



Corruption Perceptions Index 2018 : Transparency International

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India has been ranked at **78th place out of 180 countries** in '**Corruption Perception Index**' (CPI) released by **Transparency International** in 2018 against 2017's 81st, where it had slid from 79th in 2016.

- The index ranks the countries by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people.
- It uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.

Key Findings

- Continued failure of most countries to significantly control corruption is contributing to a **crisis of democracy** around the world.
- A **general lack of political will, weak institutions** and few political rights create an environment where corruption flourishes with little opposition.
- More than **two-thirds of countries score below 50**, with an average score of only **43**.
- **Denmark** and **New Zealand** top the Index with 88 and 87 points, respectively. **Somalia, South Sudan, and Syria** are at the bottom of the index, with 10, 13 and 13 points, respectively.
- The **highest scoring region** is **Western Europe** and the European Union, with an average score of 66, while the lowest scoring regions are Sub-Saharan Africa (average score 32) and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (average score 35).
- With a score of 71, the **United States** lost four points since last year, **dropping out of the top 20 countries** on the CPI for the first time since 2011. The low score comes at a time when the US is experiencing threats to its system of checks and balances as well as an erosion of ethical norms at the highest levels of power.

Indian Scenario

- India marginally **improved its score** to 41 (from 40 in 2017).

- Massive public mobilisation against corruption and voter turnout resulted in new governments and anti-corruption reforms in India, Malaysia, the Maldives, and Pakistan.
- Despite these encouraging developments, these are yet to translate into solid action against corruption.

Way Forward

To make real progress against corruption and strengthen democracy around the world, **Transparency International calls on all governments to:**

- **strengthen the institutions** responsible for maintaining checks and balances over political power, and ensure their ability to operate without intimidation;
- **close the implementation gap** between anti-corruption legislation, practice and enforcement;
- **support civil society organisations** which enhance political engagement and public oversight over government spending, particularly at the local level;
- **support a free and independent media**, and ensure the safety of journalists and their ability to work without intimidation or harassment.

Transparency International

- Transparency International, an **international non-governmental organization** which is based in **Berlin**, Germany was founded in 1993.
- Its nonprofit purpose is to take action to combat corruption and prevent criminal activities arising from corruption.
- It publishes various reports such as the **Global Corruption Barometer** and the **Corruption Perceptions Index**.