



# 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.

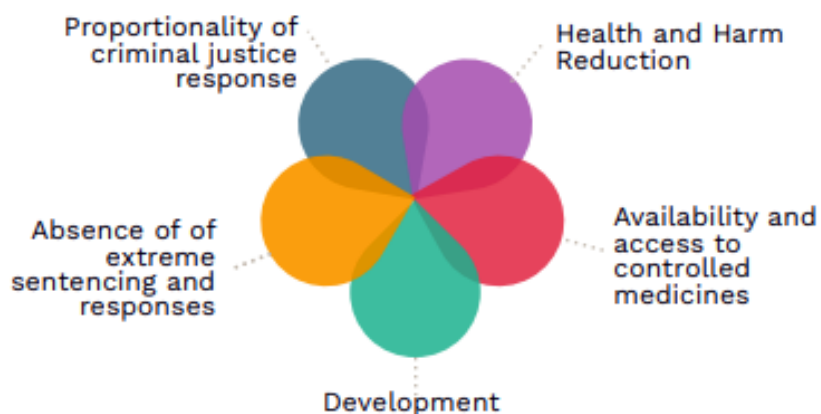
Accountability and  
evaluation tool on  
national drug policies

Grounded in  
recommendations  
promoted by the UN

Focusing on 5  
dimensions

Covering 30  
countries

### 5 dimensions



### 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](#)

