

Global Drug policy index, 2021

November 10, 2021

In news– A first of its kind global drug policy index 2021 has been released recently.

About the index

- The index measures and compares national-level drug policies, providing each country with a score and ranking that shows how much their drug policies and their implementation align with the UN principles of human rights, health and development.
- It is a data-driven global analysis of drug policies and their implementation.
- **It is a project of the Harm Reduction Consortium**, which was established in 2013.
- It is **composed of 75 indicators** running across **five broad dimensions** of drug policy: criminal justice, extreme responses, health and harm reduction, access to internationally controlled medicines, and development.
- It highlights that the global dominance of drug policies based on repression and punishment has led to low scores overall, with a median score of just 48 out of 100 for all 30 countries which is assessed as a “drug policy failure” and a sign for urgent measures to deal with the situation.

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

- Reflecting a long-standing global trend towards the abolition of the death penalty, the report highlights that only **three out of these 30 countries – India, Indonesia and Thailand retain capital punishment** for certain drug offences.

India's performance–

- **India's rank is 18** out of 30 countries.
- India has an overall score of 46/100.
- On the criteria of use of extreme sentencing and responses, it has a score of 63/100.
- On health and harm reduction, 49/100; on proportionality of criminal justice response, 38/100; on availability and access of internationally controlled substances for the relief of pain and suffering, 33 /100.