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**A.K.K. NEW LAW ACADEMY &
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UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL CORRUPTION IN CONTEMPORARY INDIAN POLITICS

Dr. Mahesh Jaiwantrao Patil *

Introduction

It means corruption in political process and it is abuse of power and position by political leaders for their individual benefit. Political corruption is the mother of all kinds of corruption, because everyday new scam is opened in which political leaders are involved. Political Power is being used by leaders. They have various opportunities in their hand as they are in power. With the object to increase own power and wealth, they promote corrupt practices.

Corruption in post independent India

At the time of Independence Pandit Nehru addressed to the Constituent Assembly at midnight (Tryst with Destiny). In the speech, he says that India got independence after the long struggle with the United Kingdom. Now the time comes when we shall celebrate our freedom. At the midnight, when the world's people sleep, Indian will awake to life and freedom. Also, he mentions that the independence of the country is a rare moment in history. From tomorrow, we step out from the old to the new. This grave moment we take the promise of dedication to the service of India, and humanity¹.

Corruption prevailed in India even before independence. During British Rule, India was not immune from corruption. The same situation continued after independence. Even the situation at that time was so worse that Mahatma Gandhi also shown his pity on the situation of corruption in India².

At the time of independence i.e. on 15th August 1947, Mahatma Gandhi was in Kolkata. A Congress minister of West Bengal came and met with Gandhi. Also, he advised Gandhi to be cautious about the danger of power and corruption. In December 1947, Gandhi received a letter from his aged friend Konda Venkatappaiah of Andhra Pradesh who was a freedom fighter. In that letter he mentioned that there is moral degradation of the Congress legislators who are bust for making financial profit by using their political influence and blocking judicial system. As a result, Gandhi came to a conclusion and suggested that the INC be