



## CORRUPTION FREE INDIA: A CHALLENGE

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### ABSTRACT

*I dream of a corruption free India. A place where everyone works hard and gets what he deserves. A place that gives equal opportunity to everyone based on their knowledge and skills irrespective of their caste, colour, creed or religion. A place where people don't use other people around to get accomplish their selfish motives. But alas, India is far from this ideal place I imagine it to be. Everyone is so engrossed in earning money and enhancing their lifestyle that they don't mind using corrupt ways to fulfill their dreams and ambitions. It is a common notion that those who work with honesty are unable to reach anywhere. They hardly get any promotion and continue to earn meagre salary. On the other hand, those who seek bribes and use unfair means to accomplish their tasks climb up the ladder of success and make a better living.*

### INTRODUCTION

Corruption refers to everyday abuse of entrusted power by low- and midlevel public officials in their interactions with ordinary citizens, who often are trying to access basic goods or services in places like hospitals, schools, police departments and other agencies. Corruption is one of the biggest threats to the well-being of a society. Corruption degrades the quality of the services and also ruins the life of the common man. India is one of the countries highly affected by this threat called corruption. Political parties who promised to stop and take steps to eradicate corruption have being voted power. This shows the significance of corruption free society and government.

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It needs to be understood that although using corrupt ways is an easy way to make money in most cases but it does not actually make you happy. You may do well monetarily using such ill-practices but will you ever get peace of mind? No! You may find temporary happiness but in the long run you will stay dissatisfied and unhappy. If each one of us must take a pledge to leave corrupt practices. This way our life will become better and our country will become a much better place.

### **Definition of Corruption:-**

According to D. H. Bailey, corruption is “misuse of authority as a result of consideration of personal gain which need not be monetary”.

### **II) Objectives to the Study**

1. To main reason of corruption
2. To focus on cause of corruption
3. To analyse the corruption and scandals in India
4. To offer suggestions for reducing corruption.

#### **1) Main reason of corruption**

According to Chanakya, a king can reign only with the help of others. One wheel alone does not move. Therefore a king should appoint advisers (as councilors and ministers) and listen to their advice.

Moral: Even an honest king cannot give rule properly until there is a team honest and efficient ministers and bureaucracy to assist him.

The India corruption study (2005) has named eight key factors that stand out as responsible for a widespread corruption in the system. These are.

1. Lack of transparency and accountability in the system.
- Lack of an effective corruption reporting mechanism.
- Lack of honesty in officials in the Government.
- Acceptance of ‘Bribe’ as a way of life, custom and culture.
- Ineffective anti-corruption institutions, including Police and Judiciary.
- Poor economic policies.
- Inadequate training and orientation of Government officials.
- Review of literature



The studies related to the significance and the status of media coverage on corruption in India context is discussed in this division.

## 2) To focus on cause of corruption

Corruption in India has wings, not wheels. As the nation grows, the Corrupt also grows to invent new methods of cheating the government and public. The causes of corruption are many and complex. The following are some of the causes of corruption.

- ❖ Corruption is caused as well as increased because of the change in the value system and ethical qualities of men who administer.
- ❖ The old ideals of morality, service and honesty are regarded as anachronistic.
- ❖ Tolerance of people towards corruption, complete lack of intense public outcry against corruption and the absence of a strong public forum to oppose corruption allow corruption to reign over people.
- ❖ Vast size of population coupled with widespread illiteracy and the poor economic infrastructure lead to endemic corruption in public life.
- ❖ In a highly inflationary economy, low salaries of government officials compel them to resort to corruption. Graduates from Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) with no experience draw a far handsome salary than what government secretaries draw.
- ❖ Complex laws and procedures deter common people from seeking help from the government.
- ❖ Election time is a time when corruption is at its peak.
- ❖ Big industrialists fund politicians to meet high cost of election and ultimately to seek personal favour.
- ❖ Bribery to politicians buys influence, and bribery by politicians buys votes. In order to get elected, politicians bribe poor, illiterate people.

## 3) The Top Scam in India – (2010-2018)

### 1) Maharashtra scholarship scam - (2010)

A probe into allegations of swindling of government scholarships meant for backward class students has revealed that hundreds of institutes across the state pocketed several thousand crores by adopting different ploys since 2010.

### 2) Commonwealth Games Scam – 2010 – 70,000 Crore



Another feather in the cap of Indian scandal list is Commonwealth Games loot. Yes, literally a loot! Even before the long awaited sporting bonanza could see the day of light, the grand event was soaked in the allegations of corruption.

It is estimated that out of Rs. 70000 crore spent on the Games, only half the said amount was spent on Indian sportspersons. The Central Vigilance Commission, involved in probing the alleged corruption in various Commonwealth Games-related projects, has found discrepancies in tenders – like payment to non-existent parties, will-ful delays in execution of contracts, over-inflated price and bungling in purchase of equipment through tendering – and misappropriation of funds.

### 3) Indian Coal Allocation Scam – 2012 – Size 1.86L Crore

While many think that 2G scam remains the biggest one in size in India. But this coal allocation scam dwarfs it by the amount involved. This scam is in regards to Indian Government's allocation of nation's coal deposit to PSU's and private companies. The scam happened under Manmohan Singh government and came out in 2012. The basic premise of this scam was that wrongful allocation of Coal deposits by Government without resorting to competitive bidding, which would have made huge amounts to the Government (to tune of 1.86 Lakh crore). However, the coal deposits were allocated arbitrarily.

### 4) Saradha Group Financial Scandal - 2013 – Size 2500 Crore

Financial scam caused by the collapse of a Ponzi scheme run by Saradha Group, a consortium of over 200 private companies that was believed to be running collective investment schemes popularly but incorrectly referred to as chit funds. As a result of this scam (Odisha and W.B), Rajya Sabha MP Kunal Ghosh (All India Trinamool Congress) is in jail since Nov, 2013 for interrogations. Odisha MP Ramchandra Hansda (Biju Janata Dal) MLA Pravat Tripathy (Biju Janata Dal) and former Odisha MLAs Subarna Naik (Biju Janata Dal) and Hitesh Kumar Bagarti (Bharatiya Janata Party) have also been arrested for ponzi scam. Rajya Sabha MP from West Bengal Srinjay Bose (All India Trinamool Congress) has also been arrested. West Bengal transport minister and All India Trinamool Congress MLA Madan Mitra was also arrested.

### 5) Punjab National Bank Scam - 2011-2018 – Size 11600 Crore

Punjab National Bank Fraud Case relates to alleged fraudulent Letter of Undertaking worth 11,600 crore (USD 1.77 billion dollars) that took place at its branch in Brady House, Mumbai, making Punjab National Bank potentially liable for the amount. The fraudulent transactions



are allegedly linked to designer and jeweler Nirav Modi of [[firestar diamonds], against whom a complaint has been filed with the Central Bureau of Investigation. The transactions were first noticed by a new employee in the bank.

The bank said that two of its employees at the branch were involved in the scam, when the bank's core banking system was bypassed to raise to overseas branches of other Indian banks, including Allahabad Bank, Axis Bank, and Union Bank of India, using the international financial communication system, SWIFT. Three Jewellers - Gitanjali Gems Ltd and its subsidiaries Gili and Nakshatra are also under the scanner of investigation agencies.

#### 6) Vikram Kothari - Rotomac Company Scam (February 2018)

On February 18, 2018 it was stated in a CBI FIR that Rotomac had cheated a consortium of seven banks by siphoning off bank loans of Rs2,919 crore. Including interest, the amount comes to Rs3,695 crore. The agency FIR added that Rotomac had diverted the sanctioned loans to another “fake company”, from where the money was routed back to Rotomac.

#### 4) Suggestions:-

##### Fighting corruption takes place in many ‘theatres’

- ❖ Political reforms, including the financing of political parties and elections;
- ❖ Economic reforms, regulating markets and the financial sector;
- ❖ Financial controls: budget, bookkeeping, reporting;
- ❖ Public supervision: media, parliament, local administrators and councils, registration;
- ❖ Free access to information and data;
- ❖ Maintaining law and order;
- ❖ Improving and strengthening of the judicial system;
- ❖ Institutional reforms: Tax systems, customs, public administration in general;
- ❖ Whistleblowers and civil society organisations (NGO's).

#### III) Measures to Control Corruption:-

1. The Right to Information Act (RTI) gives one all the required information about the Government, such as what the Government is doing with our tax payments. Under this act, one has the right to ask the Government on any problem which one faces. There is a Public Information Officer (PIO) appointed in every Government department, who is responsible for collecting information wanted by the citizens and providing them with the relevant information on payment of a nominal fee to the PIO.



If the PIO refuses to accept the application or if the applicant does not receive the required information on time then the applicant can make a complaint to the respective information commission, which has the power to impose a penalty up to Rs.25, 000 on the errant PIO.

2. Another potent check on corruption is Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). It was setup by the Government to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the areas of vigilance. If there are any cases of corruption or any complaints thereof, then that can be reported to the CVC. CVC also shoulders the responsibility of creating more awareness among people regarding the consequences of giving and taking of bribes and corruption.
3. Establishment of special courts for speedy justice can be a huge positive aspect. Much time should not elapse between the registration of a case and the delivery of judgment.
4. Strong and stringent laws need to be enacted which gives no room for the guilty to escape.
5. In many cases, the employees opt for corrupt means out of compulsion and not by choice. Some people are of the opinion that the wages paid are insufficient to feed their families. If they are paid better, they would not be forced to accept bribe.
6. Strong Civil Society - we needed strong civil society that takes initiative instead of depending helplessly on politicians and officials to fight against corruption.
7. Creation of strong Public opinion against corruption - Public opinion must be created against corrupt politicians and officers unless people take up cudgels against corruption, no amount of anti corruption measures can succeed.
8. Establishment of Strong, Efficient Lokpal at Centre and Lokayukta in States - Establishment of strong Lokpal at centre and lokayukta in states are need of the hour, because at present we are not having Independent, empowered, accountable institution to investigate the complaints of corruption cases and prosecute the guilty.

The one thing that needs to be ensured is proper, impartial, and unbiased use of various anti-social regulations to take strong, deterrent, and timely legal action against the offenders, irrespective of their political influences or money power. Firm and strong steps are needed to curb the menace and an atmosphere has to be created where the good, patriotic, intellectuals



come forward to serve the country with pride, virtue, and honesty for the welfare of the people of India.

#### IV) Conclusion:-

Corruption is an intractable problem. It may be concluded that corruption today has ceased to shock people. Even when mad practises are detected, the ministers and officers go scot-free. At the most, they are transferred. So long corruption fails to attract legal, moral and social censures, there is no hope of eliminating or even reducing it. It may not be possible to root out corruption completely at all levels but it is certainly possible to roll it down or to contain it within the tolerable limits. Corruption is a cancer which every Indian must strive to obliterate. For the growth of healthy society, it is vitally important that corruption should be eliminated or considerably reduced so that the phenomenon of black money does not destroy the vitals of the society “Just as it is impossible not to taste honey or poison that one may find at the tip of one’s tongue. So it is also impossible for one dealing with government funds not to taste at least a little bit, of the king’s wealth.”

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