# Environment Performance Index 2020: Eye opener for India

ndia comes in almost at the bottom of the global rankings at 168th place out of 180 countries worldwide according to the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the Environment Performance Index (EPI 2020) released by Yale University. As India look to become an economic superpower, it is facing the consequences of poor environment management. And it's being reflected in "environmental scorecard".

## What is Environment Performance Index?

- The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) is a method of quantifying and numerically marking the environmental performance of a state's policies.
- 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.
- These indicators provide a gauge at a national scale of how close countries are to established environmental policy targets.
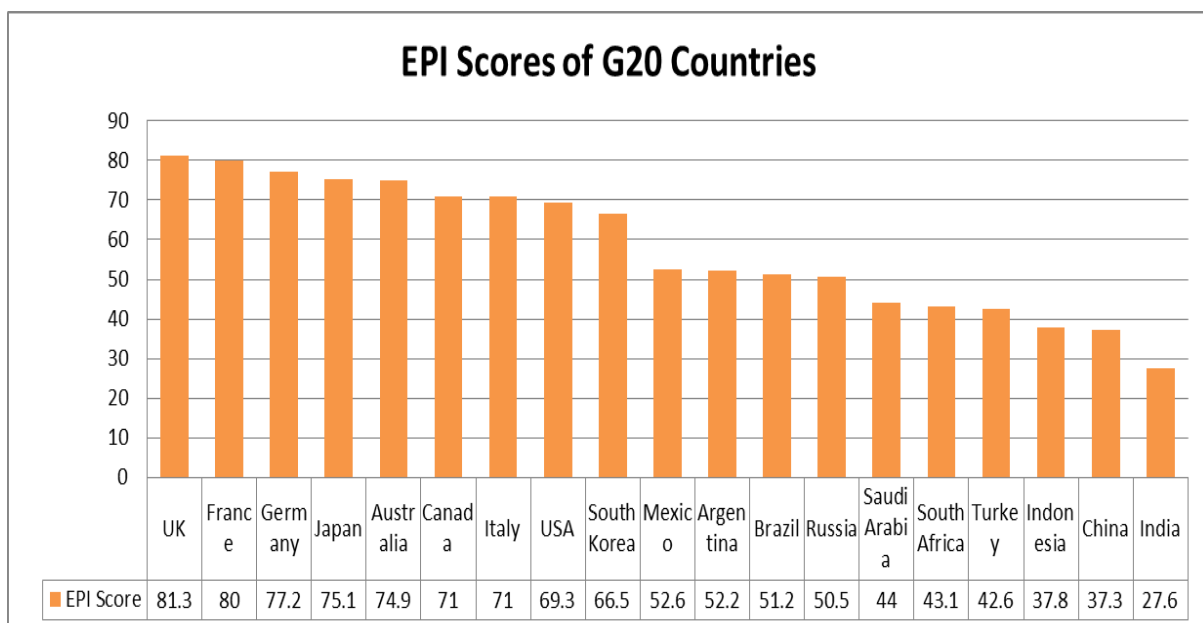
## Environment Performance Index – 2020

- The 2020 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) provides a data-driven summary of the state of sustainability around the world.
- The Index ranked countries under two policy objectives
  1. Environment Health
  2. Ecosystem Viability
- The above two policy objectives include 11 issue categories in the 2020 EPI, covering 32 performance indicators.
- It evaluates 10-year trends in environmental performance at the national and global levels.
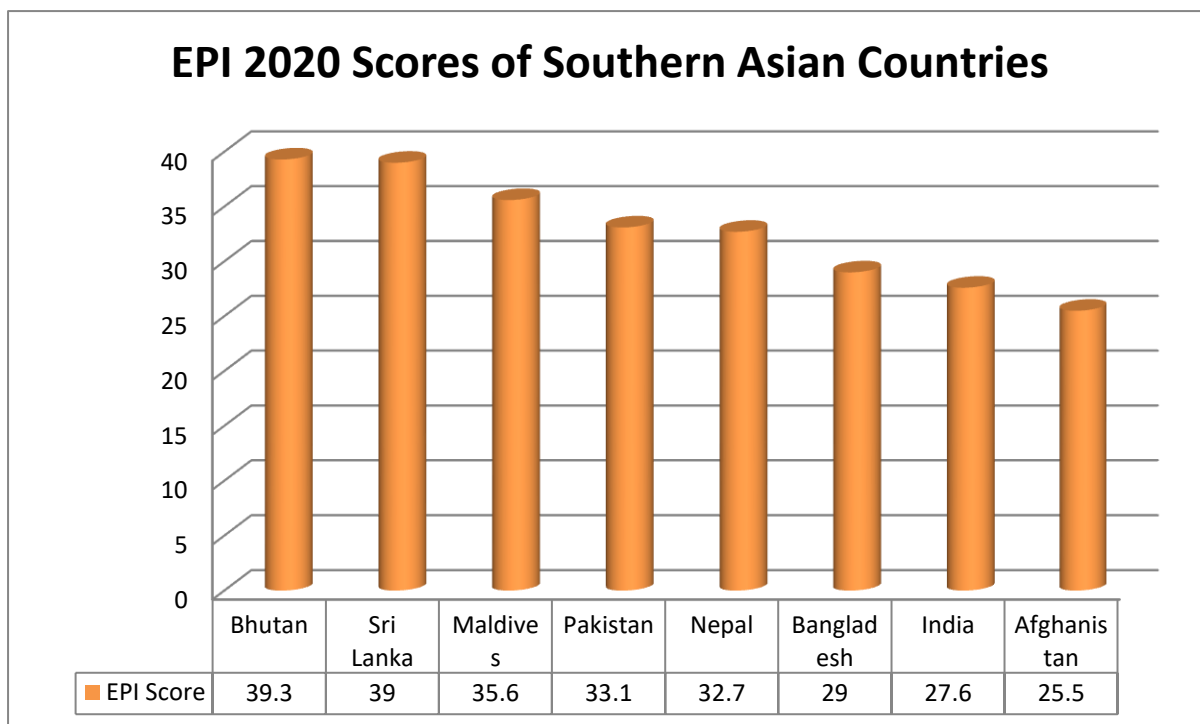- Denmark topped the index with a score of 82.5.

## India's Performance in Environment Performance Index – 2020

- India scored 27.6 out of 100

- 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.

- Scored below the regional average on parameters related to biodiversity and ecosystem services too.

- 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.

The report points out that India is quite far from achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets on the environment. Government policy may exist but has not proved enough. The need is to progress towards meeting its climate targets and goals through better governance. The report's findings show that the most crucial distinction between the worst and the best performers in the EPI has been good governance.

## Comparison India's EPI Score with Southern Asian and G20 Countries:



### EPI Scores of G20 Countries

| | UK | France | Germany | Japan | Australia | Canada | Italy | USA | South Korea | Mexico | Argentina | Brazil | Russia | Saudi Arabia | South Africa | Turkey | Indonesia | China | India |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EPI Score | 81.3 | 80 | 77.2 | 75.1 | 74.9 | 71 | 71 | 69.3 | 66.5 | 52.6 | 52.2 | 51.2 | 50.5 | 44 | 43.1 | 42.6 | 37.8 | 37.3 | 27.6 |

## EPI 2020 Scores of Southern Asian Countries

| | Bhutan | Sri Lanka | Maldives | Pakistan | Nepal | Bangladesh | India | Afghanistan |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ EPI Score | 39.3 | 39 | 35.6 | 33.1 | 32.7 | 29 | 27.6 | 25.5 |

## Recent policy efforts by the government for environmental protection:

- Decision to implement Bharat Stage-6 (BS-VI) emission standards directly, leaving India Stage-5 (BS-V) with effect from April 1, 2020.

- A framework for the production and sale of electric vehicles is under construction by 2030.

- To accelerate the transition to renewable energy sources, the National Solar Mission has revised the target of installing 20 GW of solar capacity by 2021-22 to 100 GW.

## Way Forward:

- The government must take a hard look at the problem areas the report highlights and, with the help of all stakeholders, act on safeguarding the environment and not only protect it from further degradation, but also try and reverse the damage wherever possible.

- 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.

**References:**

1. https://epi.yale.edu/epi-results/2020/country/ind

2. https://epi.yale.edu/about-epi

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4. https://epi.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/IND_EPI2020_CP.pdf