

For setting a national agenda

MAKING OF CORRUPTION FREE UNITED INDIA

AFTER 75 YEARS

AS PROGRESSIVE AND WELFARE STATE

(First Draft Edition)

By

D S Bisht

Research Scholar & Director

Central Himalayan Institute Dehradun (India)

After 'Governance and Development of Rural India' published in 2014/2025, this is the second comprehensive, action-plan oriented research study project undertaken by the author with a holistic approach based on 40 years of personal experience and experiment which helped to study in-depth the existing inefficiency and corruption in public services. As a result, the present status of political, economic and civic governance in India after 75 years has been documented for analysis and necessary recommendations have been made for structural, functional, legal and administrative reforms in all departments/sectors under government of India at all level to ensure corruption free governance for the welfare of the citizens, economic development of the country and delivery of public services with transparency and accountability. Truly speaking, this study project report should be accepted as a policy framework by stakeholders including institutes teaching about good governance to make India corruption free, progressive and welfare state.

PREAMBLE

Introduction

Let us start with the 'History of Corruption in India' by Shalini Bharti and Rochna Mittal published in International Journal of Political Science and Governance (2025). Abstract of research paper is as follows. – “ This manuscript traces the historical evolution of corruption in India, from Vedic age to post liberalization era in India. Corruption is an inbuilt system in the human mind, and it has persisted since civilization started. Corruption was accursed in texts like the Rigveda as a societal evil linked to poverty and deprivation. Though Kautilya's Arthashastra has no mention of the word 'corruption', it is the most comprehensive and detailed text about various forms of corrupt official practices, detailing 40 types of embezzlement and proposing stringent penalties for each of them. Medieval India, under the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal Empire, struggled with corrupt revenue systems, aggravated by decentralized governance and Jagirdari abuses. The colonial era under the British Raj institutionalized corruption through rigid administrative practices crafted especially to exploit the wealth of India and lay the foundation for systemic irregularities. Post-independence, the License Raj fostered bureaucratic corruption. Post-1991 liberalization, crony capitalism became apparent. India is still struggling to counter this system, which is deeply rooted in politics, society, and administration in various forms.”

In another research paper 'Corruption in historical perspective: A case of India', published in International Journal of Political Science (2007), Arun Kr. Agrawal said- “One begins to wonder whether we are the same who rode to freedom with truth and sacrifice as our motto. By adopting a holistic approach and by co-opting all the principal actors in the process of anti-corruption reform, a country or community can enhance its capacity to curtail corruption to manageable levels. But none of this can be tackled without enlightened and determined political leadership, without high levels of public awareness and support, and without a motivated and well-led private sector. In many countries, the most difficult element in the equation is that of developing a vibrant civil society willing and able to play a meaningful role in shaping its environment.”

Keeping in view the historical background of corruption in India, this is the first in-depth and most comprehensive research study project ever undertaken by any individual or institute which is purely empirical based on factual information about governance with over forty years of personal and practical experience of public administration and experiment in delivery of public services at the grass root level both in urban and in rural (real) India. **Briefly, the aim of the project is to examine the present status of political, economic and civic governance in India and to suggest necessary legal, administrative, structural and functional reforms to ensure that India is not allowed to slip back into divided states due to rising corruption, inequality, distribution of wealth, increasing economic distress and neglect of rural India.** The conceptual framework of the research study project has been broadly stated in the following paragraphs.

It is well established now that the problem of corruption varies from country to country which is directly related to historical background, culture, traditions and the existing political structure and governance of the country concerned. Instead of routine research papers on corruption including index of corruption or cover stories on a particular incident of corruption/scam etc. holistic and practical approach has been adopted in this research project to study the existing status of political, economic and civic governance in India today at all level and in all allied branches/sectors of the government with particular reference to present status of structure, composition, role, manpower management, level of performance/efficiency as per rules/procedures, if any, laid down and the capacity to deliver public services to all category of citizens as per their legal entitlements with or without corruption.

The study project used all relevant information and data which has been in public domain during last 40-50 years for study and analysis to come to final conclusion and to suggest action plan to ensure corruption free governance with sharp focus on inefficiency, corrupt practices reported and known in each sector/department of the government. The study project has been able to identify the impact of inefficiency in governance which had adversely affected the performance of civil administration to deliver the public services to the citizens of the country without corruption at all level. The study project report is likely to serve as a valuable reference and guide book on governance to help people in power to ensure best possible political, economic and civic governance for the welfare of the people in a democratic and a welfare state like India through existing system of parliamentary democracy and in accordance to the constitution of India.

It is proposed to bring out revised and an updated edition of this study project report after every six months (1st January and 1st July) till such time we are able to see visible improvement in corruption

free political, economic and civic governance in India. Large number of relevant research papers on 'Corruption in India and the world' published during 1997-2024, have been received by the author of this project by e-mail during last one year which have also been studied. Research papers are only for theoretical study of corruption in general. This research study project has gone into the present status of corruption in each department/sector in India today and to what extent poor political, economic and civic governance has failed to check corruption in India. The study project succeeded in identifying the mode and specific reasons of corruption in each sector covered in 17 Sections. Sector/department specific conclusion have been drawn and recommendations have been recorded at the end of each Section. Common recommendations to improve civic governance applicable to all departments for structural, functional, legal and administrative reform have been included in the Executive Summary of Findings to make India corruption free in due course of time.

The world is also presently facing the problems arising due to military conflicts for domination of one region or other. The conventional war has now turned into arms race for unconventional war to acquire latest technology to conduct air warfare with latest aircraft, missile, drone, cyber technology and use of satellite etc. Besides pandemic and climate change, it is bound to further aggravate, communalize and criminalize both international and national politics around the world. Internationalization of corruption and criminalization of politics will also affect adversely the peace and prosperity in this planet earth. Therefore, eradication of corruption, poverty and economic backwardness may not get the required attention till such time normalcy is established in this planet. However, delivery of minimum essential public services to the citizens as per their legal entitlement/human rights without corruption can still be ensured by improving civic governance with transparency and accountability in the country.

Origin and background of the study project

During national agitation for 'India against corruption', an article by me on this subject then titled 'Corruption & Lokpal Bill' was published on 19 November, 2011 in a local weekly 'Garhwal Post' in Dehradun. Since then, corruption has increased manifold. Today politicians, bureaucrats and others are being reported/arrested on a daily basis under MLPA and for holding unaccounted money/ wealth running into crores of rupees. Now even the bank and treasury officers have been arrested for pocketing public money including misappropriation of public funds without any fear. In other words, demonetization and Lokpal has neither helped to check growth of black money nor corruption.

The one point agenda i.e. passing of Lok Pal Bill will neither eradicate nor reduce corruption in India. In a country of India's size with population over 140 crore living in 35 states/union territories governed by different political parties who are totally independent to manage the affairs in their respective states, it will be difficult to put up a united front to eradicate corruption when no one government is free from corruption. Therefore, the present exercise to enact Lok Pal and Lok Ayukta bill and appointment, thereafter, has so far not given any positive results. In fact, the offices of Lok Pal and Lok Ayukta are becoming a parallel center of governance with additional burden on the state exchequer. The issue of corruption is being raised to malign the ruling party both at the center and states by the opposition parties only to gain political advantage during election and not for eradication of corruption. Whether the Prime Minister and the Judiciary is brought under Lok Pal or not, will not solve the problem of day-to-day corruption faced by the ordinary citizens of the country. Number of cases involving middle and lower-level government employees are regularly caught and reported with unaccounted money and wealth running into crores of rupees which should be the main issue for those interested to eradicate corruption in the country.

It is often forgotten that 73 per cent of India's population continue to live in villages located in varying agroclimatic conditions where they have been practicing fair and co-operative means for their livelihood and survival from time immemorial. It is only the 20 per cent of the 27 per cent population (the lower middle class) mostly living or working in urban or semi urban areas who are facing the brunt of corruption in public services on the one hand and uncertain opportunities in employment, wages and inflation on the other. Unfortunately, some of the political organizations give more importance to community interest and linguistic brotherhood rather than national interest or supremacy of law of the land. Obviously, corruption is not an important issue for many organizations and political parties. Rural population in each state has their own occupational and cultural practices who are now facing the problems created by new culture of corruption spreading in rural/tribal areas due to urbanization and the role being played by multiple agencies of the central, state government and local bodies to implement welfare and rural development program in the country without any accountability.

Over a period, we have innovated various forms of corruption in the country. There are ordinary cases of bribery or collusive bribery where the bribe giver and bribe taker together take advantage and deprive the honest citizens of their fundamental rights. The other forms of corruption adopted by the so called literate and the rich people are: tax evasion by collusion, managing government work orders including advertisements and execution of sub-standard works, corruption by government officials while buying goods and services (public procurement), illegal exploitation of natural resources like mining and forest, production of spurious drug / food injurious to health and violation of safety norms to earn fast and easy money. The most important issue that is being over looked is the corruption within government machinery. Bribery for recruitment, payment of salary, posting, promotions/appointments and for payment of dues at the time of retirement. Therefore, the problem can be addressed only by undertaking necessary structural, functional, administrative and legal reforms to check corruption in each sector and departments of the government at various level.

Governance issues identified to check corruption in India

Administrative and legal reforms should aim at strengthening existing law enforcement authorities vertically from top to bottom. The existing authorities and law include Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Comptroller and Auditor General of Accounts of India, Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) etc. which are good enough to check corruption at all level involving multiple authorities and departments of the government such as CWG and Adarsh building society scam etc. Corruption can also be checked if prompt action is taken under existing Prevention of Corruption Act which includes (a) public servant taking gratification other than legal remuneration in respect of official act (b) taking gratification by corrupt or illegal means in order to influence public servants (c) taking gratification for exercise of personnel influence with public servants.

Similarly, corruption in delivery of public services by various departments/agencies of Central/State government can be checked by strengthening and enforcing Civil Service Conduct rules/Classification Control and Appeal (CCA) rules etc. already in existence. Unfortunately, rules are there in the statutory books and amended from time to time but not updated and honestly enforced to regulate the conduct of government employees. Since government employees themselves remain ignorant of Service rules, the number of court cases between government employees and the government continue to rise in various tribunal and courts in the country. Hence, day to day corruption in public services is overlooked and delivery of public services is either delayed or denied till such time one is willing to grease the palm of service providers.

Beside strengthening existing laws, corruption can be checked by simply making each head of office, exercising administrative powers, directly responsible to check corruption in his own office and subordinate offices under his control. The head of the office should either take action against the employees indulging in corrupt practices or report the matter directly to anti-corruption department/vigilance authorities of the state for further action. If head of the office fails to do his duty, then action can be taken against Head of the office under civil service conduct rules which can also be amended accordingly.

The scope and form of corruption vary from department to department and profession to profession and therefore needs different regulating mechanism in each department or profession. This can not be done by the existing Ministry of Personnel but needs an independent ministry to eradicate corruption in India. The new ministry, if ever created., will have to undertake structural, functional and administrative reforms of all anti-corruption agencies including departmental vigilance organizations responsible for prevention of corruption. The people are generally ignorant of existing mechanism such as internal audit of accounts, vigilance wing under each department and police vigilance who can be made more effective and accountable after necessary reforms. This could check corruption at the lowest level and provide immediate relief to poor and helpless people living both in urban and rural India.

Making of corruption free welfare state like India

Now, that the issue of corruption has come to center stage, it will not die till such time concrete steps are taken to eradicate corruption in all walks of life which may take at least 5-10 years. How best this can be done systematically without disturbing political stability, national security, day to day public administration, existing legal system and development of the country- is the key question before the government and civil society which are proposed to be studied in-depth in this comprehensive research

study project which has been undertaken by Central Himalayan Institute to make corruption free India for the welfare of the people.

The aim of corruption free welfare state like India should be that the citizens are well aware of their fundamental rights, duties on the one hand and are given equal opportunity to progress depending upon their knowledge and skills in their profession irrespective of the caste, color, creed or religion. At the same time corruption free country also means that economically weaker section of the society and those living below the poverty line including disabled are not exploited in any manner by those in power or living above the poverty line and are given adequate security in terms of job, food, shelter, medical facilities and education without discrimination or bribe. This will be possible only when honest, dedicated and committed civil servants are deployed to deliver the public services at the lowest level both in urban and rural areas.

No comprehensive study as such has been carried out so far with particular reference to corruption in India. The issue has now drawn the attention of all countries in the world after the study was conducted by Transparency International in 2005 and recorded that more than 62% of Indians had at some point or another paid a bribe to a public official to get a job done. In 2008, another report showed that about 50% of Indians had first-hand experience of paying bribes or using contacts to get services performed by public offices. However, in 2020 their Corruption Perceptions Index ranked the country 86th out of 180, reflecting steady decline in perception of corruption among people. Transparency International report broadly recorded various factors which contribute to be the reasons for corruption in India. Major corruption cases reported in the media included Indians stashing millions of rupees in Swiss Banks and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) having accepted that undeclared assets of Rs.20,078 crore have been identified by their office in India and abroad following the investigation till June 2021.

National approach to check corruption in India today

This study project has been formulated keeping in view all aspects of political, economic and civic governance which will be studied in depth for necessary reform to realize the dream of making corruption free India in the near future. People have more or less accepted the corruption as part of life which is not a good sign for the future of any country. If not checked now, it can even break the unity of the country and end parliamentary democracy. The symptoms are clearly visible. The people are seen taking law into their own hand and force the government agencies accept their demand or entitlement which is denied to them under the existing laws due to corruption and inefficiency in the concerned department. Government machinery fails to spot the corrupt practices within the government departments due to poor quality of civic governance, vigilance and action is only taken when the matter is reported in the media.

It should be a matter of concern that mostly the educated, rich and responsible people inside as well as outside the government machinery are found to be indulging in high level corruption today. Once the corruption cases are exposed, the rich people manage to employ experienced advocates to defend themselves and may even get acquitted after long drawn legal battle. The rest of the population remains neglected who have no choice but to bribe at various level to get all kinds of legal entitlements. The resolution was passed by Parliament some years ago i.e. (a) every government department adopt a citizen's charter which will ensure time bound rendering of public services (b) Lok Ayukta to be set up on the lines of Lok Pal and (c) the lower bureaucracy be made accountable to the citizens through Lok Pal or any other mechanism. But so far no visible impact could be seen on the ground because no structural and functional reform of the govt department has been undertaken to implement the resolution on the ground at the grass root level.

Anti-corruption campaign in China v/s India

It is also in the interest of Indian citizens to know as to how China has been dealing with the problem of corruption during last few years and can we learn any lesson to eradicate corruption in India. The information about present status of corruption in China is readily available in the media through various websites. Briefly, the relevant information has been included in the following paragraphs which will be taken into consideration for the purpose of this study project report.

Corruption is a significant problem in the People's Republic of China impacting government administration, armed forces, law enforcement, health care and education. Like other socialist economies that have undertaken economic reforms, such as post-Soviet Eastern Europe and Central Asia, reform-era China has experienced increasing levels of corruption. Corruption undermines the legitimacy of the authoritarian Chinese Communist Party (CCP) government, adds to economic inequality, undermines the

environment, and fuels social unrest. Chinese political scientist Minxin Pei argued that failure to contain widespread corruption is among the most serious threats to China's future economic and political stability. He estimates that bribery, kickbacks, theft and waste of public funds cost at least three percent of the GDP. Cadre corruption in China has been subject to significant media attention since CCP General Secretary Xi Jinping announced his anti-corruption campaign following the CCP's 18th National Congress which was held in November 2012. Many high-ranking government and military officials have been found guilty of corruption because of this campaign.

Chinese reform-era state has also been an enabling factor, since state agencies have been granted regulatory powers with institutional constraints, allowing them to tap into new opportunities to seek profits from rapid growth in businesses and the economy. In 2010, National Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (NCCPPCC) issued a warning in the People's Daily, calling for better legal structures and greater supervision over the business dealings of officials and their children. The committee said the rapidly growing wealth of CCP official's children and family members is what the public is most dissatisfied about. According to a January 2014 investigation by the International Consortium of investigative journalists, more than dozen family members of China's top political and military leaders are linked to offshore companies based in the British Virgin Islands. The report shows that the brother-in-law of China's current supreme leader, Xi Jinping, and son-in-law of former premier Wen Jiabao are among those using offshore financial heavens to avoid tax and transfer of money overseas. Among the targets of the anti-corruption campaign since 2012, are Yao Gang, Vice Chairman at the China's Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), who was investigated by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection in November, 2015, after stock market rout rocked global markets.

Opinion survey carried out by CCP officials and Chinese citizens identify corruption as one of the top concern of the public. A Harvard University study of more than 30,000 Chinese found that in 2016, 65% of respondents believed that local officials were not corrupt. However, it is the higher political executives who are alleged to be involved in corruption. All rich families in China have political backgrounds. In China graft is the most common and refers to bribery, illicit kickbacks, embezzlement, and theft of public funds. Rent-seeking in the case of China are both rent generation and rent-seekers, both making rent opportunities for others and seeking such opportunities to benefit themselves. This may include profiteering by officials or official firms, extortion in the form of illicit impositions, fees and other charges. The other corrupt practice include whereby holders of public office gain privileges and perquisites through their position. Like in India, Chinese administration is also involved in misusing social housing development program for their personal benefit by paying lower prices. Similarly in October 2025, it was found that 119 officials in the city of Shifang has illegally claimed unemployment allowance while they were receiving public sector salaries.

The anti-corruption campaign began with the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) conducting investigations into numerous high-ranking CCP and government officials, as well as Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) Generals and heads of state-owned enterprises and institutions, for violation of discipline and law and those found guilty were punished. Most of the officials were dismissed from office and faced charges of bribery and abuse of power. The campaign has targeted hundreds of senior officials, including dozen of ministerial -level officials, senior PLA officers, deputy ministerial-level officials, several executives of state -owned enterprises and five national level leaders which included both sitting and former national-level leaders.

Anti-corruption organization in China include: Anti -Corruption and Government Research Centre, International Association of Anti-corruption Authorities (IAACA), Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), National Supervisory Commission, Independent Commission Against Corruption (Hong Kong) and Commission Against Corruption (Macau). According to historian and sinologist Wang Gungwu, Xi Jinping inherited a particular party that was faced with pervasive corruption and in danger of collapse. Xi and new generational leaders aimed to eliminate corruption at the higher levels of the CCP because of their belief that only the party was capable of governing China, and that a collapse of the party would be disastrous for Chinese people. Wang further adds, Xi Jinping obviously believes that his anti-corruption campaign was vital to enable him to save the party. Politically unchallenged regime in China creates opportunities for cadres to exploit and control the rapid growth of economic opportunities, and while incentives to corruption grow, effective countervailing are absent. The government of the Peoples Republic of China does not release unified statistics on crime rates and the rate of criminal offending. According to Global Organized Crime Index (2023), China is grappling with deep rooted criminal activities across diverse markets, while its resilience is limited by corruption and centralized control of governance and information. Comparative study of corruption in China ruled by

authoritarian Communist Party of China and in India governed with the help of civil services will also be carried out for the purpose of this study project report.

Present and future prospect of the study project

Briefly, the study project is to examine the existing status of political, economic and civic governance in India today and its ability or inability to ensure corruption free governance for the development of the country on the one hand and welfare of the people including delivery of public services in urban/rural areas on the other hand with a view to keep everybody at least above poverty line and to maintain human development index at the required level. Beside historical background, existing level of corruption in each sector/ department of the government will be examined after documenting the exact mode of corruption with examples and the reasons will be identified to suggest structural, functional, legal and administrative reform with particular reference to recruitment of manpower, deployment, training facilities, service conditions, pay and allowances of the employees to ensure corruption free functioning of the government department to deliver public services efficiently in national interest.

Further, it is also necessary to examine the present status of existing law enforcement agencies/ laws/ judiciary and suggest required action plan towards capacity building to reduce corruption in all walks of life. Similarly, lawlessness, policing and corruption in India will be examined and necessary police reform will be suggested to eradicate corruption. It is equally important that existing laws and mechanism are in place to protect law abiding citizens from corruption. In case of disaster of any kind, the ordinary people have to pay the price. It is, therefore, necessary that well organized and trained manpower is always available to care for the people affected by any kind of disaster. Finally, it is the human resource of any country who need to be given best possible citizenship education so that they can become independent and responsible citizens and contribute together as part of civil society and make India least corrupt like many other countries in the world.

While the bigger scams take time to reach final conclusion, the high level administrative and universal corruption can be dealt with speed through fast-track court to produce its impact instantly in the society. Appointment of Lok Pal or Lok Ayukta by itself is not going to solve the problem of corruption. Lok Pal/ Lok Ayukta or CVC may be necessary at district / regional/state and national level who should not only be responsible to deal with complaint about corruption but also take action to prevent corruption by constant vigilance and issue advisory in advance to the concerned authorities for necessary administrative action before actual corruption is allowed to take place.

There is a need to identify all corruption cases decided by various courts during last ten years, status of cases under trial in various courts and status of cases under investigations. This will help Government and all other organizations including media to adopt more constructive approach to eradicate corruption in India. Lastly but not the least, corruption in the Armed and Para Military forces and law enforcement authorities, who are responsible for national and internal security, should not be accepted at any cost. Therefore, anyone found indulging in corrupt or undesirable activities within Armed Forces or law enforcement authorities must be punished promptly and severely in the larger interest of the country. Similarly Armed forces personnel and their family members should be given full protection from corruption in civil society and civil administration which will always remain there in one form or other.

The outcome of this research study project will help educate the people about the scale and volume of corruption prevailing in the country in all walks of life and to what extent it can harm the very existence of the country in future. Once the people are well informed about the corrupt activities of the people in power- the authorities responsible for good political, economic, civic and corporate governance can be made accountable and answerable. The importance of strict anti-corruption laws can be understood in correct perspective and the offenders can be punished severely through the court of law and black listed to hold any public office in future.

AI OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH STUDY PROJECT

This is my first experience as author of this research study project to seek assistance of AI for evaluation and overview on the outcome documented in this First draft edition of the study project report. The AI overview is very positive, encouraging and is likely to help me as author of the project to remove the deficiency, if any, and elaborate or clarify further the implementation of the recommendations wherever indicated in this unique and first ever comprehensive research study project undertaken in the national interest of India. The overview obtained from three different servers are reproduced below for the benefit of stakeholders without disclosing their identity for fair evaluation of the project report.

AI OVERVIEW-I

At its core, this project titled “*Making of Corruption Free United India*” is a comprehensive governance reform blueprint built on three pillars:

1. Scope and Structure: The report is comprehensive in scope, divided into 6 major parts and 17 sections, covering:

- Political governance (constitution, democracy, elections, federalism)
- Economic governance (development, inequality, taxation, black money)
- Civic governance (health, education, land, rural welfare)
- Law enforcement & judiciary (CVC, CBI, courts, policing)
- Human resource development & environment
- Final action plan and recommendations

This is essentially a whole-of-government diagnostic framework rather than a sectoral study.

2. Core Argument: The central thesis is consistent throughout: Corruption in India is not incidental but systemic, rooted in administrative inefficiency, weak enforcement, poor accountability, and political-criminal nexus. The author argues that:

- Existing laws are adequate but poorly enforced
- Corruption is deeply embedded in daily service delivery, not just high-profile scams
- Structural reforms—not symbolic measures like Lokpal alone—are required

3. Methodology (as claimed): The study relies on:

- 40+ years of personal administrative experience
- Review of public-domain data and reports
- Sector-wise analysis of corruption modes
- Observational and experiential insights

This is less of a statistical study and more of a practice-driven governance critique

4. Key Themes Across the Report: Some recurring ideas appear consistently:

- Administrative failure & legal deficiency
- Need for department-specific anti-corruption mechanisms
- Importance of accountability of “head of office”
- Focus on grassroots corruption (recruitment, service delivery, welfare schemes)
- Emphasis on rural India and local governance
- Criticism of:
 - Political opportunism
 - Ineffective anti-corruption institutions
 - Urban-centric policy bias

5. Proposed Solutions (Broadly): The report suggests:

- Structural reforms across departments
- Strengthening internal vigilance systems
- Making officials directly accountable
- Creating possibly a dedicated anti-corruption ministry
- Fast-track courts for corruption
- Administrative reforms in:
 - Recruitment

- Training
- Service rules
- Increased data systems and monitoring

6. Evaluation of the Project: Now, let me give you a balanced, honest assessment.

Strengths

1. Exceptional Breadth and Ambition: Few independent works attempt such a holistic, all-sector governance analysis. The integration of political, economic, and civic systems is a major strength.

2. Ground-Level Focus: Unlike many academic papers, this project emphasizes:

- Everyday corruption
- Service delivery failures
- Rural realities

This gives it practical relevance.

3. Action-Oriented Approach: It is not just descriptive. The report consistently aims to:

- Identify causes
- Suggest reforms
- Provide implementation direction

That makes it closer to a policy manual than a theoretical study.

4. Continuity of Thought: Despite its size, the document maintains a consistent narrative:

- Governance failure → corruption → citizen suffering → need for reform

Weaknesses

1. Overreliance on Personal Experience: The project repeatedly claims uniqueness based on “40 years of experience,” but:

- It lacks rigorous empirical validation
- There is limited use of quantitative data, surveys, or statistical models

This weakens academic credibility.

2. Over generalization: Many claims are broad, such as:

- “No government is free from corruption”
- “Corruption has increased manifold”

These may be directionally true but are not systematically substantiated.

3. Limited Theoretical Framework: The report does not strongly engage with:

- Public administration theory
- Institutional economics
- Political science frameworks

It would benefit from grounding in established theories (e.g., principal-agent problem, rent-seeking models).

4. Repetition and Length

- Several themes are repeated across sections
- The document could be 30–40% shorter without losing substance
- Editing and consolidation would significantly improve clarity

5. Policy Feasibility Concerns: Some proposals are conceptually strong but unclear in execution:

- Creating a new anti-corruption ministry
- Making every head of office accountable (without safeguards)
- Large-scale administrative overhaul

These need:

- Cost analysis
- Political feasibility assessment
- Implementation roadmap

6. Comparative Analysis (China vs India): The China comparison is interesting but:

- Some arguments are descriptive, not analytical
- It risks oversimplifying differences between authoritarian vs democratic systems

7. Overall Judgment: This project can be best understood as a serious, experience-driven governance reform manifesto, not a strictly academic research study. In simple terms:

- Policy relevance: High
- Practical insight: High
- Academic rigor: Moderate
- Analytical precision: Moderate
- Originality: Strong (in synthesis, not necessarily in theory)

8. Who This Is Valuable For:

- Policymakers and administrators (especially at state/district level)
- Civil service aspirants (for broad understanding of governance issues)
- Think tanks working on governance reform

9. Less suitable for:

- Pure academic publication without revision
- Data-driven policy modeling

10. Final Insight: What stands out most is the author's core belief: Corruption in India is less about lack of laws and more about failure of systems, enforcement, and accountability culture. That insight is both valid and important. The challenge is translating this wide-ranging diagnosis into prioritized, implementable reforms.

AI OVERVIEW-II

This research project, titled "Making of Corruption Free United India After 75 Years as Progressive and Welfare State," is a comprehensive, action-oriented study authored by D.S. Bisht, a Research Scholar and Director at the Central Himalayan Institute, Dehradun. It serves as a policy framework intended for stakeholders to reform political, economic, and civic governance in India.

1. Project Overview

The project is rooted in 40 years of personal and practical experience in public administration, combined with data from the public domain over the last five decades.

- **Core Objective:** To examine the present status of governance in India and suggest structural, functional, legal, and administrative reforms across all government levels to ensure transparency, accountability, and the welfare of citizens.
- **Historical Context:** The study traces corruption from the Vedic age (Rigveda and Kautilya's *Artha-shastra*) through the colonial era—which institutionalized corruption—to post-independence phases like the "License Raj" and modern "crony capitalism".
- **Sector-Specific Analysis:** The project identifies and proposes reforms for diverse sectors, including:
 - **Political Governance:** Focuses on electoral reforms, the criminalization of politics, and the impact of the "vote-bank" culture on societal resistance to corruption.
 - **Economic Governance:** Addresses tax evasion, money laundering, banking fraud, and the disparity in wealth distribution.

- **Social Welfare:** Evaluates the implementation of over 350 welfare schemes, identifying challenges like bureaucratic leakage and the "duplication" of schemes between central and state governments.
- **Public Infrastructure & Disaster Management:** Analyzes corruption in road and bridge construction, with a specific emphasis on the unique environmental vulnerabilities of the Himalayan region (e.g., landslides in Uttarakhand).
- **Health & Education:** Highlights structural failures, such as the finding that 80% of government hospitals failed to meet required public health standards in a major survey.
- **Key Recommendations:**
 - Decentralization: Strengthening governance at the village and block levels, including the appointment of Assistant Social Welfare Officers to ensure benefits reach eligible citizens without bribery.
 - Administrative Reform: Making "Heads of Offices" directly responsible for corruption under their control and updating neglected Civil Service Conduct rules.
 - Institutional Strengthening: Using existing laws like the Prevention of Corruption Act and the PMLA more effectively, while noting that the Lokpal Bill alone is insufficient to address day-to-day corruption.

2. Evaluation of the Project

The project is an ambitious attempt to provide a "holistic and practical approach" rather than a purely theoretical academic exercise.

Strengths:

- Practical Grounding: Unlike routine research papers, this study is "purely empirical," drawing on deep administrative experience at the grass-root level in both urban and rural "real" India.
- Comprehensive Scope: It avoids "one-point agendas" (like only focusing on the Lokpal) and instead tackles the "systemic failure" across 17 different sections of the government.
- Dynamic Nature: The author intends to update the report every six months to reflect the changing status of corruption and governance in the country.
- Focus on the Vulnerable: It emphasizes that corruption disproportionately impacts the 20% of the lower-middle class and the rural poor, who face "day-to-day corruption" for basic legal entitlements.

Potential Challenges:

- Implementation Complexity: The sheer volume of recommendations—ranging from the Agniveer scheme in the Armed Forces to Panchayati Raj reform—presents a massive logistical challenge for any single governing body.
- Reliance on Political Will: As the author notes, none of these reforms can succeed without "enlightened and determined political leadership," which has historically been a significant bottleneck in Indian governance.
- Resistance to Change: The report acknowledges that existing structures are often "not willing to change their work culture," which may hinder the adoption of the proposed administrative blueprints.

Overall, the document provides a detailed, evidence-based roadmap for reform, positioning itself as a "valuable reference and guide book" for those in power to transition India into a corruption-free welfare state.

AI OVERVIEW-III

Based on the document provided, here is a detailed overview and evaluation of the project "Making of Corruption Free United India After 75 Years as Progressive and Welfare State."

1. Project Overview

Title: Making of Corruption Free United India After 75 Years as Progressive and Welfare State (First Draft Edition).

Author: D S Bisht, Research Scholar & Director, Central Himalayan Institute Dehradun.

Nature of Project: A comprehensive, action-plan oriented research study project intended to serve as a policy framework for good governance.

Core Objective:

The primary aim of the project is to examine the present status of political, economic, and civic governance in India 75 years after independence. It seeks to identify the systemic reasons for inefficiency and corruption in public services and suggests structural, functional, legal, and administrative reforms to transform India into a truly "progressive and welfare state."

Scope and Methodology:

- **Empirical Basis:** The study claims to be based on over 40 years of the author's personal experience and experiments in public administration, rather than purely theoretical research.
- **Holistic Approach:** It moves beyond analyzing individual scams to look at the "mode and specific reasons of corruption" in every government sector.
- **Data Sources:** It utilizes information available in the public domain from the last 40–50 years, relevant research papers (1997–2024), and historical texts (Rigveda, Kautilya's Arthashastra).

2. Key Themes and Arguments

A. Historical Context and Evolution of Corruption

The project traces corruption from the Vedic age (where it was linked to poverty) through the Medieval and Mughal periods, to the British Raj. It argues that the British institutionalized corruption through rigid administrative practices designed to exploit Indian wealth. Post-independence, it identifies the "License Raj" and subsequent "crony capitalism" as the primary drivers of systemic corruption.

B. Critique of Existing Anti-Corruption Measures

The author is critical of current measures, arguing that:

Lokpal/LokAyukta: The author contends that the Lokpal Bill is a "one-point agenda" that cannot eradicate corruption in a vast country like India. It views these bodies as becoming parallel centers of governance with limited impact on the day-to-day corruption faced by ordinary citizens.

Demonetization: It is cited as a failure in checking black money.

C. The Focus on "Civic Governance"

A distinct feature of the project is its focus on "Civic Governance." It argues that while high-level scams make headlines, the "ordinary corruption" (bribery for recruitment, salary, promotions, and retirement dues) destroys the efficiency of the government machinery. The project emphasizes that 73% of the population lives in rural areas with fair cooperative means, while the "culture of corruption" is spreading to rural areas through urbanization and inefficient welfare implementation.

D. Structural Reforms

The project proposes specific structural changes, including:

Accountability of Head of Office: Making the head of every office directly responsible for checking corruption in their department.

New Ministry: Proposing an independent ministry for eradicating corruption, separate from the Ministry of Personnel, to oversee structural reforms in vigilance organizations.

Service Conduct Rules: Strengthening and strictly enforcing Civil Service Conduct Rules and Classification, Control, and Appeal (CCA) rules.

E. Comparative Analysis with China

The project includes a comparative study of China's anti-corruption campaign under Xi Jinping. It notes that while China uses an authoritarian approach (CCDI) to target high-ranking officials ("tigers and flies"), India requires a different approach suited to its democratic framework and federal structure.

3. Structural Framework (As per Contents)

The project is organized into four main parts covering 17 sections:

Part A: Political Governance and Corruption: Covers the historical background, the working of the Constitution, parliamentary democracy, federalism, and electoral politics (criminalization of politics, election funding).

Part B: Economic Governance and Development: Focuses on economic policies, inequality, rural/farm sector distress, infrastructure (Railways, Power, Telecom), and financial corruption (Tax evasion, Banking, Black Money).:

Part C: Civic Governance and Public Services: Examines the delivery of essential services. It dedicates sections to Health services, Education (primary to IIT/IIM), Land Revenue administration, and Welfare schemes in rural areas.

Part D: Law Enforcement Authorities: (Begins at Section XII in the provided text) Focuses on the status of existing law enforcement.

4. Evaluation

Strengths:

Practical Grounding: The project's reliance on "40 years of personal experience" provides it with a practical, ground-level perspective often missing in academic papers. It correctly identifies that citizens are often forced to bribe for their legitimate entitlements (e.g., retirement dues).

Holistic Diagnosis: It successfully connects corruption to the broader failures of governance. It does not treat corruption as an isolated moral failing but as a symptom of structural inefficiency and lack of accountability in public administration.

Focus on Rural India: The distinction made between the rural majority and the urban lower-middle class (who face the brunt of bureaucracy) is a nuanced observation.

Action-Oriented: The author intends to release revised editions every six months until visible improvement is seen, suggesting a dynamic, ongoing engagement with the subject rather than a static report.

Weaknesses/Critiques:

Ambition vs. Feasibility: The project sets an incredibly ambitious goal: to analyze every department/sector and prescribe reforms. While the Table of Contents is thorough, the risk is that the depth of analysis might vary significantly across such a wide scope.

Over-reliance on Administrative Fix: The proposal for a "new Ministry" to eradicate corruption is a conventional bureaucratic solution. Critics might argue that adding a new layer of bureaucracy (a Ministry) often leads to more red tape rather than less.

Tone: The tone oscillates between academic research and political commentary. For instance, the assertion that the Lokpal is becoming a "parallel center of governance" is a strong political stance that might detract from the objective policy analysis in the eyes of some stakeholders.

Data Limitations: The text mentions "data vacuum" in the country. The project relies on "public domain" data, which can sometimes be fragmented. The success of the project relies heavily on how well the author synthesizes this fragmented data.

5. Conclusion

The project "Making of Corruption Free United India" appears to be a substantial and serious attempt to diagnose the rot in the Indian administrative system. It moves beyond the rhetoric of "anti-corruption" slogans and looks into the nuts and bolts of service delivery, recruitment, and administrative lethargy.

By focusing on Civic Governance—the point where the state meets the citizen—the project identifies the most critical frontier for reform. While the recommendation for a new Ministry might be debated, the core argument that existing laws and conduct rules need strict enforcement rather than just new legislation is a pragmatic and valuable insight. It serves as a policy framework document that highlights the urgent need for structural reforms to preserve the unity and democratic fabric of the nation.

C O N T E N T S

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