

5. Responsible Nations Index (RNI) – Reports

India ranked 16th globally in the inaugural Responsible Nations Index 2026, launched by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

Responsible Nations Index (RNI)

About the Responsible Nations Index (RNI)

The Responsible Nations Index (RNI) is a global composite index that assesses how responsibly nations exercise power

1. Towards their citizens
2. Towards the international community
3. Towards the planet

Unlike conventional indices that focus on economic output or military power, RNI evaluates ethical conduct, inclusiveness, sustainability, and global responsibility. It reflects a normative framework of governance, emphasising values, accountability, and long-term global well-being.

Institutional Framework

Developed by- World Intellectual Foundation (WIF)

Academic Collaboration- Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)

Methodological Validation- Indian Institute of Management Mumbai

This multi-institutional framework ensures-

1. Academic rigour
2. Methodological credibility
3. Policy relevance

Assessment Framework of RNI

The index is anchored in three core responsibilities, operationalised through-

1. 7 dimensions
2. 15 aspects
3. 58 indicators

1. Internal Responsibility- Focuses on how the state treats its own citizens.

Key elements include-

1. Ethical and transparent governance
2. Social justice and rule of law
3. Inclusiveness across gender, caste, ethnicity, and income groups
4. Protection of human rights and civil liberties

2. Environmental Responsibility- Evaluates a nation's commitment to planetary well-being.

Covers-

1. Environmental sustainability
2. Climate change mitigation and adaptation
3. Biodiversity conservation
4. Responsible use of natural resources

Emphasises intergenerational equity and ecological stewardship.

3. External Responsibility- Assesses conduct beyond national borders.

Includes

1. Commitment to multilateralism and global cooperation
2. Peaceful international behaviour

3. Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief
4. Respect for international law and norms

About the World Intellectual Foundation (WIF)

Nature- A "think-and-do" tank translating ideas into actionable impact.

Guiding Philosophy- *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (the world is one family).

Registered on- 22 January 2021

Headquarters- New Delhi, India

Core Objectives of WIF

1. Promote responsible global governance.
2. Support research-driven policy implementation.
3. Encourage social inclusion, ethics, and humanitarianism.
4. Facilitate knowledge exchange through dialogue-based global platforms.
5. Bridge the gap between academic research and policy action.

RNI 2026 Rankings – Key Highlights

Top 5 Countries

1. Singapore
2. Switzerland
3. Denmark
4. Cyprus
5. Sweden

India's Performance

Rank- 16

Status- Top-ranked Asian nation

Reflects-

1. Strong performance in ethical governance and inclusiveness.
2. Increasing global engagement and responsible international conduct.

Comparative Positions

1. China- Rank 68
2. United States- Rank 66
3. Pakistan- Rank 90
4. Last- Central African Republic (Rank 154)

Significance of the Responsible Nations Index

Conceptual Significance-

Marks a shift from GDP and power centric metrics to responsibility and ethics-based evaluation. Reframes national success in terms of how power is exercised, not merely how much power is possessed.

Governance and Policy Relevance

Encourages

1. Ethical governance practices
2. Inclusive and people-centric development
3. Environmental accountability

Serves as a diagnostic tool for policymakers to identify governance gaps.

Global Alignment

Closely aligns with

1. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
2. Climate responsibility frameworks
3. Human rights and humanitarian norms

India's Strategic Positioning– Reinforces India's image as a responsible global actor rather than a purely power-seeking state.

Complements India's diplomatic narrative rooted in–

1. Moral leadership
2. Multilateralism
3. South–South cooperation

Concluding Remarks

The Responsible Nations Index introduces a values-based lens to global rankings.

It underscores that– True national strength lies in ethical governance, sustainability, and global responsibility. India's strong performance reflects its growing role in shaping a more humane, inclusive, and sustainable global order.

Source– <https://www.firstpost.com/india/india-launches-responsible-nations-index-to-rank-countries-beyond-gdp-and-power-13971770.html>

