THE ECONOMIC TIMES | News

India says environmental performance index based on 'unscientific methods'

Synopsis

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on Wednesday rebutted the Environmental Performance Index 2022 in which it was placed at the bottom on a list of 180 countries judged for their environmental performances. The ministry said the index has many indicators based on unfounded assumptions and that some of these indicators are extrapolated and based on surmises and unscientific methods.

ANI

RELATED

India ranks lowest among 180 countries in environmental performance index

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on Wednesday rebutted the Environmental Performance Index 2022 in which it was placed at the bottom on a list of 180 countries judged for their environmental performances. The ministry said the index has many indicators based on unfounded assumptions and that some of these indicators are extrapolated and based on surmises and unscientific methods.

India ranked lowest among 180 nations in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) published recently by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Columbia University, followed by the UK and Finland. Denmark topped the list.

Using 40 performance indicators across 11 issue categories, the EPI ranks 180 countries on climate change performance, environmental health and ecosystem vitality. "India, with increasingly dangerous air quality and rapidly rising greenhouse gas emissions, falls to the bottom of rankings for the first time," the report read.

But the Indian government in a press release has deemed the indicators flawed and provided eleven reasons why it does not accept its analysis and conclusions the report presents.

The ministry has pointed out that the indicators on water quality, water use efficiency, and waste generation per capita which are closely linked to sustainable consumption and production are not included in the index.

It also said that indicators like agro biodiversity, soil health, food loss and waste are not included even though they are important for developing countries with large agrarian populations.

"Efforts must be made to include metrics that truly capture ecosystem productivity such that regulatory, provisioning as well as cultural services provided by various ecosystems like forests, wetlands, croplands are assessed and reflected in performance," it said in the release.

On greenhouse emissions, the ministry says no indicator in the report talks about renewable energy, energy efficiency and process optimization. The selection of indicators is biased and incomplete, it said.

On environmental health indicators, the government said the index fails to have an indicator that can measure actual water quality based on criteria for healthy water.

"India being an agrarian country has taken major steps towards the improvement of its agriculture sector and its

practices such as Agro biodiversity, water use efficiency and soil health. With only two indicators under the Agriculture category the efforts of India towards the improvement of its agriculture sector and its practices are not reflected," it said.

EPI projections indicate that just four countries -- **China**, India, the US and **Russia** -- will account for over 50% of residual global greenhouse gas emissions in 2050 if current trends hold.

Read the ET Print Edition now!

Indulge in digital reading experience of ET newspaper exactly as it is.

Read Now

*(Catch all the **Business News**, **Breaking News** Events and **Latest News** Updates on **The Economic Times**.)*   **…more**

ETPrime stories of the day

AVIATION

Stall and recovery: revenge travel by Indians drive airlines' international passenger traffic

9 mins read

POLICY AND REGULATIONS

Revisiting GMO laws: why it is high time to set up biotech regulator to calm food-security jitters

7 mins read

CYBERSECURITY

Starting trouble: inside India's long wait for a cybersecurity strategy

5 mins read

Subscribe to **ETPrime**