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# Corruption in India

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## ABSTRACT

*This article is based upon Corruption which has been a major issue since a long time. Corruption is defined as an act of bribery to get a specific work done. When there is a use of public office for private gains which breaches law is termed as Corruption. Government has taken various steps to reduce corruption but has failed to do so instead people are finding new and new ways for getting their work done and aren't afraid of law. The issue of Corruption is not only a universal aspect but also has become an important consideration in elections. Corruption has developed to be a huge problem which is affecting the economy. Many talented and worthy people are not getting the opportunity they deserve. As corruption has now have its roots deep in every field, this makes it more difficult to tackle it. If corruption increases with this rate, then our country would face a lot of trouble economically in future.*

**Keywords:** *Corruption, Whistle Blower, Scam, Bribery, Black Money.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Corruption in India is the main problem since Independence and it has been increasing rapidly ever since. Corruption in present times has been a major issue across the globe and many underdeveloped and developing countries face corruption. Corruption is connected to bribery in a way as corruption is defined as the profit gained by doing some illegal work. Because of some people India is getting affected by this issue which is causing an adverse effect on economy. As in present corruption has been spread deep within the roots of the society and it is eating up the whole economy of our nation. It caused an effect to whole nation and very few honest people are left in our society. According to a survey conducted India ranks 84th among 180 countries which are adversely affected by corruption. It is high time when Government should introduce some strict laws regarding the same. Teaming up of Politicians with criminals and various Bureaucrats has caused a major impact towards the economy and is one of the major causes of corruption worldwide. Commonwealth games is a global phenomenon which was exposed to scam which put the image of India at stake. Strict actions should be taken against corrupt officials and a regulatory body should be set up so that there is a regular

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monitoring over such kind of issues. Government should start considering whistle blowing as it is a technique which can solve the problem of corruption an extent. Whistle blowing <sup>2</sup>is a concept in which a person(aka. Whistle blower) raises issues regarding the illegal activities happening in an organisation. Government should make this concept mandatory and guidelines should be made regarding the protection of “Whistle blower”. The future of nation can only be secured when we the nation is economically strong and that can only happen when the nation is corruption free. Everyone should be made about aware the effect that corruption is causing to our economy. We can tackle this situation only by the co-operation of people. Government should organize regulatory bodies and strict laws and punishments should be made. To tackle the corruption, we need more honest and dedicated persons. Media should also start taking a step against corruption as it can play a significant role to abolish the corruption. In today's scenario, if a person want to get something done or wants a government job, he can get the same done by paying lakhs of rupees to the higher officials and because of this an honest and skilful person isn't given an opportunity.

## **II. BIGGEST AND POPULAR SCAMS IN INDIA**

### **(A) 2G Spectrum Scam<sup>3</sup>**

India faced 1.76 lakh crore loss as A.Raja allocated 122 licences of 2G spectrum with the fixed price option to telecom companies demanding favours in return. The licenses were sold at a very low price and no rules and regulations were considered.

### **(B) Indian Coal Allocation Scam<sup>4</sup>**

This scam was one of the major political scandal<sup>5</sup> which questioned the allocation of the nation's coal<sup>6</sup> deposits to public and private enterprises. It came to notice that Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) raised allegations against that the government allocated the coal blocks to public and private enterprises. Out of the total 216 coal blocks, 194 were sold to public and private enterprises for captive use. It was clear that many parties were involved in the 'Coalgate' scam, which raised the concern that the corruption in India was growing day by day.

### **(C) Commonwealth Scam<sup>7</sup>**

This was the one of the biggest scams and it involved around Rs 70,000 crores<sup>8</sup>.The New Delhi

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<sup>2</sup> <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/definition/whistleblower>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.news18.com/news/immersive/2g-scam-explained.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://blog.ipleaders.in/coalgate-scam-a-legal-picture/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_scandals\\_in\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_scandals_in_India)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.slideshare.net/unitedworldmba/corruption-in-india-public-and-private-affairs>

<sup>7</sup> <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/miscellaneous/commonwealth-games-scam/articleshow/56032112.cms>

<sup>8</sup> <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/miscellaneous/commonwealth-games-scam/articleshow/56032112.cms>

Commonwealth Games were flawed by corruption and mismanagement of corrupt officials, which put India's reputation at stake. Only half of the amount was allocated to be spent on the CWG. Due to this many athletes were forced to move to shabby flats. According to reports it was found out that Suresh Kalmadi, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Games, had made a deal with Swiss Timings for its time-limiting equipment worth 141 crore and which unduly high by Rs.95 crore<sup>9</sup>. Court charged Kalmadi and all suspects with criminal conspiracy, theft, and were charged in compliance with the parts of the Corruption Prevention Act.

#### **(D) Telgi Scam<sup>10</sup>**

The accused of the Abdul Karim Telgi was convicted in 2002 as he was illegally using his license to sell stamp paper. He made Rs 20,000 crore by looting fake stamp paper and then sold the fake stamp papers banks and institutions.

#### **(E) Wakf Board Land Scam<sup>11</sup>**

This scam was considered as the biggest land scam as it involved misappropriation of land allocation worth Rs 2,000 billion by the Karnataka Wakf Board. According to reports by the Karnataka State Minorities Commission it was alleged that 27,000 acres of land which was under the control of the Karnataka Wakf Board was either illegally misused or allocated.

#### **(F) Fodder Scam<sup>12</sup>**

This scam involved embezzlement of around ₹950 crore and it was revealed that Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav was involved. Fake receipts of purchases of equipment, fodder, medicines were showed by the Bihar's animal husbandry department and it was believed that fraudulent withdrawals had been taking place since 20 years<sup>13</sup>.

These were examples of some of the popular and biggest scams India has faced over past couple of years and due to which India has suffered economically and because of these scams many issues like poverty and unemployment arises our country.

### **III. MAJOR FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR CORRUPTION**

1. One of the major factors which is responsible for the increase of corruption is greed. People have greed for luxuries and comforts which lures them into doing illegal activities as to

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<sup>9</sup> <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/miscellaneous/Commonwealth-Games-Scam/articleshow/56032112.cms>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.firstpost.com/india/scam-2003-to-showcase-story-of-abdul-karim-telgi-the-fruit-seller-who-built-an-empire-counterfeiting-stamp-papers-9378171.html>

<sup>11</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karnataka\\_Wakf\\_Board\\_Land\\_Scam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karnataka_Wakf_Board_Land_Scam)

<sup>12</sup> <https://indianexpress.com/article/what-is/what-is-the-fodder-scam-a-look-at-what-all-has-happened-since-1996-4645719/>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.firstpost.com/politics/fodder-scam-all-you-need-to-know-about-the-21-year-old-case-against-lalu-prasad-yadav-3432192.html>

earn monetary or material benefits.

2. Our education has failed to provide moral and spiritual values which has caused the deterioration of the society.
3. As employees feel they are paid less as a result they indulge themselves into illegal activities so that they can earn more money.
4. Criminals don't face strict actions against the crime of corruption as result it encourages more people to indulge in illegal activities as government are not paying proper attention.
5. As political leaders have the power in their hands, they use it to spoil the society by promoting such kinds of activities and such political leaders are destroying the society.
6. People don't have proper awareness towards the issue of corruption and hence they fear to raise their voice against such anti-social elements.

#### **IV. MEASURES TO CONTROL CORRUPTION IN INDIA**

1. The Right to Information Act (RTI)<sup>14</sup> which grants every citizen to know any information related to the Government. A Public Information Officer (PIO)<sup>15</sup> is appointed who collects all the information and provides the citizen with the information on payment of a nominal fee
2. Government has organised a commission to monitor cases related to corruption and help Central Government by areas of vigilance. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)<sup>16</sup> handles all the cases of corruption or any complaints. CVC has the responsibility to create awareness among people regarding the punishments given in the case of bribery and corruption.
3. Special courts should be established for the speedy trial which can prove to be a huge positive aspect. There should not be much of delay between the registration of a case and the delivery of judgment.
4. Strict laws should be enacted so that it will discourage people to commit bribery and corruption.
5. Government has introduced various laws to reduce corruption such as the Indian Penal

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<sup>14</sup> <https://rti.gov.in/rti-act.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.ravemobilesafety.com/blog/what-is-the-role-of-a-public-information-officer-pio>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.drishtiiias.com/important-institutions/drishti-specials-important-institutions-national-institutions/central-vigilance-commission-cvc>

Code, 1860<sup>17</sup> and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988<sup>18</sup>. Benami transactions were restricted under The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988<sup>19</sup>. Public servants were punished under The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002<sup>20</sup> for money laundering.

6. There were many cases where the employees opt were forced to indulge in illegal activities and corruptions as the wages, they were paid was insufficient to feed their family. This can be solved if they are more wages.
7. There should be transparency in Indian Economy.
8. Political parties should be brought under RTI and eligibility should be set to become Indian Politician
9. More transparency should be considered in Govt Job Recruitment

## **V. SOME EXAMPLES OF CORRUPTION**

1. There are dishonest workers who cheat customers by adulteration and duplicate weighing of products in food and civil supplies.
2. Even though the property is built properly as per the government rules and regulation , property tax officers charge money from citizens.
3. Political corruption is the major concern in India as it weakens the political body and damages importance of the law in the society. Nowadays politics is full of criminals, bureaucrats. There were a number of cases of crimes during elections as the voters were threatened vote for a particular candidate or apply physical force on the voters to prevent them to vote especially weaker sections of the society.
4. One of the popular forms of corruption was Tax evasion<sup>21</sup> as it was mainly practiced by Government officials and politicians who had black money in possession which spoiled the moral of the people.

## **VI. EFFECT OF CORRUPTION TO SOCIETY**

Corruption caused an adverse effect on the economy of the country and if the situation is handled then the situation can be worse. It increased unemployment , hunger and poverty as

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<sup>17</sup> [https://www.iitk.ac.in/wc/data/IPC\\_186045.pdf](https://www.iitk.ac.in/wc/data/IPC_186045.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> <https://legislative.gov.in/sites/default/files/A1988-49.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> [https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Benami%20Transaction\\_Prohibition\\_%20Act1988.pdf](https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Benami%20Transaction_Prohibition_%20Act1988.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prevention\\_of\\_Money\\_Laundering\\_Act,\\_2002#:~:text=Prevention%20of%20Money%20Laundering%20Act%2C%202002%20is%20an%20Act%20of,effect%20from%20July%201%2C%202005.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prevention_of_Money_Laundering_Act,_2002#:~:text=Prevention%20of%20Money%20Laundering%20Act%2C%202002%20is%20an%20Act%20of,effect%20from%20July%201%2C%202005.)

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/t/taxevasion.asp>

the people weren't getting the opportunity, they deserve to earn instead the person who was wealthy already was taking advantage of the situation. Corruption granted power and authority to wrong hands which were not only corrupted but were criminals. It caused psychological and social disorder. Corruption is giving rise to inequality and that is the reason that rich are getting richer and poor are getting poorer. The development of the nation is getting delayed by corruption. Benefits are being enjoyed by only rich people and not the general public. Talent and skill isn't been considered. Eventually the people who aren't given proper chance which made them upset and agitated and hence it resort to suicide in some cases. In the name of faith, and religion many people were facing exploitation.

## **VII. WHAT STEPS HAVE GOVERNMENT TAKEN AGAINST CORRUPTION**

1. The major step what government take against corruption and black money was the demonetization which banned banning 500 and 1000 Rs notes which were the mode of transaction for many illegal activities such as Corruption, Black Money, Terrorism.
2. Citizens were granted "Right to Information Act (RTI)" under which they can seek any information from government about how is the money being handled.
3. More transparency of functioning was created by the Government and government made changes in the recruitment for the government jobs such as self-attestation of certificates and removal of interviews, to avoid any kind of corruption.
4. Various Schemes and yojanas such as with "Jan Dhan yojana<sup>22</sup>" & "Direct Benefit Transfer<sup>23</sup>" helped opening of bank accounts of millions of people to provide them subsidies and benefits directly.
5. Commission was established by government, namely Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) which was given the responsibility to monitor corruption and help central government agencies in the areas of vigilance.

## **VIII. CONCLUSION**

Corruption has become a much of major problem now as it wasn't dealt properly by government. It is almost impossible to completely root out corruption but it can be contained at a certain level. People should be made aware about the punishments and how does corruption effects economy. When the government acts towards the issue responsibly and establishes a strict law against corruption it will automatically discourage people from indulging into such

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<sup>22</sup> <https://pmjdy.gov.in/about>

<sup>23</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Direct\\_Benefit\\_Transfer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Direct_Benefit_Transfer)

kind of activities. People should be taught moral values and ethics so that greed doesn't take over humanity. Honest and dedicated persons can prove to be most important assets in fight against corruption. As we all know that corruption causes corrosive impact on our economy and it puts image of our country international market at stake which would eventually cause a lot of trouble, lack of support and will lead to loss of overseas opportunities. Corruption in India has been tolerated for so long and the time has come when we should start acting against it.

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