



## Corruption Perception Index 2020

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### Why in News

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India's rank has slipped six places to **86<sup>th</sup> among 180 countries** in **Corruption Perception Index (CPI)** released by Transparency International.

India was ranked 80<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries in 2019.

### Transparency International

- Transparency International is an international non-governmental organisation founded in **1993** based in **Berlin, Germany**
- its non profit purpose is to take action to **combat global Corruption with civil societal anti-corruption measures** and to **prevent criminal activities** arising from corruption.
- Its most notable publications include the **Global Corruption Barometer** and the **Corruption Perception Index**.

### Key Points

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- **About:**
  - The index ranks **180 countries and territories** by the perceived level of public sector corruption according to experts and business people.
  - It uses a scale of **zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean)**.
  - CPI 2020 paints a grim picture of the state of corruption worldwide. While most countries have made little to no progress in tackling corruption in nearly a decade, more than two-thirds of countries **score below 50, with an average score of just 43**.
  - Moreover, corruption not only undermines the **global health response to Cover-19** but contributes to a **continuing crisis of democracy**.

- **Top Performers:**

The top countries on the **Corruption Perception Index (CPI)** are **Denmark** and **New Zealand**, with scores of 88, followed by **Finland, Singapore, Sweden** and **Switzerland**, with scores of 85 each.

- **Poor Performers:**

**South Sudan** and **Somalia** are the bottom Countries with scores of 12 each, followed by Syria (14), Yemen (15) and Venezuela (15).

- **Regional Specific:**

- The highest scoring region is **Western Europe** and the **European Union** with an average score of 66.
- The lowest scoring regions are **Sub-Saharan Africa (32)** and **Eastern Europe and Central Asia (36)**.

- **India Specific:**

- In 2020, India's score is 40 (41 in 2019).
- India experienced slow progress in anti-corruption efforts, with several government commitments to reform not yet materialising effectively.

- **Corruption, Health & Covid-19:**

- Corruption shifts public spending away from essential public services. Countries with higher levels of corruption, regardless of economic development, tend to spend less on health.

Higher levels of corruption are associated with lower universal health care coverage and higher rates of infant and maternal mortality and deaths from cancer, diabetes, respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.
- Corruption is one of the key barriers to achieving the **United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, and the covid-19 pandemic is making those goals even more difficult to attain.
- Covid-19 is not just a health and economic crisis, but a corruption crisis as well, with countless lives lost due to the insidious effects of corruption undermining a fair and equitable global response.
- The Covid-19 response exposed vulnerabilities of **weak oversight and inadequate transparency**. Countries with higher levels of corruption tend to be the worst perpetrators of democratic and rule-of-law breaches while managing the COVID-19 crisis.

Governments exploiting the pandemic to suspend parliaments, renounce public accountability mechanisms, and incite violence against dissidents.

- **Recommendations:**

- **Strengthen oversight institutions** to ensure resources reach those most in need. **Anti-corruption authorities and oversight** institutions must have sufficient funds, resources and independence to perform their duties
- **Ensure open and transparent contracting** to combat wrong doing, identify conflicts of interest and ensure fair pricing.
- **Defend Democracy, Promote Civic Space** by enabling civil society groups and the media to hold governments accountable.
- **Publish relevant data and guarantee access to information** to ensure the public receives easy, accessible, timely and meaningful information.

**Source-IE**