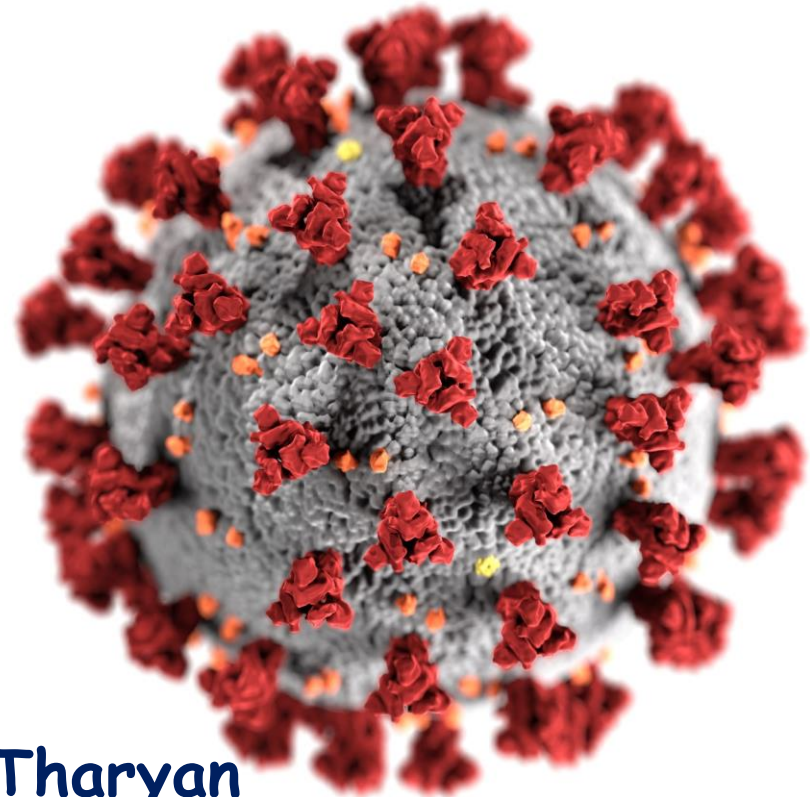




## The Swedish Conundrum: Part II



Why did Sweden think  
their policy could work?  
Could such a policy work  
in India?



Prathap Tharyan



## Life during the coronavirus pandemic in Sweden



Why did the Swedish Public Health Agency think this strategy would work in Sweden?

## WHY DID THEY THINK THIS POLICY COULD BE ACHIEVED?

- Constitutional provisions
- No political grandstanding

- Law recognizes individual rights: right to assembly, free movement
- In Sweden, most infection control measures are implemented without coercion.
- The Public Health Agency recommended that Swedish government should invoke the **Communicable Diseases Act**: notifiable infectious disease- dangerous to public health and to society
- County medical doctors could now mandate quarantine or isolation, if needed.
- The government followed Public Health Agency recommendations with legislation:
  - limiting freedom of assembly and temporarily banning gatherings,
  - banning people from visiting nursing homes,
  - physically closing secondary schools and universities (to online).



Folkhälsomyndigheten  
PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF SWEDEN

## WHY DID THEY THINK THIS POLICY COULD BE ACHIEVED?

- Economic and social indicators
- Health system characteristics
- Population characteristics
- Governance arrangements

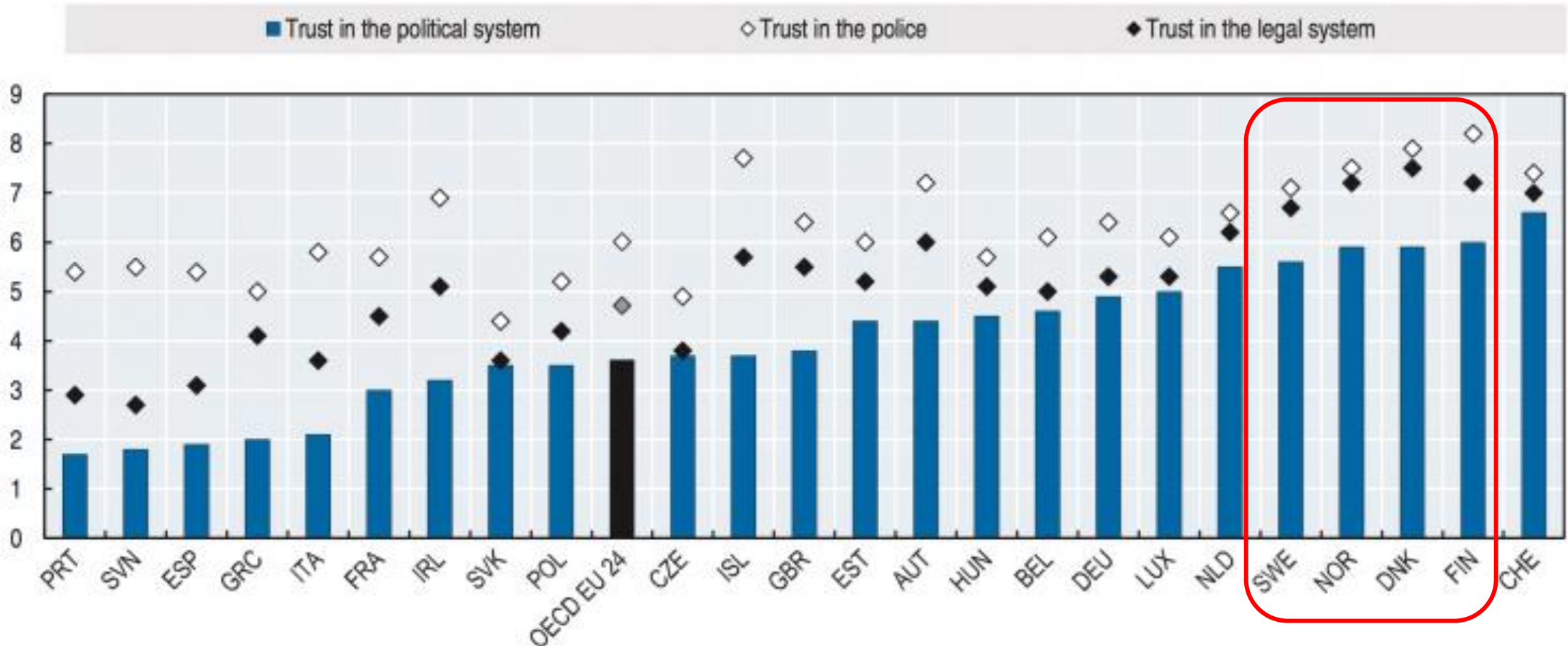
### Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the World's Best Health Care Systems-2020; Public

Indicator	Units	2019
Health expenditure per capita in PPP	int. \$ per capita	6,528.64
IHME Healthcare access and quality Index	Score (0-100)	96.05
Physicians (per 1,000 people)	per 1,000 people	5.63
Nurses and midwives (per 1,000 people)	per 1,000 people	11.51
Hospital beds (per 1,000 people)	per 1,000 people	2.59
Urban population	% of total population	87.73
Population density	people per sq. km	25.28
Population 65+, % of total	%	20.34
Population 80+	Persons	534,000.00
Government effectiveness	-2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong)	1.81
Rule of law	-2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong)	1.89

Sweden is one of the strongest, most stable and high-compliance tax states in the world, despite record high tax-rates; Social security high  
Also has 97% child immunization coverage



# TRUST IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM



Note: Response options range from 0 ("No trust at all") to 10 ("Complete trust"). The OECD EU average is the population-weighted average of the values included in the chart.

Source: Eurostat (2015), European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=ilc\\_pw03&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=ilc_pw03&lang=en).

## MUTUAL TRUST IS KEY

- “First, **citizens** tend to place a lot of **faith in public agencies** and trust that they act in the public interest.
- Second, the **authorities** on their part **trust citizens** to heed their advice.
- Third, there is a **high level of interpersonal trust** where Swedes trust one other to act responsibly.”

*Lars Trägårdh*, historian and public commentator

# SOCIAL DISTANCING IS NOT NEW: MOST SWEDES LIVE ALONE



<https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20190821-why-so-many-young-swedes-live-alone>

Sweden nurtures independent individuals

The welfare state helps achieve this goal

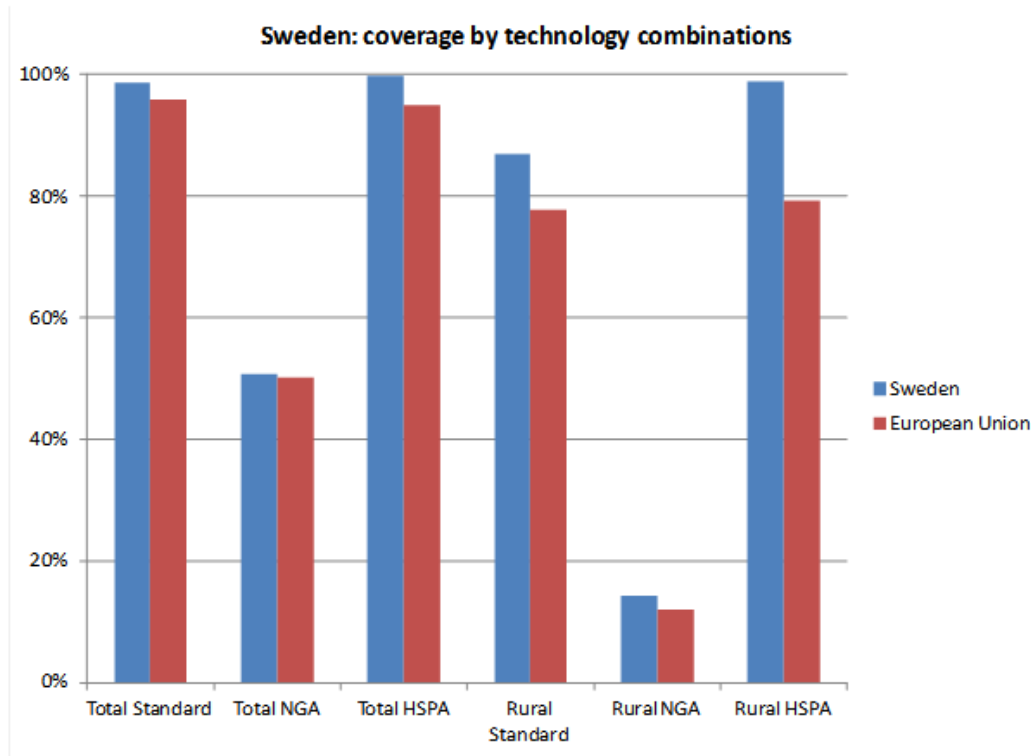
Most young Swedes leave home when aged 18 and 19, compared to the EU average of 26

**More than half of Swedish (52%) live in compact single-person households, the highest proportion in the EU**

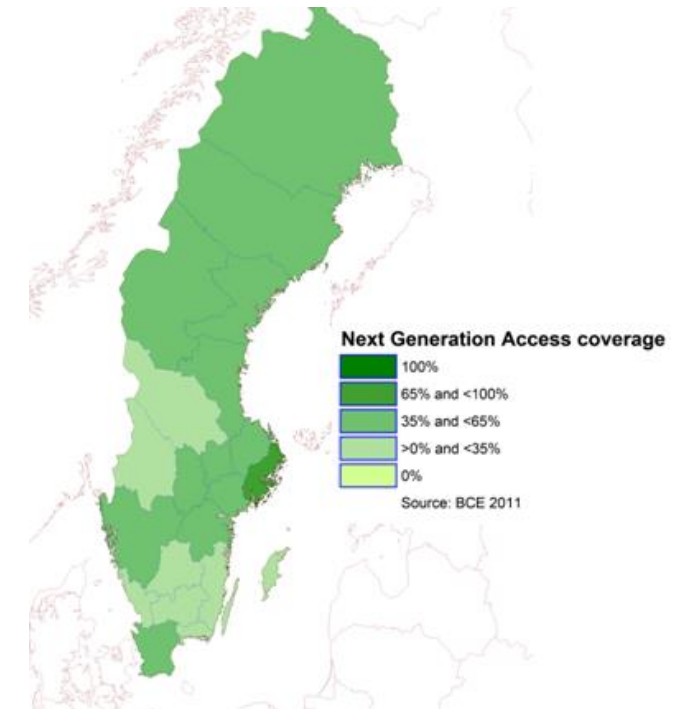
**“Ansam är stark” – “Alone is strong”: An old Swedish proverb**

# SWEDEN HAS EXCELLENT INTERNET COVERAGE

Broadband coverage

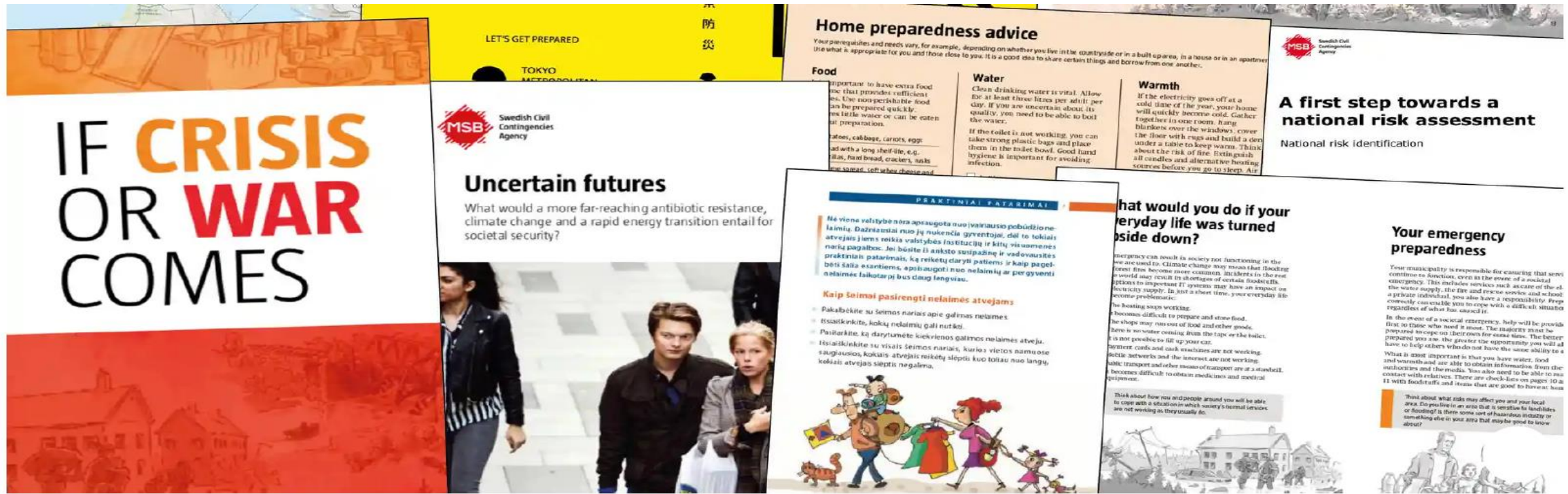


Superfast broadband coverage



Makes working from home a realistic option





- The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, the **MSB**, is Europe's foremost innovator in population-wide preparedness.
- Sweden has a **National Pandemic Group** (since 2008) and **pandemic plans** (since 2005)- headed by the Public Health Agency
- **"It's an obligation for citizens to prepare themselves,"** the MSB's director general, Dan Eliasson, said in an interview to The Guardian

## PREPAREDNESS FOR EMERGENCIES

Index developed with

The  
EconomistINTELLIGENCE  
UNIT

# GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY INDEX: 2019



## OVERALL SCORE

Rank	Score
1 United States	83.5
2 United Kingdom	77.9
3 Netherlands	75.6
4 Australia	75.5
5 Canada	75.3
6 Thailand	73.2
7 Sweden	72.1
8 Denmark	70.4
9 South Korea	70.2
10 Finland	68.7
11 France	68.2
12 Slovenia	67.2
13 Switzerland	67.0
14 Germany	66.0

## 1. PREVENTION OF THE EMERGENCE OR RELEASE OF PATHOGENS

Rank	Score
1 United States	83.1
2 Sweden	81.1
3 Thailand	75.7
4 Netherlands	73.7
5 Denmark	72.9
6 France	71.2
7 Canada	70.0
8 Australia	68.9
9 Finland	68.5
10 United Kingdom	68.3
11 Norway	68.2
12 Slovenia	67.0
13 Germany	66.5
14 Ireland	63.9

## 2. EARLY DETECTION & REPORTING FOR EPIDEMICS OF POTENTIAL INTERNATIONAL CONCERN

Rank	Score
1 United States	98.2
2 Australia	97.3
2 Latvia	97.3
4 Canada	96.4
5 South Korea	92.1
6 United Kingdom	87.3
7 Denmark	86.0
7 Netherlands	86.0
7 Sweden	86.0
10 Germany	84.6
11 Spain	83.0
12 Brazil	82.4
13 Lithuania	81.5
13 South Africa	81.5

## 3. RAPID RESPONSE TO AND MITIGATION OF THE SPREAD OF AN EPIDEMIC

Rank	Score
1 United Kingdom	91.9
2 United States	79.7
3 Switzerland	79.3
4 Netherlands	79.1
5 Thailand	78.6
6 South Korea	71.5
7 Finland	69.2
8 Portugal	67.7
9 Brazil	67.1
10 Australia	65.9
11 Singapore	64.6
12 Slovenia	63.3
13 France	62.9
14 Sweden	62.8

#### 4. SUFFICIENT & ROBUST HEALTH SYSTEM TO TREAT THE SICK & PROTECT HEALTH WORKERS

Rank	Score
1 United States	73.8
2 Thailand	70.5
3 Netherlands	70.2
4 Canada	67.7
5 Denmark	63.8
6 Australia	63.5
7 Switzerland	62.5
8 France	60.9
9 Finland	60.8
10 Belgium	60.5
11 United Kingdom	59.8
12 Spain	59.6
13 South Korea	58.7
14 Norway	58.5
15 Malaysia	57.1
16 Serbia	56.6
17 Portugal	55.0
18 Argentina	54.9
18 Slovenia	54.9
20 Sweden	49.3
21 Poland	48.9
22 Germany	48.2

#### 5. COMMITMENTS TO IMPROVING NATIONAL CAPACITY, FINANCING AND ADHERENCE TO NORMS

Rank	Score
1 United States	85.3
2 United Kingdom	81.2
3 Australia	77.0
4 Finland	75.4
5 Canada	74.7
6 Mexico	73.9
7 Indonesia	72.5
8 Lithuania	72.1
8 Slovenia	72.1
10 Liberia	71.5
11 Sweden	71.3
12 Thailand	70.9
13 Japan	70.0
14 Argentina	68.8
15 Estonia	67.6
16 Kenya	67.1
17 Ethiopia	65.8
18 Switzerland	65.6
19 Uganda	65.4
20 Kyrgyz Republic	64.8
21 Vietnam	64.6
22 Norway	64.4

#### 6. OVERALL RISK ENVIRONMENT AND COUNTRY VULNERABILITY TO BIOLOGICAL THREATS

Rank	Score
1 Liechtenstein	87.9
2 Norway	87.1
3 Switzerland	86.2
4 Luxembourg	84.7
5 Austria	84.6
6 Sweden	84.5
7 Andorra	83.5
8 Monaco	83.1
9 France	83.0
10 Canada	82.7
11 Germany	82.3
12 Netherlands	81.7
13 Iceland	81.2
14 Finland	81.1
15 Singapore	80.9
16 San Marino	80.5
17 Denmark	80.3
18 Australia	79.4
19 Belgium	78.2
19 United States	78.2
21 Ireland	77.4
22 Portugal	77.3

## GHS INDEX RESULTS

All data are normalized to a scale of 0 to 100, where 100 = best health security conditions.

Most prepared

More prepared

Least prepared



# GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY INDEX: 2019

## Sweden

**72.1** Index Score

**7/195**



**PREVENT**

**81.1**

**34.8**



**DETECT**

**86.0**

**41.9**



**RESPOND**

**62.8**

**38.4**



**HEALTH**

**49.3**

**26.4**



**NORMS**

**71.3**

**48.5**



**RISK**

**84.5**

**55.0**

Average: all 195 countries

## GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY INDEX: 2019

Hospital beds: 2.2 beds/ 1000  
 ICU beds: 5.8/ 100.000  
 ICU beds in hospitals: 526  
**All lower than most EU countries**

Hence it was important that health systems were not over-run

	COUNTRY SCORE	AVERAGE SCORE*
<b>HEALTH SYSTEM</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>26.4</b>
Health capacity in clinics, hospitals and community care centers	48.4	24.4
Medical countermeasures and personnel deployment	66.7	21.2
Healthcare access	44	38.4
Communications with healthcare workers during a public health emergency	0	15.1
Infection control practices and availability of equipment	50	20.8
Capacity to test and approve new medical countermeasures	100	42.2

# WHY DID SWEDEN BELIEVE THIS POLICY WOULD WORK?

- The decision was made on public health grounds and there could be no political over-riding of decisions; yet, decision making is usually by consensus in Sweden
- Sweden was well resourced through compliance with high taxation; health care spending is sufficient to ensure a high quality public health system; social welfare spending is also well resourced
- A small population of 10.1 million with a low population density; measures like social distancing and working from home were feasible (high digital literacy and broadband penetrance)
- Most people lived in single accommodation and multigenerational families that could spread infections are very rare
- Although there were many older people, most were independent and lived alone; the frail and sick were looked after in large, state-owned, privately run nursing homes
- Sweden ranks high in health preparedness and emergency preparedness Sweden has a long record of mutual trust between government and its people and compliance with government recommendations is usually very high



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# **COULD INDIA HAVE FOLLOWED THE SWEDISH STRATEGY TO COMBAT COVID-19?**

**LETS DO A COMPARATIVE DEEP-DIVE**

# ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS TO PREVENT COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS:

## SWEDEN VERSUS INDIA

### Sweden

Clear policy objectives based on evidence contextualized for local needs

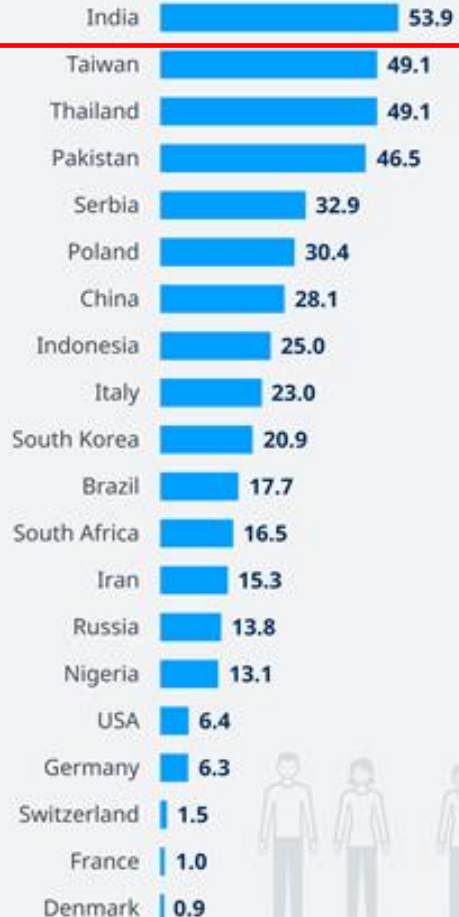
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Urban population	% of total population	87.73
Population density	people per sq. km	25.28
Population 65+, % of total	%	20.34
Population 80+	Persons	534,000.00
Government effectiveness	-2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong)	1.81
Rule of law	-2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong)	1.89

### India

Unclear policy objectives reacting in crisis mode without considering contextual limitations

Indicator	Units	2019
Health expenditure per capita in PPP	int. \$ per capita	296.602
IHME Healthcare access and quality Index	Score (0-100)	44.573
Physicians (per 1,000 people)	per 1,000 people	0.793
Nurses and midwives (per 1,000 people)	per 1,000 people	2.191
Hospital beds (per 1,000 people)	per 1,000 people	0.685
Urban population	% of total population	34.439
Population density	people per sq. km	460.174
Population 65+, % of total	%	6.333
Population 80+	Persons	13,073,000.000
Government effectiveness	-2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong)	0.315
Rule of law	-2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong)	0.034

### Percentage of generations living together\*



Sweden | 0.3

\*Percentage of people aged 30 to 49 living with their parents. Selection, including top three and bottom three.



Source: Moritz Kuhn

## Comorbid illnesses

- Higher prevalence of risk factors for death with COVID-19 in people in India than in Sweden- Cardiovascular disease, Diabetes, Smoking, less healthy life-styles
- Also higher levels of air-pollution and chronic lung disease that are poor prognostic indicator with COVID-19 disease

Teo K, Lear S, Islam S, et al. Prevalence of a Healthy Lifestyle Among Individuals With Cardiovascular Disease in High-, Middle- and Low-Income Countries: The Prospective Urban Rural Epidemiology (PURE) Study. JAMA. 2013;309(15):1613–1621. doi:10.1001/jama.2013.3519

Rosengren A, Smyth A, Rangarajan S, et al. Socioeconomic status and risk of cardiovascular disease in 20 low-income, middle-income, and high-income countries: the Prospective Urban Rural Epidemiologic (PURE) study. Lancet Glob Health. 2019;7(6):e748-e760. doi:10.1016/S2214-109X(19)30045-2



## Trust In Institutions in India

Figure 4D.8: Effectiveness and Procedural Fairness of Police, Government Officials, and Courts

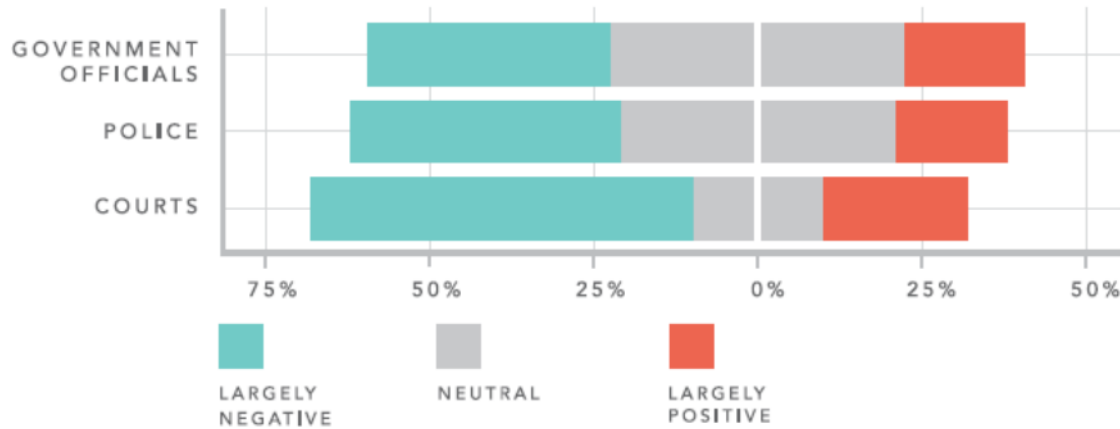
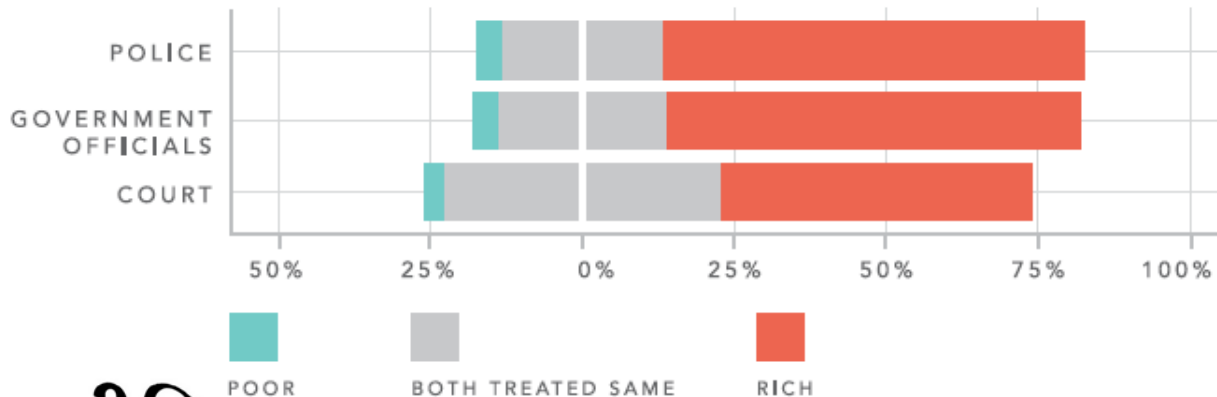


Figure 4D.12: Rich versus Poor - Who will the Police/Government Officials/ Courts favour?



## Trust Between People in India

Trust between people in India is seen mostly within:

- castes,
- tribal,
- linguistic,
- religious and
- regional groups

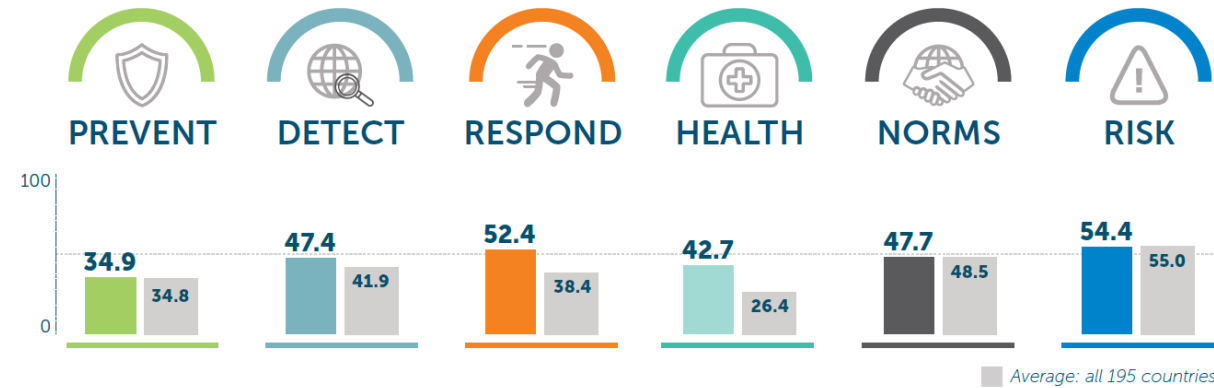
Does the government trust the people?

# GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY INDEX: 2019

## India

**46.5** Index Score

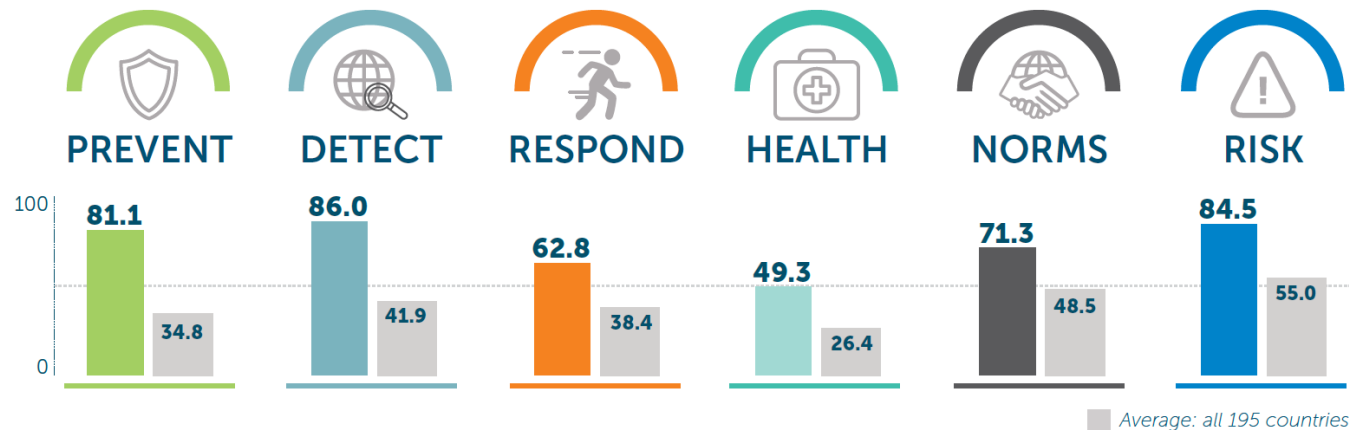
**57/195**



## Sweden

**72.1** Index Score

**7/195**



### HEALTH SYSTEM

COUNTRY SCORE

AVERAGE SCORE\*

**42.7**

**26.4**

Health capacity in clinics, hospitals and community care centers

29.4

24.4

Medical countermeasures and personnel deployment

0

21.2

Healthcare access

29.6

38.4

Communications with healthcare workers during a public health emergency

100

15.1

Infection control practices and availability of equipment

50

20.8

Capacity to test and approve new medical countermeasures

50

42.2

### HEALTH SYSTEM

COUNTRY SCORE

AVERAGE SCORE\*

**49.3**

**26.4**

Health capacity in clinics, hospitals and community care centers

48.4

24.4

Medical countermeasures and personnel deployment

66.7

21.2

Healthcare access

44

38.4

Communications with healthcare workers during a public health emergency

0

15.1

Infection control practices and availability of equipment

50

20.8

Capacity to test and approve new medical countermeasures

100

42.2

# SINCE OLDER PEOPLE ARE MOST AT RISK OF DEATH: **SWEDEN** versus **INDIA**

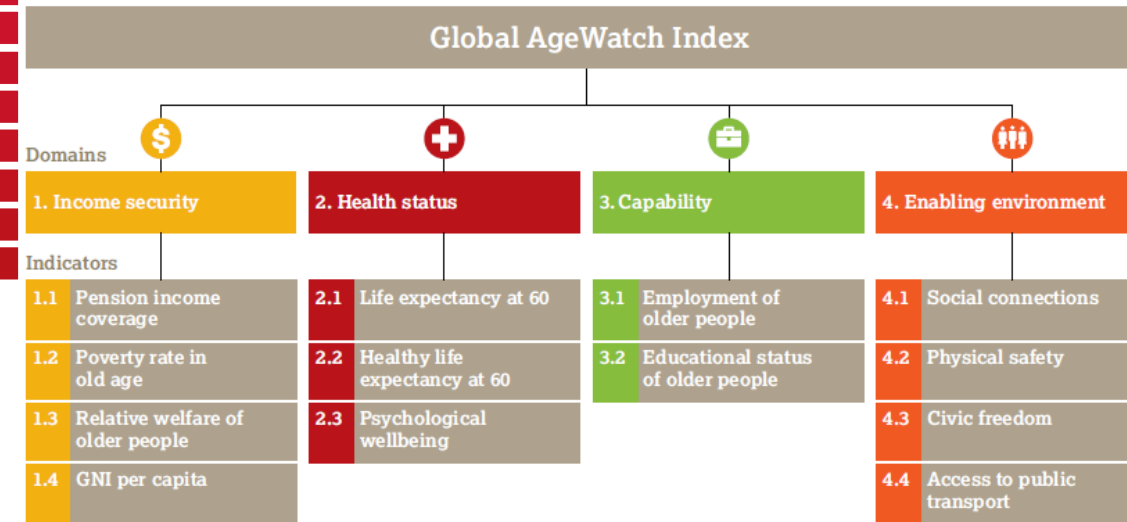
## Global AgeWatch Index 2015

Table 1: Global AgeWatch Index overall rankings

1. Switzerland	21. Chile	41. Vietnam	61. Croatia	81. Ghana
2. Norway	22. Czech Republic	42. Mauritius	62. Dominican Republic	82. Honduras
3. Sweden	23. Estonia	43. Armenia	63. Lithuania	83. Lao PDR
4. Germany	24. Belgium	44. Ecuador	64. Belarus	84. Morocco
5. Canada	25. Spain	45. Romania	65. Russia	85. Jordan
6. Netherlands	26. Slovenia	46. Sri Lanka	66. Serbia	86. Nigeria
7. Iceland	27. Uruguay	47. Malta	67. Bangladesh	87. Iraq
8. Japan	28. Costa Rica	48. Peru	68. Montenegro	88. Uganda
9. USA	29. Georgia	49. Bulgaria	69. Paraguay	89. Rwanda
10. United Kingdom	30. Cyprus	50. Philippines	70. Nepal	90. Zambia
11. Denmark	31. Argentina	51. Kyrgyzstan	71. India	91. Tanzania
12. New Zealand	32. Poland	52. China	72. Mongolia	92. Pakistan
13. Austria	33. Mexico	53. Albania	73. Ukraine	93. West Bank & Gaza
14. Finland	34. Thailand	54. El Salvador	74. Indonesia	94. Mozambique
15. Ireland	35. Latvia	55. Bolivia	75. Turkey	95. Malawi
16. France	36. Colombia	56. Brazil	76. Venezuela	96. Afghanistan
17. Australia	37. Italy	57. Nicaragua	77. Moldova	
18. Israel	38. Portugal	58. Tajikistan	78. South Africa	
19. Luxembourg	39. Hungary	59. Guatemala	79. Greece	
20. Panama	40. Slovakia	60. South Korea	80. Cambodia	

Overall ranking: Sweden:3; India: 71

	Sweden	India
Age 65+	20.34%	6.33%
Persons 80+	534,000	1,373,000





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# **COULD INDIA HAVE FOLLOWED THE SWEDISH STRATEGY TO COMBAT COVID-19?**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

**“LAGOM”: “JUST RIGHT;” “NOT TOO MUCH,” “NOT TOO LITTLE.”**



news.bitcoin.com

**Let's hope the “Lagom” approach works out well for Sweden**



Be sure to watch the next episode

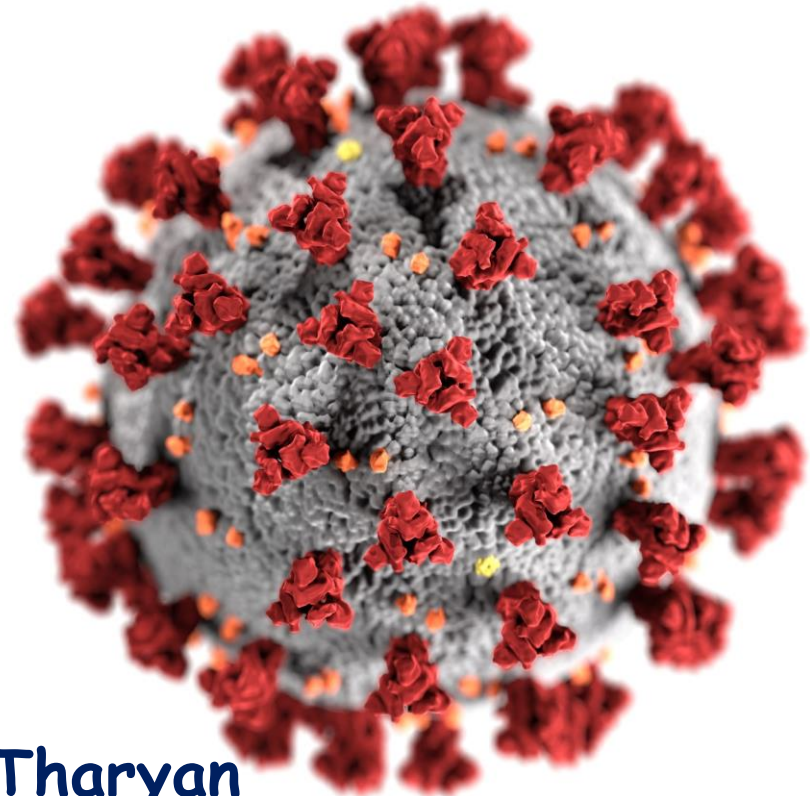
## The Swedish Conundrum: Part III

3

Is the Swedish  
Strategy working?

**Sliding  
Doors**

With Rohan & Susheel



Prathap Tharyan