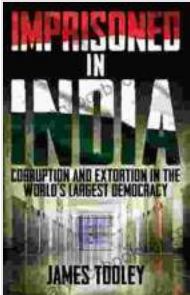


# Corruption and Extortion in the World's Largest Democracy: A Stark Look at India's Shadow Economy



## Imprisoned in India: Corruption and Extortion in the World's Largest Democracy by James Tooley

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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Corruption and extortion are rampant in India, the world's largest democracy. This article explores the extent of the problem and its devastating impact on the country's economy and society. It also examines the government's efforts to combat corruption and the challenges that lie ahead.

### The Extent of the Problem

Corruption is a pervasive problem in India. It affects all levels of government, from the local to the national level. A recent study by Transparency International found that India is ranked 85th out of 180 countries in terms of corruption. The study also found that India has the

highest level of corruption among the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa).

Extortion is another major problem in India. It is estimated that businesses in India lose up to 10% of their revenue to extortion. This is a significant drain on the economy and it makes it difficult for businesses to compete.

The extent of corruption and extortion in India is staggering. It is a major obstacle to the country's economic and social development. It also erodes public trust in the government and the rule of law.

### **The Impact of Corruption and Extortion**

Corruption and extortion have a devastating impact on India's economy and society. Some of the key impacts include:

- **Reduced economic growth:** Corruption and extortion increase the cost of doing business in India. This makes it difficult for businesses to compete and it discourages investment. As a result, India's economic growth is slowed down.
- **Increased poverty:** Corruption and extortion disproportionately affect the poor. This is because the poor are more likely to be victims of corruption and extortion, and they are less likely to be able to afford to pay bribes. As a result, corruption and extortion contribute to poverty.
- **Eroded public trust:** Corruption and extortion erode public trust in the government and the rule of law. This is because corruption and extortion show that the government is not working in the best interests of the people, and that the rule of law is not being upheld.

Corruption and extortion are a major threat to India's economy and society. They are a serious problem that needs to be addressed.

## **The Government's Efforts to Combat Corruption**

The Indian government has made some efforts to combat corruption. In 2014, the government passed the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, which created a new anti-corruption agency. The government has also introduced a number of other measures to combat corruption, such as the Whistleblower Protection Act and the Right to Information Act.

However, the government's efforts to combat corruption have been hampered by a number of factors, including:

- **Political interference:** The government has been accused of interfering in the work of the anti-corruption agency. This has led to a number of high-profile resignations from the agency.
- **Lack of resources:** The anti-corruption agency is underfunded and understaffed. This makes it difficult for the agency to investigate and prosecute corruption cases.
- **Public apathy:** Many Indians believe that corruption is a way of life. This makes it difficult to build public support for anti-corruption efforts.

Despite these challenges, the government is committed to combating corruption. The government has pledged to increase the funding and staffing of the anti-corruption agency, and it has also promised to take steps to reduce political interference in the agency's work.

## **The Challenges Ahead**

The Indian government faces a number of challenges in its efforts to combat corruption. Some of the key challenges include:

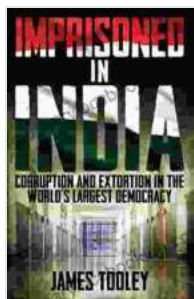
- **Political will:** The government must have the political will to combat corruption. This means being willing to take on powerful vested interests and to make tough decisions.
- **Public support:** The government needs to build public support for its anti-corruption efforts. This means educating the public about the costs of corruption and mobilizing the public to demand change.
- **International cooperation:** The government needs to cooperate with other countries to combat corruption. This means sharing information and best practices, and providing assistance to other countries in their efforts to combat corruption.

The challenges facing the Indian government in its efforts to combat corruption are significant. However, the government is committed to tackling this problem, and it is making progress. With the support of the public and the international community, the Indian government can achieve its goal of building a corruption-free India.

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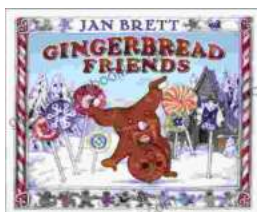
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