

World Risk Index 2020 rankings is important since it gives an idea on the preparedness of 181 countries across the globe to tackle the deleterious effects of climate change. This article throws light on the rankings of India in 2019 and 2020. It also shares details of the safest countries and countries facing highest risk.

Aspiring civil servants need to stay updated with the latest developments in the domain of Environment and Ecology, which is an important part of the syllabus for the [IAS Exam](#).

## World Risk Index 2020 - Introduction

1. The World Risk Index is released by the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), Bundnis Entwicklung Hilft and the University of Stuttgart in Germany.
2. The World Risk Index is part of the World Risk Report.
3. This index is released every year.
4. It was first released in 2011.
5. It is calculated on a country-by-country basis, through the multiplication of exposure and vulnerability and describes the disaster risk for various countries and regions.
6. In the framework of the WorldRiskIndex, disaster risk is analyzed as a complex interplay of natural hazards and social, political and environmental factors.
7. Unlike current approaches that focus strongly on the analysis of the various natural hazards, the WorldRiskIndex, in addition to exposure analysis, focuses on the vulnerability of the population, i.e. its susceptibility, its capacities to cope with and to adapt to future natural events as well as the consequences of climate change.

## World Risk Index 2020 - Indicators

World Risk Index 2020 is calculated on the basis of indicators which are divided into 4 components.

1. Exposure to natural hazards such as floods, droughts, earthquakes, sea level rise and storms.
2. Coping capacities as a function of economic security, medical services, and governance.
3. Susceptibility as a function of public infrastructure.
4. Nutrition and the general economic framework.

## World Risk Index 2020 - India

1. As per the World Risk Report 2020, India (6.62) was 'poorly prepared' to deal with 'climate reality', due to which it was more vulnerable to extreme natural disasters.

- India has been ranked at 89th position among 181 countries on the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020.

## World Risk Index (South Asian Countries) - 2020 & 2019 Comparison

The below table gives the Global rank of India and other South Asian Countries

Country	2020	2019
<b>India</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>85</b>
Afghanistan	57	53
Nepal	121	116
Bhutan	152	143
Bangladesh	13	10
Sri Lanka	74	73
Maldives	171	169
Pakistan	87	80

## World Risk Index 2020 - Safest Countries

The below table gives the list of top 10 countries that are ranked as safest as per World Risk Index 2020.

Rank (Safest)	Country	Index
1	Qatar	0.31
2	Malta	0.66
3	Saint Vincent and Grenadines	0.81
4	Grenada	0.97
5	Saudi Arabia	1.04
6	Barbados	1.39

7	Iceland	1.69
8	Egypt	1.78
9	Finland	1.96
10	Estonia	2.03

## World Risk Index - Classification of Risks

The Risks of countries are divided in the following manner as per World Risk Index.

1. Very Low Risk has a score in the range of 0.31 to 3.29
2. Low Risk has a score in the range of 3.30 to 5.67
3. Medium Risk has a score in the range of 5.68 to 7.58
4. High Risk has a score in the range of 7.59 to 10.75
5. Very High Risk has a score in the range of 10.76 to 49.74

## World Risk Index (2020) - Continents & Countries (Highest Risk)

1. Among the continents, Oceania ranks 1st in terms of highest risk. Small island states, especially in the South Pacific and the Caribbean, were disproportionately represented among high-risk countries
2. African continent faces the 2nd highest risk.
3. Americas is in the 3rd position, followed by Asia and Europe.
4. Vanuatu was the country with the highest disaster risk worldwide as per World Risk Index 2020.
5. Among the countries with highest risks, Tonga and Dominica occupy the 2nd and 3rd position.
6. More than 2/3rd of the most vulnerable countries in the world are located in Africa.

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