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# Corruption Perceptions Index 2025 – CPI

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SUBJECTS COVERED

POLITY

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ISSUING BODY	FREQUENCY	INDIA'S RANK	TOP PERFORMER
Transparency International (TI)	Annual	91 / 182 +5	Denmark

### KEY FINDINGS

- India CPI score: 39/100 (improved from 38 in 2024)
- India moved from 96th to 91st rank
- Denmark tops with score of 89/100 for the eighth consecutive year
- Global average dropped to 42/100 — lowest in over a decade
- 122 out of 182 countries score below 50, indicating serious corruption
- Finland second (88), Singapore third (84)

## ABOUT THE INDEX

The **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)** is published annually by **Transparency International (TI)**, a Berlin-based anti-corruption NGO founded in 1993 by Peter Eigen. First released in 1995, the CPI ranks countries by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, as determined by expert assessments and opinion surveys.

### Methodology

- **Scale:** 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean)
- **Data sources:** 13 surveys and expert assessments from 12 independent institutions, including the World Bank, World Economic Forum, and African Development Bank
- **Minimum requirement:** A country must have data from at least 3 sources to be included
- **What it measures:** Perceptions of corruption in the **public sector** only — it does not measure private sector corruption, money laundering, or illicit financial flows

## INDIA'S PERFORMANCE

India scores **39 out of 100**, ranking **91st among 182 countries** in the CPI 2025. This is an improvement of 1 point (from 38) and 5 ranks (from 96th) compared to 2024.

### Historical Trend

YEAR	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRIES
2020	40	86	180
2021	40	85	180
2022	40	85	180
2023	39	93	180
2024	38	96	180
2025	39	91	182

India's score has remained stagnant in the 38-40 band over the past six years, indicating limited structural improvement in perceived public sector integrity.

### Regional / BRICS Comparison

COUNTRY	CPI RANK (2025)	CPI SCORE
Bhutan	18	68
China	76	~41
India	91	39
Brazil	~104	~36
South Africa	~87	~40
Pakistan	136	~26
Bangladesh	150	~22

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF LATEST EDITION

- **Denmark** retains the top position for the eighth consecutive year with a score of 89, followed by Finland (88) and Singapore (84)

- For the first time in over a decade, the **global CPI average has dropped to 42/100**, signalling a worldwide erosion of anti-corruption norms
- **122 out of 182 countries** (67%) score below 50, indicating that a supermajority of nations have serious corruption challenges
- The bottom-ranked countries include South Sudan, Somalia, and Syria
- The report highlights that democratic backsliding and weakening of independent institutions are key drivers of increasing corruption perceptions globally

## KEY ANTI-CORRUPTION BODIES IN INDIA

BODY	MANDATE
Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)	Apex anti-corruption body for Central Government
Lokpal	Anti-corruption ombudsman (Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013)
Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)	Investigation agency for corruption cases
Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988	Primary anti-corruption legislation (amended 2018)
Whistleblowers Protection Act, 2014	Legal protection for corruption whistleblowers

## UPSC RELEVANCE

*CPI score scale, India's rank, top/bottom performers, Transparency International HQ (Berlin), founding year (1993)* **Mains GS-2:** Anti-corruption institutional framework — Lokpal, CVC, CBI, RTI Act, digital governance **Mains GS-4:** Ethics in governance, corruption as an ethical issue, role of civil servants in maintaining integrity **Interview:** “India’s CPI score has stagnated around 39-40 for years — what structural reforms would move the needle?”

### RELATED TERMS

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