



Covid-19 Performance Index

Why in News

India has been ranked 86th in a “Covid-19 Performance Index” comprising 98 countries.

Key Points

▪ About the Index

◦ Institution Involved:

- **Covid-19 Performance Index** was compiled by the **Sydney-based Lowy Institute**, an Australian think tank, which sought to **measure the response of countries to the Pandemic**.
 - The Institute **also took into account** the impact of geography, political systems and economic development in assessing outcomes.

◦ Parameter Used:

- **Six Indicators:** Confirmed cases, confirmed deaths, cases per million people, deaths per million people, cases as a proportion of tests, and tests per thousand people.
- **Fewer reported cases and deaths**, both in aggregate and per capita terms, point towards a better response to the virus.
- **More tests** conducted on a per capita basis reveal an accurate picture of the **extent of the pandemic at the national level**.
- **Lower rates of positive tests** indicate **greater degrees of control** over the [transmission of Covid-19](#).

◦ Assessing Method:

- Assessed **98 countries in the 36 weeks** that followed their hundredth case.
 - **China was not included in the study** because all of its testing rates are not publicly available.
- An average across six indicators was calculated for individual countries in each period and normalised to produce a **score from 0 (worst performing) to 100 (best performing)**.

▪ Results:

◦ Top Countries:

- **New Zealand topped the rankings** closely followed by Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand and Cyprus.

◦ Bottom Countries:

- **Brazil stood at the bottom** of the index. The **USA was the fifth-worst performing country**, it stood at 94 out of 98 countries.

- **South Asian Countries:**

- **Sri Lanka was the best performing nation in South Asia**, ranking 10, while the Maldives was at 25, Pakistan at 69, Nepal at 70, and Bangladesh at 84.

- **Performance of India:**

- **India ranked 86th** in the Covid-19 Performance Index out of 98 countries.
- At **24.3**, India's average was **lower than the region it belongs to — Asia-Pacific** — which scored 58.2 and ranked best in the region-wise evaluation.

- **Trend Analysis:**

- **Smaller countries performed better:** In general, **countries with smaller populations, cohesive societies, and capable institutions** have a comparative advantage in dealing with a global crisis such as a pandemic.
 - **Smaller countries with fewer than 10 million people** consistently outperformed their larger counterparts throughout 2020.
- **Leadership Mattered:** Levels of economic development and differences in political systems didn't have as much of an impact on coronavirus response as expected.
 - **Proper management of the pandemic was not much dependent on the regime type** but whether citizens trust their leaders, and whether those leaders preside over a competent and effective state.
- The relatively **'low-tech' nature** of the health measures used to mitigate the spread of the virus created a more level playing field between developed and developing countries.
 - The **deployment of vaccines**, however, **could give richer countries an advantage**.

Source: TH

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/covid-19-performance-index>