



# Transparency International India

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*The coalition against corruption*

## PRESS RELEASE

**Distrust against political institutions continues in the country,  
according to the Global corruption survey**

***Parliament/Legislature voted as the most corrupt institution***

**New Delhi, December 9, 2010:** According to 2010 Global Corruption Barometer, a global public opinion survey of more than 91,500 people in 86 countries on the state and status of corruption in various services in different countries, released today on Intern'l Anti-Corruption Day by Transparency International (TI). The Barometer explores the general public's views about corruption levels in their country and their government's efforts to fight corruption. The 2010 Barometer also probes the frequency of bribery, reasons for paying a bribe in the past year, and attitudes towards reporting incidents of corruption.

Political Parties are perceived to be the most corrupt institution by the Indians. Police and Parliament/ Legislature were rated by about 97 per cent of respondents as the most corrupt institutions in the country. Other institutions that were termed corrupt include the Public Officials/Civil Servants, the private sector, media and the judiciary.

Nearly three-fourths of the respondents opined that the level of corruption in India has increased in the past three years. Similarly, three-fourths of the people sampled felt that the government has not been effective in addressing corruption in the country. Respondents, however, expressed their maximum trust in Media in fighting corruption.

The survey in India, conducted on the basis of 1000 urban households at the national level by Gallup International between July 1 and 6, 2010 also indicated that the perception of government effectiveness in relation to addressing corruption has not improved from 2007. Forty two per cent of the people analysed, said that government's actions in the fight against corruption was effective. The main findings for India are as follows :

- 74 per cent of the respondents feel that the level of corruption in the past three years has increased
- On a scale of 5, one means "Not at All" corrupt and five means "Extremely Corrupt", Political Parties scored 4.2, followed by Police (4.1) and Parliament/ Legislature (4.0). The corruption score in other sectors vary between 3.4 and 2.8. As compared to 2004, corruption score in Military has increased by fifty percent, while corruption score in sectors like Political Parties, Police, education and judiciary has come down.

### **Petty bribery and economic crisis : Poor punished twice**

The 2010 Barometer shows that the common man mostly contacts public utilities (31.6%), followed by Education (24.1%) and Medical Services (20.9%) during the last 12 months. During their interactions, they paid a bribe. Its frequency is, however, maximum (63.8%) in Police, followed by Land Services (62.5%), Registry/Permit Services (61.4%), Tax Revenue (50.6%) and the Judiciary (44.8%). Such a state of affairs affects the poorest vis-à-vis high-income respondents by petty bribe demands. The above findings seem to be genuine in view of the current repeated exposure of corruption cases in the country.

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### **Transparency International India's Viewpoint**

According to the Transparency International India's (TII) "India Corruption Study-2008" which studied effects of corruption in the Below Poverty Line (BPL) sector, estimates that the poor are forced to cough up about Rs 9,000 million as bribe to avail basic and need-based services. In view of their inability to meet such illegal demands, poor ones have to continue to suffer.

### **The role of the government and civil societies**

Anti-corruption tools such as RTI, Social Audit, Citizens' Charters and use of information technology are wonderful tools to check the corrupt practices, but majority of the population in the country is not aware about them. Transparency International has also devised tools such as Integrity Pact and Development Pact to check corruption in areas of procurement and political institutions, respectively. TI India is advocating for the adoption of these tools

Ratification of United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) is also important, as it would help in recovering stolen assets, prevent money laundering, pursue corrupt foreign companies and individuals, prohibit bribery of foreign public officials, and enhance accounting and auditing standards in the private sector. The Convention creates obligations on everything from protecting whistleblowers and denying criminals safe haven to codes of conduct for civil servants. It contains tools to fix many of the problems that the *Barometer* identifies, which affect a broad range of institutions and the citizens that depend on them.

Besides, there is a need for the enactment of the following electoral and political reforms without further delay –

- "The corrupt Public Servants (Forfeiture of Property) Bill, as suggested by the Law Commission.
- Constitution of the Lokpal (Public Ombudsman) institution as proposed recently in the model Lokpal Bill by voluntary organisations and sent to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to deal with allegations of corruption against Ministers and Members of Parliament.
- Amend the Representation of the People Act 1951 to disqualify all persons facing charges related to grave and heinous offences and corruption, with the modification suggested by the Election Commission.

**For more information, please contact us at:**

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Table 1- Sector-wise Level of Corruption in India

Sample Size in India – 1000 Households	(Percentage to total respondents)					
	Sectors affected by corruption	Not at all	To a small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	Extremely Corrupt
Political Parties	0.5	7.4	9.8	33.4	48.1	0.8
Parliament/Legislature	1.1	6.0	21.8	34.6	34.2	2.3
Public Officials/Civil Servants	1.1	15.9	27.9	35.3	17.9	1.9
Business/Private Sector	8.3	20.0	30.6	27.1	9.8	4.2
Media	7.4	29.3	28.0	22.4	10.8	2.1
Military	17.3	29.3	19.4	16.9	12.1	5.0
NGOs	7.4	22.7	29.5	25.1	11.3	4.0
Religious bodies	9.4	24.9	31.6	21.9	7.8	4.4
Education System	4.1	17.7	27.1	31.6	18.5	1.0
Judiciary/Judicial System	6.8	24.2	25.6	29.6	9.8	4.0
Police	1.2	6.1	17.9	33.8	40.4	0.6

Table 2- Frequency of Contacts and Bribe Paid for Important Services

Sectors	Percentage				
	During the last 12 Months				
	Contacted			Paid a Bribe	
	Yes	No	DK/NA	Yes	No
Education	24.1	74.7	1.2	22.8	77.2
Judiciary	5.8	91.7	2.5	44.8	55.2
Medical Services	20.9	77.2	1.9	25.8	74.2
Police	12.7	85.2	2.1	63.8	36.2
Registry/Permit Services	7.0	91.4	1.6	61.4	37.1
Tax Revenue	7.7	90.0	2.3	50.6	49.4
Public Utilities	31.6	67.1	1.3	46.8	5,2
Land Services	7.2	90.6	2.0	62.5	37.5
Customs	2.3	94.6	2.7	39.1	56.5

Table 3 - Sector-wise Comparative Level of Corruption in India

Sectors (Corruption on a scale of 5*)	2004	2007	2010
Education System	3.8	3.4	3.4
Judiciary	4.0	3.8	3.1
Police	4.5	4.5	4.1
Political Parties	4.6	4.6	4.2
Parliament/ Legislature	4.0	3.9	4.0
Business/ Private Sector	2.9	3.4	3.1
Media	2.7	2.5	3.0
Military	1.9	1.8	2.8
NGOs	2.7	3.1	3.1
Religious Bodies	2.7	3.0	2.9

**Note :** Scale of 5 means 1 for 'Not at All'; 5 means 'Extremely Corrupt'