



Corruption Perceptions Index 2019: Transparency International

Why in News

India's ranking in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI-2019) has slipped from 78 to 80 compared to the year [2018](#).

- The 2019 CPI draws on 13 surveys and expert assessments to measure public sector corruption in **180 countries and territories**, giving each a score from **zero (highly corrupt)** to **100 (very clean)**.
- **First** launched in **1995** by the Transparency International, the Index has been widely credited with putting the issue of corruption on the international policy agenda.
- **Transparency International** is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation dedicated to fighting corruption. It was founded in **1993** and is based in **Berlin, Germany**.

Key Points //

Status check

The Corruption Perceptions Index uses a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). The global average for 2019 is 43

Country	Score in 2019	Rank in 2019	Change in rank from '18
Denmark	87	1	0
New Zealand	87	1	1
U.K.	77	12	-1
U.S.	69	23	-1
India	41	80	-2
China	41	80	7
Brazil	35	106	-1
Pakistan	32	120	-3
Russia	28	137	1
Bangladesh	26	146	3
Somalia	9	180	0

▪ Global Status

- A majority of countries are showing **little to no improvement in tackling corruption**.
- In the last eight years, only 22 countries significantly improved their CPI scores, including Greece, Guyana and Estonia. In the same period, among the 21 countries

that saw a significant fall in their scores are Canada, Australia and Nicaragua.

- In the remaining 137 countries, the levels of corruption show little to no change.
- Corruption is more pervasive in countries where money can flow freely into electoral campaigns and where governments only listen to the voices of wealthy or well-connected individuals.
- The vibrant economic powers like China (41), Indonesia (40), Vietnam (37), the Philippines (34) and others continue to struggle to tackle corruption. The **reasons include** keeping decision-making out of public scrutiny and silencing dissenting voices.

▪ **Top Rankers**

- New Zealand and Denmark, with scores of 87 each, followed by Finland (86), Singapore (85), Sweden (85) and Switzerland (85).

▪ **Bottom Rankers**

- The countries ranked at the bottom of the list are Somalia, South Sudan and Syria with scores of 9, 12 and 13 respectively.

▪ **Asia-Pacific Region**

- In 2019 Index, the **average score is 45** (marginally better than the **global average of 43**), after many consecutive years of an average score of 44, which “**illustrates general stagnation**” across the region.
- Despite the presence of high performers like New Zealand (87), Singapore (85), Australia (77), Hong Kong (76) and Japan (73), the Asia Pacific region hasn't witnessed substantial progress in anti-corruption efforts or results.
- Low performers like Afghanistan (16), North Korea (17) and Cambodia (20) continue to highlight serious challenges in the region.
- **China has improved its position** from 87 to 80 with a score of 41 out of 100 (same as that of India).

▪ **India's Performance**

- **India's score of 41 out of 100 remains the same as that in 2018.** It has been **ranked at number 80.**
- In democracies like India, unfair and opaque political financing, undue influence in decision-making and lobbying by powerful corporate interest groups, has resulted in stagnation or decline in the control of corruption.

Way Forward

- Transparency International has recommended a series of measures to combat rising corruption across the world. Following are the recommendations:
 - Manage **conflicts of interest.**
 - Control political financing.
 - Strengthen electoral integrity.
 - Regulate lobbying **activities.**
 - Empower citizens.
 - Tackle preferential treatment.
 - Reinforce checks and balances.

Source: TH