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5. Corruption and Indian Democracy

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Introduction

Corruption has affected almost everyone in India. Government officials frequently demand bribes for issuing a driving license, a building construction permit, birth and death certificates, an income certificate, a ration card, a passport or admission in an educational institution or supplying a water connection. Bribes are extracted even from street vendors and poor villagers hired under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

The popularity and high level of corruption in the country like India have adverse effects on financial stability, an efficiency of work and legitimacy of political power. Corrupt practices are sustained through an elaborate nexus among bureaucrats and politicians. This system has dominated or influenced all institutions of power and authority in the country and made it difficult for the common citizens.

One of the major reasons for this unhappy state of affair is a lack of an independent and accountable institutional mechanism which could be empowered to investigate complaints against corrupt practices. At present, there are three main agencies in India that deal with corruption cases. They are the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which investigates cases related to corruption under the Prevention of Corruption Acts, Indian Penal Code (IPC) 186 (<http://cbi.gov.in>); the Center Vigilance Commission (CVC), which is a statutory body that supervises corruption cases at Union level administration (<http://cvc.gov.in>) and the State Anti-corruption Bureaus. All these agencies have to work directly or indirectly under the control of Central and State Governments. As a result of this control, these agencies could not work impartially.

Transparency International (TI) Index 2017 has placed India on 81st position in the corruption (<https://www.transparency.org/>). Scams are being unearthed every day and need to be curbed at all levels. Central Government of India did not remain back footed. It attempted many times for the creation of different types of machinery and anti-corruption laws for curbing