability Index of 140 cities around the world.

Key Points

▪ About Global Liveability Index:

- The index takes into account more than **30 qualitative and quantitative factors** spanning **five broad categories: stability** (25%), **healthcare** (20%), **culture and environment** (25%), **education** (10%), and **infrastructure** (20%).
- Due to the **pandemic**, the EIU added **new indicators** such as stress on health-care resources as well as restrictions around local sporting events, theatres, music concerts, restaurants and schools.
- Each factor in a city is **rated as** acceptable, tolerable, uncomfortable, undesirable or intolerable.

▪ General Scenario:

- Overall, the **Covid-19 pandemic caused liveability to decline** - as cities experienced lockdowns and significant strains on their healthcare system. This **led to an unprecedented level of change in the rankings**, with many of the cities that were previously ranked as the most liveable tumbling.
 - **Austria's Vienna, number one in both 2018 and 2019**, has completely **dropped out of the top 10** after being heavily affected by Covid-19, and now **ranks 12**.
- **Auckland rose to the top** of the ranking **owing to its successful approach in containing the Covid-19 pandemic**, which allowed its society to remain open and the city to score strongly on a number of metrics including education, culture and environment.
- **Damascus remains the world's least liveable city**, as the effects of the civil war in Syria continue to take their toll.
- Most of the previous ten least liveable cities **remain in the bottom ten this year**, including **Dhaka (Bangladesh) and Karachi (Pakistan)** in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.
- However, there is a strong contingent of cities in the **APAC region at the top of the rankings**, with **Osaka, Adelaide, Tokyo and Wellington** rounding out the **top five**.
 - Apart from cities in New Zealand, Australia and Japan, other cities in the Asia-Pacific region such as **Taipei (Taiwan) (33rd)** and **Singapore (34th)** have also performed well.

▪ Top 3 Liveable Cities:

- Auckland (New Zealand), Osaka (Japan), Adelaide (Australia).

▪ Bottom 3 Liveable Cities:

- Damascus (Syria), Lagos (Nigeria), Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea).

Source: IE

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