

Pakistan leaves China, India behind in reducing corruption

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Stands out in neighbouring and Saarc states; Transparency International shows Pakistan improved by three ranks

ISLAMABAD: Corruption in Pakistan is on the decline, as Transparency International Berlin today (Wednesday) releases its annual global report 2015 showing Pakistan further improving its ranking from the 50th most corrupt country in 2014 to 53rd in 2015.

The report also shows Pakistan has done better compared to its other neighbours, including China, India, Iran, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal in checking corruption. This does not mean that all these countries are more corrupt than Pakistan. Instead these countries either maintained their 2014 CPI scores or lost a few points in 2015.

Although a typographical mistake in the TI Berlin report shows Pakistan's rank to have improved in 2015 by nine countries as against 2014, in actual fact it has improved by three ranks from the previous 50th most corrupt to 53rd most corrupt.

In a press release, TI Pakistan Chairman Sohail Muzaffar said the CPI score for Pakistan this year had again increased by one point to 30, and the rank had improved by three. The 2015 CPI score is the best ever but still Muzaffar believes, "Pakistan should have performed better which can be achieved by having on-ground measures for the implementation of zero tolerance for corruption."

He hoped that the government will take serious steps to implement the recommendations of TI Pakistan which may result in a marked reduction of corruption and much better CPI in future years.

Sohail Muzaffar further said amongst the five Saarc countries, Pakistan is the only country that improved its CPI score, whereas the rest either scored the same or scored less compared to the score in 2014.

Overall, two-thirds of the 168 countries on the 2015 index scored below 50 (which includes Pakistan), on a scale from 0 (perceived to be highly corrupt) to 100 (perceived to be very clean).

According to the TI release, Brazil showed the biggest decline in the index, falling 5 points and dropping 7 positions to a rank of 76. The unfolding Petrobras scandal brought people onto the streets in 2015 and the start of the judicial process may help Brazil curb corruption.

The index covers perceptions of public sector corruption in 168 countries. Denmark took the top spot for the second year running, with North Korea and Somalia the worst performers, scoring just 8 points each.

The big declines in the past four years include those of Libya, Australia, Brazil, Spain and Turkey. The big improvements include Greece, Senegal and the UK.

The Corruption Perceptions Index is based on expert opinions of public sector corruption. Countries' scores can be helped by open government where the public can hold leaders to account, while a poor score is a sign of prevalent bribery, lack of punishment for corruption and public institutions that don't respond to citizens' needs. The following is the performance of Pakistan in the Transparency

International's annual reports since 1996 when the country was first assessed by the TI for the CPI index:-
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Pakistan Rank from Bottom

2015

116/168

30/100

53

2014

126/175

29/100

50

2013

127/175

28/100

49

2012

139/174

27/100

36

2011

134/183

2.5/10

50

2010

143/178

2.3/10

36

2009

139/180

2.4/10

42

2008

134/180

2.5/10

42

2007

138/179

2.4/10

42

2006

142/163

2.2/10

22

2005

144/159

2.1/10

16

2004

129/147

2.1/10

19

2003

92/133

2.5/10

42

2002

77/102

2.6/10

26

2001

79/91

2.3/10

11

2000

N/A

N/A

1999

87/99

2.2/10

11

1998

71/85

2.7/10

15

1997

48/52

2.53/10

5

1996

53/54

1/10

2

Source: *<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/94131-Pakistan-leaves-China-India-behind-in-reducing-corruption>*