UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL OCTOBER 21, 2026 9AM EDT

Pakistan Ranks 131 out of 143 in the WJP Rule of Law Index

- *2026 WJP Rule of Law Index®* finds authoritarian practices have become entrenched
- Rising government interference and rollbacks in freedom of speech and participation demand urgent attention
- Pakistan's score decreased, ranks 5 out of 6 regionally

WASHINGTON (October 21, 2026) – The **global rule of law recession persists**, according to the new ***WJP Rule of Law Index® 2026***, released today by the World Justice Project (WJP). While fewer countries declined this year compared to last, the global balance remains deeply uneven—with a 62% decline continuing to outnumber improvements—including Pakistan.

Pakistan's overall rule of law score decreased 2.1% in this year's Index. It ranks 131st out of 143 countries worldwide.

Regionally, Pakistan ranks 5th out of 6 countries in South Asia.* The region's top performer is Nepal (ranked 71st out of 143 globally), followed by Sri Lanka and India. The three countries with the lowest scores in the region are Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan (142nd globally).

In the last year, 3 out of 6 countries declined in South Asia. Those 3 countries had also declined in the previous year.

Among lower-middle income countries, Pakistan ranks 25th out of 33.**

Pakistan and Global trends

Authoritarianism is no longer an emerging trend—it has become entrenched: over 86% of countries have suffered a sustained five-year decline in at least one safeguard against authoritarian rule: **constraints on government powers, open government**, or **fundamental rights**. This includes Pakistan.

Freedoms essential to civic space, public debate and government oversight are shrinking across most countries:

- **"Freedom of opinion and expression"** declined in **64%** of countries, including Pakistan.
- **"Freedom of assembly and association"** declined in **67%** of countries, including Pakistan.
- **"Civic participation"** declined in **65%** of countries, including Pakistan.

Across criminal and civil systems alike, **undue executive pressure and interference** have become the leading drivers of institutional decay. **Civil justice** weakened in **64%** of countries and **criminal justice** in **58%**, with **improper government influence** emerging as a central factor in both areas. Judiciaries are also losing ground to executive overreach more broadly: **government powers limited by the judiciary** fell in **63%** of countries. This includes Pakistan.

However, **civil justice is becoming more accessible, affordable, and equal:**

- **"Access and afford civil justice** improved in **54%"** of countries, including Pakistan.
- **"Civil justice is free of discrimination"** improved in **52%** of countries, but not in Pakistan.

Index data shows that **economic prosperity, price stability, and low credit risk cluster** in countries with robust rule of law:

- **GDP per capita**: Countries with a GDP per capita above the world's average ($14,406) score 0.68 or higher in the *WJP Rule of Law Index*.
- **Inflation**: Countries with inflation rates lower than the median (3.23%) have an Index score of 0.60 or above.
- **Sovereign credit ratings**: Countries with an investment-grade sovereign credit rating (AAA to BBB) maintain Index scores of 0.66 or higher.

In 2026, Pakistan's overall score is 0.36.

Global rankings

Globally, the top-ranked country in the 2026 *WJP Rule of Law Index* is Denmark, followed by Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Luxembourg. The country with the lowest score is Venezuela, followed by Afghanistan, Haiti, Cambodia, and Nicaragua.

Pakistan's WJP Rule of Law Index rankings

Overall score global rank: 131/143
Overall score regional rank: 5/6

Factor score rankings:

FACTOR	GLOBAL RANK	REGIONAL RANK*	INCOME RANK**
Constraints on Government Powers	104/143	4/6	14/33
Absence of Corruption	125/143	5/6	22/33
Open Government	109/143	5/6	15/33
Fundamental Rights	126/143	4/6	25/33
Order and Security	143/143	6/6	33/33
Regulatory Enforcement	127/143	5/6	23/33
Civil Justice	128/143	4/6	24/33
Criminal Justice	102/143	4/6	16/33

(1 is best in WJP Rule of Law Index *rankings)*

To see Pakistan's performance across all 44 sub-factors the Index measures, visit:
www.worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/country/2026/Pakistan

***Explore the full rankings and findings of the 2026* World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index *at: www.worldjusticeproject.org/index/*.**
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- Find graphics (regional rankings, global rankings, and comparative maps) **here.**
- Find 143 country press releases organized by region **here.**

About the WJP Rule of Law Index:
The ***World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index®*** is the world's leading source for original, independent rule of law data. Its rigorous methodology draws on expert and household surveys to measure the rule of law in 143 countries and jurisdictions, covering 95% of the world's population.

The Index relies on more than 215,000 household surveys and 3,400 practitioner and expert surveys to measure how the rule of law is experienced and perceived worldwide. Published annually since 2009, the Index is used by governments, multilateral organizations, businesses, academia, media, and civil society organizations.

About the World Justice Project:
The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, nonpartisan, multidisciplinary organization working to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide.

*Countries and jurisdictions measured in the South Asia region: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

**Lower-middle income countries and jurisdictions: Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe