

India Corruption Survey 2019: Bribery in India reduced by 10% over the last 1 year; 51% citizens admit to paying a bribe in the last 12 months

Corruption, over the last several decades has been a part and parcel of daily life in India. While the introduction of systems in public services has largely reduced corruption in centralised services like securing a passport or buying a railway ticket, most citizen services at the state and local levels are still ridden with bribery and kickbacks.

LocalCircles and Transparency International India have concluded India Corruption Survey 2019 to ascertain the level of domestic corruption in the country and gather citizen pulse on corruption. This survey called 'India Corruption Survey 2019' which received 190,000 responses from people located in 248 districts of India has brought out citizen pulse at the national level at for 20 states indicates that 51% Indians paid a bribe in the last 12 months.

India's ranking in the Corruption Perception Index 2018 released by Transparency International, had improved 3 places compared to last year and now stands at 78th position out of 180 countries.

According to the Prevention of Corruption Act 2018, giving a bribe is an offence with up to 7 years of imprisonment or fine or both. In the first question, 24% citizens admitted to giving bribes several times in the last 12 months and 27% admitted to paying bribes once or twice. 16% said they always managed to get work done without paying a bribe while 33% said they did not have a need

Cash is still the primary mode used to pay bribes with 35% saying they paid cash as bribes in the last 12 months to get their work done.

44% citizens said that they paid a bribe in an office that had computerisation while 16% said that they paid a bribe despite the office having a functional CCTV system in place. This is very concerning as it indicates that despite the introduction of systems, bribery is continuing.

38% citizens said that they paid a bribe as it was the only way to get work done. 48% said no steps have been taken at all by their state Government or local administration to reduce corruption in the last 12 months.

Property registration & land issues turned out to be the largest authority where citizens had to pay a bribe, with 26% citizens voting for it. Only 12% citizens said bribery in property registration and land issues has reduced in the last 12 months. 49% said bribery is continuing like before and 8% said it has increased. 9% said they did not need to pay a bribe.

When it came to demanding of bribes for work related to the municipality or local bodies, 10% citizens said it has reduced while 44% said it is continuing like before.

11% said bribery to police has reduced while 11% said it has increased. The survey shows that top 3 corruption prone departments are Property Registration & Land Issues, Police and Municipal Corporation.

17% citizens said that bribery in matters related to taxation had reduced. The Government in the last 6 months had compulsorily retired over 25 officials in CBDT and CBIC currently facing charges of corruption. This move was hailed by citizens and businesses.

Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat, West Bengal, Kerala, Goa and Odisha turned out to be the states where citizens reported low instances of corruption, while **Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Punjab** were the states where citizens reported higher instances of corruption

LocalCircles and Transparency International India together, host India's Online Anti-Corruption Community 'Together Against Corruption' which is the largest platform in the country to discuss any and every form of corruption that citizens of India come across. Anyone facing a corruption issue or knowledgeable about how to handle corruption can access the community at <http://bit.ly/fight-corruption-together>.

Demographics

Approximately 190,000 responses were received across a series of questions at the national and state levels. Over 120,000 responses were received in the national survey while over 70,000 responses were received in the state survey. 64% of the participants were men while 36% were women. Of the total participants, 49% were from tier 1 cities, 33% were from tier 2 cities and 18% were from tier 3 cities and rural locations. Approximately 81,000 unique citizens from 248 districts of India participated in the overall exercise.

About LocalCircles

LocalCircles takes Social Media to the next level and makes it about Communities, Governance and Utility. It enables citizens to connect with communities for most aspects of urban daily life like Neighborhood, Constituency, City, Government, Causes, Interests and Needs, seek information/assistance when needed, come together for various initiatives and improve their urban daily life. LocalCircles is free for citizens and always will be!

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About Transparency International India

Transparency International India (TII) is a leading non-political, independent, non-governmental anti-corruption organisation of India. TII has extensive expertise and understanding of issues of corruption in India.