



Corruption Perceptions Index 2025: Global Trends, Regional Disparities, Drivers and the Case of Nepal

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Abstract

Background: Corruption is one of biggest issues that threatens social justice, economic growth, the provision of public services and governance globally. Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025 prepared by Transparency International to determines the level of public sector corruption among 182 countries and territories.

Methods: Using a qualitative study approach, this report review critically examines the CPI 2025 methodology, regional and global trends, institutional drivers, and implications with a focus on Nepal in particular.

Results: CPI scores of 122 countries were below 50 and the average global was fell to 42 out of 182 countries. Sub-Saharan Africa had the lowest (32) value where EU and Western Europe had the highest regional average (64). The average score for full democracies was 71 compared to non-democratic countries (32). Nepal had got the 34, indicating serious problems with corruption. The report identified political influences, a lack of civic space, weak institutions, and inadequate accountability as major contributing factors. The average global CPI fell to just 42 in 2025 in over ten years for the first time. This review shows corruption as a complex



institutional and democratic challenge and links global CPI findings with Nepal's governance context.

Conclusion: This report concluded that to reduce the corruption level and maintain the sustainable governance and development it requires sustaining institutional integrity, financing transparency in political system and increase involvement of civic engagement.

Keywords: Corruption, CPI 2025, governance, Nepal, transparency

1. Introduction

It is commonly known that corruption stances a serious obstacle to democratic governance, sustainable development, and effective public service delivery. It erodes public trust in the government, weakens institutions, and deceives legislators. Transparency International publishes the Corruption Perceptions Index annually to assess the degree of corruption in the world and the latest one was the CPI 2025 report. CPI uses information collected from experts and business peoples to gauge perceived levels of corruption in the public sector. This index assigns a number to each the countries ranging from 0 (extremely corrupt) to 100 (very clean). The global average score according to the 2025 report is 42 and 122 out of 182 countries have scores below 50 indicating that corruption is a major problem on a global scale. With a CPI score of 34 in 2025 Nepal continues to face governance issues and corruption risks. Significant differences between continents are also highlighted by the index with developed economies and Western Europe outperforming areas like Sub-Saharan Africa and portions of Asia. This essay seeks to compare corruption levels across continents analyze Nepal's corruption situation using the CPI and explain the CPI 2025 methodology.

Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) has been the main worldwide indicator of corruption in the public sector from last 20 years. By combining information from 13 different sources, The CPI rates countries and territories on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean), by combining information from 13 different sources that offers an annual snapshot of perceived levels of corruption. The CPI 2025 edition which encompasses 182 nations and territories reaches a pivotal point. According to the executive summary of the report the global order is under strain citing growing societal polarization major-power rivalry armed conflicts and the climate crisis ([CPI 2025 p. 6](#)). The 2025 CPI report will be examined in this essay with an emphasis on its three main contributions. It will first examine broad global trends especially the relationship between civic space corruption prevention and democratic health. Second it will provide a thorough case study of Nepal a nation whose score of 34 and subsequent overthrow by demonstrators in 2025 serve as a striking example of the practical ramifications of the report's conclusions. Third it will offer a comparative study of continental performance examining how Europe the Americas Asia-Pacific Africa and the Middle East have divergent paths. This paper argues that the 2025 CPI provides a clear blueprint for preventing corruption and ensuring long-term social and political stability: robust, independent institutions and protected civic freedoms are not only ideals but also essential requirements.



Objectives

The study's main goal is to examine the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025s methodology and results. The following are the study specific goals.

1. To find governance and corruption trends worldwide.
2. To determine the main causes of corruption and its effects.
3. To examine the link between democratic institutions and the extent of corruption.
4. To evaluate Nepal's CPI 2025 performance and talk about the governance implications.

2. Methodology

This article uses a Documentary and descriptive review method. Primary source of this article is the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025 published by Transparency International. Analysis in the article is organized into five sections: (1) Patterns of the Global CPI, (2) Regional variations, (3) Causes of corruption, (4) Status of Nepal, and (5) Strengths and limitations of the CPI methodology. The article employs comparative descriptive analysis rather than trying to establish statistical causal relationships. As a result, rather than being an independent assessment of real corruption incidents, the results can be understood as an analytical review of the CPI.

3. Results

3.1 Methodology of the corruption perception index

The CPI is a composite index that combines information from several separate sources. Surveys and evaluations carried out by organizations like the World Bank, the Economist Intelligence Unit and other international organizations are among these sources. The CPI methodology includes the following:

- a) Gathering information on perceptions of corruption from thirteen distinct sources.
- b) To guarantee cross-source comparability scores are standardized.
- c) Each country's final index value is created by adding up all of the scores.

The index focuses on corruption in the public sector such as bribery misappropriation of public funds and abuse of authority by public servants. An interpretation of the scoring system is presented in the following Table 1 below.

Table 1: *Interpretation of scoring system of CPI*

Score Range	Interpretation
80-100	Very Clean
60-79	Relatively Low Corruption
40-59	Moderate Corruption
20-39	High Corrupt
0-19	Extremely Corrupt

According to Table 1, a public sector is regarded as being very clean and having very little perceived corruption with a score between 80 and 100. A score between 60 and 79 indicates



that corruption is relatively low. A score of 40 to 59 indicates a moderate level of perceived corruption. A high level of perceived corruption in the public sector is indicated by a score between 20 and 39. A score between 0 and 19 is indicated by a very high level of perceived corruption in the public sector.

3.2 Global Snapshot: Major Findings

There are a number of concerning trends in the 2025 CPI. Most notably the global average score has fallen to 42 out of 100 marking the first decrease in more than ten years ([CPI 2025, p. 6](#)). This decline is not insignificant rather it is indicative of a global systemic decline in the fight against corruption. The following are the principal conclusions.

Majority below 50: Of the 182 countries 122 (68%) have a score below 50 indicating that corruption is a major issue in most of the world ([CPI 2025, p. 11](#)).

- Diminished top tier: Only five nations scored higher than 80 in 2025 compared to twelve ten years prior ([CPI 2025, p. 6](#)). Denmark (89) Finland (88) Singapore (84) New Zealand (81) and Norway (81) are among these top performers ([CPI 2025, p. 4-5](#)).
- Lowest performers: According to [CPI 2025, p. 15](#); Somalia (9) South Sudan (9) Venezuela (10) Syria (15) and North Korea (15) are the nations with the lowest scores which are mostly conflict-affected or extremely oppressive states.
- Democratic decline: The trend of established democracies seeing an increase in perceived corruption may be the most worrying. This group includes the United States (64) Canada (75) United Kingdom (70) France (66) Sweden (80) and New Zealand (81) all of which have slipped from their previous baselines ([CPI 2025, p. 6](#)).

The vast majority of countries are failing to keep corruption under control is emphasized in the report ([CPI 2025, p. 6](#)) a discovery that ought to serve as a warning to both international organizations and governments. The following Table 2 below shows the highest scoring ten countries as per CPI 2025.

Table 2: *High CPI 2025 scoring countries*

SN	Country	CPI 2025 score
1	Denmark	89
2	Finland	88
3	Singapore	84
4	New Zealand	81
5	Norway	81
6	Sweden	80
7	Switzerland	80
8	Luxembourg	78
9	Netherlands	78
10	Germany	77

Similarly the following

Table 3 below shows the lowest scoring ten countries as per CPI 2025.

*Table 3: Lowest CPI 2025 scoring countries*

SN	Country	CPI 2025 score
1	Korea, North	15
2	Syria	15
3	Nicaragua	14
4	Sudan	14
5	Eritrea	13
6	Libya	13
7	Yemen	13
8	Venezuela	10
9	Somalia	9
10	South Sudan	9

3.3 Regional Variations

Although the CPI 2025 offers scores at the national level regional trends show common governance issues and historical backgrounds. Denmark (89) Finland (88) Norway (81) Sweden (80) Switzerland (80) and the Netherlands (78) are the top scorers in the world and they are all located in Western Europe and the European Union. But there are worrying patterns here as well. While the United Kingdom's score of 70 indicates persistent worries about political integrity and procurement transparency during the COVID-19 pandemic France (66) has experienced high-profile scandals ([CPI 2025, p. 13–14](#)). The Asia-Pacific area is remarkably diverse with North Korea scoring 15 and Singapore scoring an astounding 84. Although New Zealand (81) is still a leader in the world its slight decline raises concerns about pressure on even the most robust institutions. South Korea (63), the Seychelles (68) and Bhutan (71) shows remarkable improvers who have demonstrated persistent anti-corruption efforts ([CPI 2025, p. 15](#)). Chile (63), the United States (64) and Canada (75) are at the top of the Americans region while Venezuela (10) and Haiti (16) are at the bottom. United States decline to its lowest ever score due to political polarization eroding institutional norms and worries about the politicization of justice ([CPI 2025, p. 19](#)). The following Figure 1Figure 4 shows the graphical representation of average of CPI 2025 score by region.

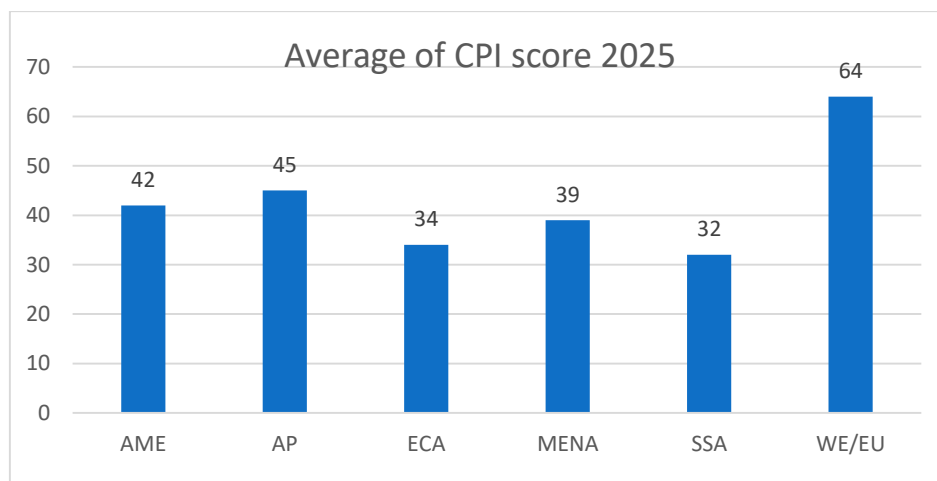


Figure 1: *Average of CPI 2025 score by Region*

Many of the countries with the lowest scores in the world are found in Sub-Saharan Africa such as Equatorial Guinea (15) South Sudan (9) and Somalia (9). There are however some bright spots: Senegal (46) Botswana (58) Rwanda (58) and Seychelles (68) show that advancement is achievable even in difficult circumstances. Despite having authoritarian governance structures the United Arab Emirates (69) Qatar (58) and Saudi Arabia (57) scored relatively well in the Middle East and North Africa region. But as the study points out these top-down anti-corruption strategies are frequently brittle and unsustainable ([CPI 2025, p. 11](#)).

3.4 Change Pattern: Decline and Improvement

According to the report CPI 2025 report 100 countries have essentially remained stable 50 have declined and 31 have made significant progress ([CPI 2025, p. 11](#)). The trends that show up among improvers and decliners however are more insightful than these overall figures. The details of significant changes of CPI since 2012 is presented in the Figure 2 below.

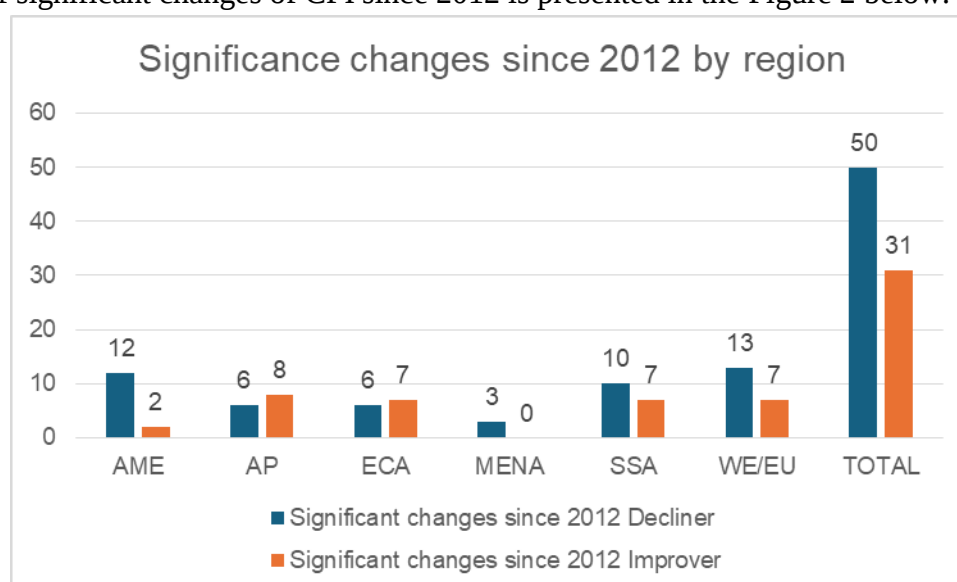


Figure 2: *Significant changes of CPI since 2012 by region*

Similarly the details of significant changes of CPI since 2016 is presented in the Figure 3 below:

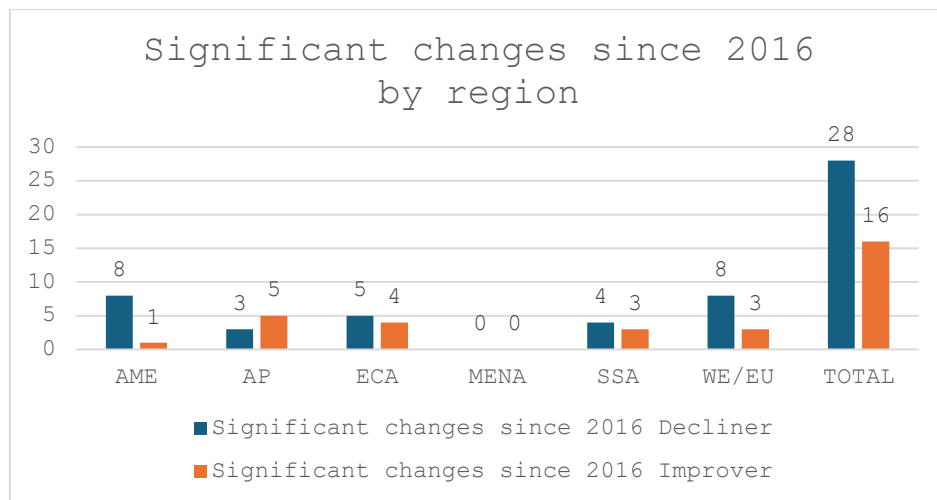


Figure 3: *Significant changes of CPI since 2016 by region*

3.4.1 Structural Erosion: Declines for long term

The first decline pattern is characterized by a considerable, ongoing decline that lasts longer than ten years. This group consists of South Sudan (9), Venezuela (10), Syria (15) and Hungary (40),

([CPI 2025, p.13](#)). These countries share some common features: democratic backsliding, institutional weakening, and entrenched patronage networks in very different contexts. Venezuela is an example of how corruption can become systemic when the institutions that are supposed to provide oversight are stripped of their independence. The report describes how leaders have used state-owned enterprises for personal enrichment, including the state oil company PDVSA which has lost more than ten billion dollars to currency exchange and crypto currency schemes ([CPI 2025, p. 13](#)). When the institutions that are supposed to check power are captured or dismantled, corruption is no longer an exception, but the way the system works. South Sudan is a case study in how conflict exacerbates and deepens corruption. In the civil war of the 2010s, leaders routinely bought militia loyalty and lined their pockets with state coffers. The public financial management reforms promised under the 2018 peace deal have not been implemented. Officials keep on diverting resources using ever more sophisticated methods such as off-budget schemes and politically connected contracts ([CPI 2025, p.13](#)). The conclusion of the UN inquiry that systemic government corruption is “fueling an acute human rights crisis” ([CPI 2025, p. 23](#)) is a reminder that corruption is not just a governance failure but a human rights violation.

Hungary shows how corruption can flourish under the guise of democratic processes. For over a decade the Hungarian government has systematically weakened rule of law, civic space and electoral integrity. This has allowed the impunity of funneling billions, including European Union funds, to crony networks via corrupt public contracting ([CPI 2025, p. 13](#)). This is especially true in the case of Hungary, which illustrates the potential failure of an EU membership to be a bulwark against democratic backsliding, once believed to be the case, without the domestic political will.



3.4.2 Recent declines nation with high score

The nations that have historically placed close to the top of the index are the focus of the second more recent pattern of decline. The United States (64) Canada (75) the United Kingdom (70) France (66) Sweden (80) New Zealand (81) and Chile (63) are included in this group (CPI 2025, p.13). A number of these dynamics are exemplified by the United Kingdom. According to the report there are still issues with revolving doors (officials switching between positions in the public and private sectors) lobbying transparency and the enforcement of anti-corruption laws. Codes of conduct have also been frequently violated or compromised. COVID-19 procurement contracts given to people with political connections through a VIP lane were among the high-profile scandals ([CPI 2025, pp. 13–14](#)).

France has comparable difficulties. A number of scandals, including the embezzlement of EU funds by the Rassemblement Nationaux and the conviction of Nicolas Sarkozy for unlawful campaign financing, have raised questions about the political will and capacity of public authorities to enact ambitious anti-corruption policies ([CPI 2025 p. 14](#)). In September 2025, a Paris court sentenced Sarkozy to five years in prison for criminal conspiracy related to alleged illegal funds from Libya. In November 2025, another conviction for illegal campaign financing was upheld, making the Sarkozy case particularly notable (CPI 2025, p. 19).

In 2025 the US saw its lowest ever CPI score. The use of public office to target independent voices the normalization of conflicted and transactional politics the politicization of prosecutorial decision-making and actions undermining judicial independence are some of the worrying trends identified in the report even though the data does not yet fully reflect developments in that year ([CPI 2025, p. 19](#)). These modifications give the dangerous impression that unethical behavior is acceptable. Declines in high-scoring countries are key. They demonstrate how integrity threats can impact even robust systems and that institutional support and constant attention to detail, rather than satisfaction, are necessary to maintain low levels of corruption.

3.4.3 Progress Model for Improvement

Two models for improvement are clearly mentioned in the CPI 2025 report and also identifies countries that have made significant progress.

First model shows the countries that have moved from the bottom to the middle of the index, indicating long-term gains from lower initial scores. Uzbekistan (31), Angola (32), Laos (34), Ukraine (36), Albania (39), Cote d'Ivoire (43) and Senegal (46). (CPI, 2025, p. 14). Driven by sustained efforts from political leaders and regulators are the major causes of progress in these countries. Nonetheless, within this model, the report makes a distinction between two subtypes. In more transparent environments, civil society has backed extensive institutional and legal changes. Ukraine is a prime example of this; despite a difficult year filled with scandals in the defense and procurement sectors, the fact that these scandals are being exposed and resulting in convictions indicates that the nation's new anti-corruption framework is having an impact. ([CPI 2025, p. 14](#)). Mobilization of civil society helped protect strong anti-corruption institutions as they came under pressure in 2025. In more restricted settings, progress has come



through narrow, state-led control campaigns. Uzbekistan's improvement, for example, reflects top-down efforts that may be effective against certain types of corruption but remain "intrinsically fragile" ([CPI 2025, p. 14](#)). Such gains can be reversed overnight when political interests shift without independent oversight or civic checks,

The second model involves long-term gains in countries that started with mid-to-high CPI scores. This group includes South Korea (63), Seychelles (68), Bhutan (71) and Estonia (76), ([CPI 2025, p.15](#)). Their progress reflects sustained momentum with reforms, strengthened oversight institutions, and broad political consensus in favor of clean governance. Bhutan has consistently strengthened its anti-corruption framework for over 15 years, with an empowered anti-corruption agency driving prevention as well as enforcement. This has been complemented by other independent watchdogs, such as an auditing authority, and more transparent systems, including an e-procurement platform ([CPI 2025, p. 15](#)). South Korea has brought in tougher rules of conduct for public servants and stronger institutional safeguards, such as whistleblower protection and enhanced procurement transparency ([CPI 2025, p. 15](#)). 16 points improved by since 2012, demonstrating how a stronger justice system can make a significant difference. The country has been prosecuting an increasing number of corruption cases, including high profile ones, and has improved information-sharing among law enforcement agencies. Legal reforms have enhanced enforcement, particularly through the establishment and strengthening of its anti-corruption agency ([CPI 2025, p. 17](#)).

3.5 Relationship between Corruption and Democracy

The sharp difference in corruption control between democratic and authoritarian regimes is arguably the most startling discovery of the CPI 2025. The average CPI score for full democracies is 71 for flawed democracies it is 47 and for authoritarian regimes it is only 32 ([CPI 2025, p.11](#)). This pattern is not accidental. Multiple accountability mechanisms are provided by democracies: free and fair elections enable citizens to punish dishonest incumbents independent judiciaries can prosecute misconduct regardless of political affiliation free media can look into and reveal corruption and civil society can organize citizens and push for change. A self-reinforcing system of accountability is produced when these mechanisms work well. The following Figure 4 and Figure 5 shows the average CPI 2025 score for different types of government.

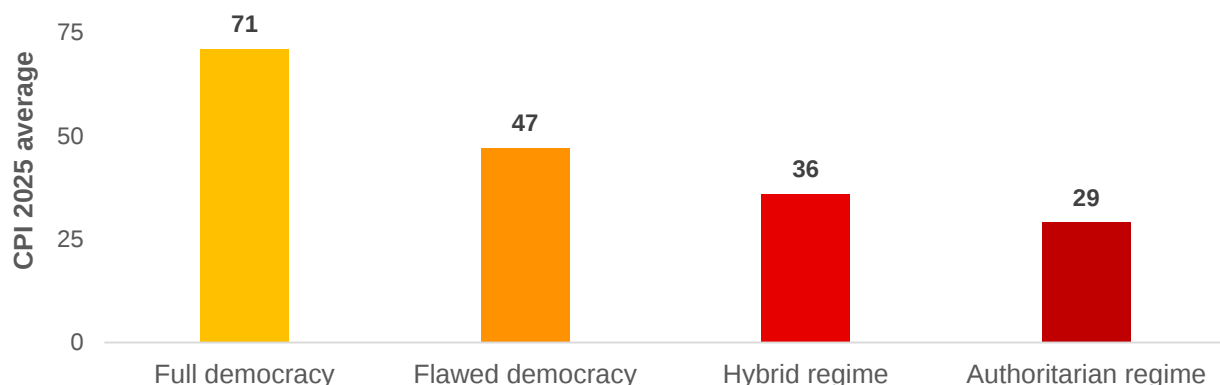


Figure 4: *Different types of government vs average CPI Score*

On the other hand, these protections are absent from authoritarian regimes. Even though a very tiny percentage of non-democratic nations perform better than their peers in the region, they are still outliers. As the report notes, "anti-corruption efforts are typically centralized and top-down, and tend to be unsustainable. With no independent oversight or civic checks, they can be reversed overnight when political interests shift" (CPI 2025, p. 11). The United Arab Emirates provides a case in point. While the UAE (69) has some effective guards against public sector corruption, including active enforcement and strong oversight bodies, issues relating to democracy create serious corruption risks. As per opaque government decisions, people with political connections can affect contract allocation and policy. Furthermore, the UAE's status as a loosely regulated financial center makes it easier for those who commit grand corruption to abuse power overseas by using it to invest stolen money and evade punishment. (CPI 2025, p.19).

The relationship between democracy and corruption is not merely correlational but causal. Democratic backsliding directly fuels corruption risks, as illustrated by Georgia (50). The ruling party has introduced a "foreign agents" law and grants law that criminalize legitimate NGO activity and brand independent voices as foreign agents. Following disputed 2024 elections and the suspension of EU integration talks, international observers describe Georgia as undergoing an authoritarian turn, creating "severely increased corruption risks and damaging Georgia's society as a whole" (CPI 2025, p. 20).

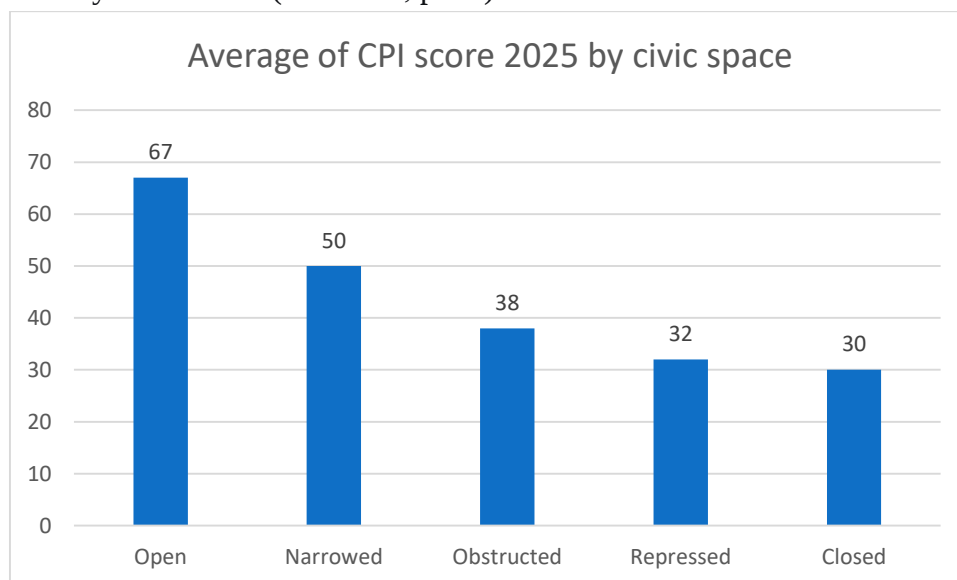


Figure 5: *Civil space having average of CPI score 2025*

3.6 Key Drivers and Consequences of Corruption

The CPI 2025 report offers a thorough examination of how corruption appears in various spheres of public life. This section looks at four major areas: justice and the rule of law, democracy and political integrity, civic space and media freedom, and public services and inequality.

3.7 Cross-Border Corruption and International Dimensions



The 2025 report highlights the growing transnational nature of corruption whereas the CPI concentrates on perceptions of domestic public-sector corruption. The public spending budgets of nations are severely impacted by international flows of illicit funds. Professional service providers frequently help corrupt officials launder or protect illegal wealth in financial hubs including nations that rank highest on the CPI ([CPI 2025, p. 8](#)). The report highlights a number of global aspects of corruption that need to be addressed.

Professional enablers: In wealthy nations financial advisors, lawyers and accountants frequently assist officials in money laundering or asset concealment which leads to corruption. Despite being important hubs in the global corruption network these professional service providers are not adequately regulated or enforced.

Financial secrecy jurisdictions: Corrupt officials can conceal stolen wealth in nations with banking secrecy lax regulations or opaque corporate structures. Notably the report notes that the UAE functions as a weakly regulated financial hub that facilitates abuse of power abroad in spite of its comparatively high CPI score ([CPI 2025, p. 19](#)). The nation has been exploited by controversial individuals such as Isabel dos Santos who has been charged by Angolan authorities with stealing state property.

Foreign bribery enforcement: The report expresses concern over the US government's decision to temporarily halt and then weaken enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, a critical anti-corruption law that prohibits corporate bribery of foreign officials. Bribery and other corrupt practices are deemed acceptable by this ruling ([CPI 2025, p. 7](#)).

Aid cuts: US aid reductions to foreign civil society organizations that keep an eye on their governments have undermined international anticorruption initiatives. Political leaders in several countries have used this as a signal to further target and limit independent voices, such as journalists and non-governmental organizations ([CPI 2025, p. 7](#)).

Election meddling: The Russian government has been charged with meddling in elections in other nations by disseminating false information and purchasing votes in an effort to sway voters and promote instability democratic regression and a reduction in civic space ([CPI 2025, p. 7](#)).

4. Conclusion

According to the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025 analysis, corruption continues to be a major global governance concern and is closely associated with deficiencies in democratic institutions, accountability, transparency, and the rule of law. The global CPI average fell to 42/100, with 122 of 182 countries scoring below 50, indicating that corruption remains a significant issue in most countries. Although persistent legal and institutional reforms, effective oversight, professional public administration, and political commitment to integrity are generally associated with long-term improvements, the results also show notable regional differences. The review continues by stating that the primary causes of corruption are weakened checks and balances, the politicization of justice, excessive political and private influence, and institutional flaws, a lack of civic space, and inadequate transparency and oversight. It has



detrimental effects on public trust, democratic integrity, equality, public services, civic freedoms, justice and the rule of law, and economic stability in addition to financial losses. As a result, corruption is more than just an administrative problem; it affects governance and development. The results of the CPI 2025 clearly show that corruption and democracy are related. Fully democratic countries have scored an average of 71, while non-democratic regimes scored 32 and flawed democracies scored 47. This implies that stronger democratic institutions, impartial oversight, free elections, and responsible governance are generally associated with improved corruption control. In a similar vein, diminished democratic protections and restricted civic space facilitate corruption and reduce the ability of the public, media, and civil society to hold authorities accountable. Nepal's CPI 2025 score of 34 places the country in the category of states with high levels of perceived public-sector corruption and suggests a significant governance problem. The report links Nepal's situation, which resulted in widespread youth led protests and the overthrow of the government in 2025, to concerns about corruption, nepotism, inequality, economic instability, and inadequate public accountability. As evidenced by Nepal's CPI performance, independent institutions, judicial integrity, political and financial transparency, public-sector accountability, civic freedoms, and the effective implementation of anti-corruption measures are all vitally needed. Overall, the CPI 2025 demonstrates that stronger laws are not as crucial to long-term corruption control as democratic institutions that are able to independently monitor, expose, and punish the misuse of public power.

5. Recommendations and the Path Forward

In the CPI 2025 report Transparency International offers a thorough set of policy recommendations based on its investigation and practical experience. These suggestions are arranged in eight main categories.

5.1 Make sure that justice institutions are accessible, transparent and independent

To effectively discourage potential offenders and safeguard those who speak out against corruption, nations' legal systems must be shielded from interference by political or commercial interests. This requires protecting appointments and promotions from outside pressure. These systems also need sufficient funding, rational, and reviewable prosecutorial decisions, and courts that make data and decisions public. ([CPI 2025, p. 9](#)).

5.2 Address Excessive Influence on Political Decision Making

The public has a right to know who supports political parties' candidates and decision-makers. To guarantee that democracy is shielded from possible corruption political finance conflicts of interest and lobbying must be controlled recorded and open to public scrutiny. Rich and powerful business groups are prevented from unfairly influencing public institutions policies and budgets by transparency and restrictions on political contributions ([CPI 2025, p. 9](#)).

5.3 Make justice accessible to those who have been harmed by corruption

Justice should be accessible to people and communities affected by corruption either directly or through civil society organizations that act as their advocates. In addition to acting as a backup in the event that law enforcement is not operating effectively this is required to



guarantee compensation for harm caused by corruption. To guarantee that procedures are inclusive for everyone marginalized communities in particular require specialized support and protections ([CPI 2025, p. 9](#)).

5.4 Foster Civic Space and Anti-Corruption Reporting

Fundamental liberties such as the freedom of the press and the right to information allow people and organizations to actively support integrity and openness in business and government. Decision-makers must provide complete protection for civil society organizations and individuals who expose corruption including whistleblowers. Additionally they ought to establish a regulatory framework that permits civil society organizations to carry out their activities including granting them access to both domestic and foreign funding ([CPI 2025, p. 9](#)).

5.5 Improve oversight and transparency in public financial management and services

Delivering public services with integrity is essential to their fairness and effectiveness. In addition to ensuring that everyone has access to basic services strong oversight of public spending decisions is necessary to make sure they genuinely serve the public interest. Audit bodies must keep an eye on public spending regulators must enforce standards including environmental ones and parliaments and other oversight organizations must be able to examine budgets and government borrowing ([CPI 2025 p. 10](#)).

5.6 Prevent, detect, and punish large-scale corruption and illicit financial flows.

Large-scale high-level corruption and significant cross-border money laundering must be prevented and exposed through robust domestic checks and balances as well as effective national and international prevention and detection measures. More efficient enforcement mechanisms are necessary to discourage and penalize these grave crimes. Rebuilding democracy and the rule of law will require powerful national coalitions to overcome widespread and deeply ingrained state corruption. By prosecuting wrongdoers and seizing stolen assets that are concealed overseas international enforcement can also play a crucial role in states with strong legal systems ([CPI 2025, p. 10](#)).

5.7 The Future Path

The CPI 2025 report ends with a call for both national and multilateral action. According to François Valerian, Chair of Transparency International, in order to safeguard the public interest and address common issues like corruption, we need both national action and multilateral cooperation in an interconnected world. At a time when some states are dangerously ignoring international norms, we must defend a rules-based global order based on accountability to citizens' transparency and respect for human rights ([CPI 2025, p. 9](#)). The report claims that citizens' growing willingness to hold governments accountable is driving them to take action. Protests led by Generation Z in Madagascar, Peru, Serbia, and Nepal show that popular protest movements have the ability to topple governments that fail to address the concerns of their people. Businesses may also choose to invest overseas, which would cost the nation jobs and economic opportunities.

5.8 Policy Suggestions for Nepal



The 2025 CPI report specifically uses Nepal as a powerful case study to illustrate the grave consequences of uncontrolled corruption. Nepal is in the bottom half of the index ([CPI 2025, p. 5](#)) with a score of 34, which indicates serious corruption problems in Nepal. However, the report emphasizes the significant political confusion that the score caused rather than focusing only on the score. Members of Generation Z spearheaded a protest movement that overthrew the Nepalese government in September 2025. According to Transparency International (2026), long standing dissatisfaction over purported nepotism and corruption by political elites and their families, as well as the ensuing pervasive inequality and economic instability, are the causes of this uprising. Restrictions on the right to free speech served as the catalyst for the movement, but a deeper sense of injustice regarding the misuse of power drove its ferocity. The CPI's conclusions about the consequences of corruption are aptly illustrated by this incident. Economic instability and subpar public services are caused by mismanagement of public funds and decision-making based on personal ties rather than the public interest. According to the report, ongoing poverty, rising inequality, and falling living standards are causing millions of people's living conditions to worsen. Young people in Nepal blamed their leaders because of a corrupt system and a lack of opportunities. The report's sobering conclusion states that popular protest movements have the power to topple governments that disregard the needs of their people ([CPI 2025, p. 8](#)). To improve the CPI score and governance quality, Nepal should strengthen the independence of the courts, make public procurements more transparent, improve accountability systems, safeguard media freedom and civil society participation, and lessen bureaucratic corruption by digitizing public services.

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