



Environmental Performance Index

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Why in News

India secured **168th rank** in the 12th edition of the Environment Performance Index (EPI) 2020.

India's rank was **177th in 2018**.

Environmental Performance Index

- EPI is a **biennial index** prepared by **Yale University and Columbia University** in collaboration with the **World Economic Forum**.
- It offers a **scorecard that highlights leaders and laggards** in environmental performance and **provides practical guidance** for countries that aspire to move toward a sustainable future.
- This index was first published in 2002 designed to supplement the environmental targets set forth in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Key Points

- **EPI 2020:**
 - EPI Index 2020 measured the environmental performance of **180 countries**.
 - The index considered **32 indicators** of environmental performance and included **10-year trends in environmental performance** at the national and global levels.
 - **Denmark topped the index** with a score of 82.5.

- **India' Performance:**

- India scored 27.6 out of 100 in the 2020 EPI index and its performance **was worse than all South Asian countries**, except Afghanistan.
- India scored **below the regional (South-Asia) average score on all five key parameters on environmental health**, including air quality, sanitation and drinking water, heavy metals and waste management.
These findings resonated with the concerns raised by the **'State of India's Environment 2020 in Figures'**, published by the Centre for Science and Environment.
- It has also **scored below the regional average on parameters related to biodiversity and ecosystem services** too.
- India was at **second position after Pakistan on 'climate change'** among the **South-Asia countries**.
Pakistan's score (50.6) was the highest under the climate change category.
- A ten-year comparison progress report in the index showed that **India slipped on climate-related parameters**.
The report indicated that black carbon, carbon dioxide emissions and greenhouse emissions per capita increased in ten years.

Environmental Conservation Programmes in India

- **Climate Change: National Action Plan on Climate Change**
- **Desertification: National Action Programme to Combat Desertification**
- **Pollution Control: National Clean Air Program**
- **Environmental Impact Assessment: Environment Management Plan**
- **Forest Protection: National Afforestation Programme**
- **Animal Conservation: Project Elephant, Project Tiger**

Way Forward

- India needs to **re-double national sustainability efforts** on all fronts.
- It needs to focus on a wide spectrum of **sustainability issues, with a high-priority to critical issues such as air and water quality, biodiversity and climate change**.

Source:DTE