

**India Needs Long-term Strategy To Fight Graft - German Mayor
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NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Bernama) -- The visiting Mayor of Germany's Stuttgart City Wolfgang Schuster stressed that India needs to adopt a long-term strategy, and provide higher pay packages to civil servants to combat corruption.

Schuster, who has served as Mayor of Stuttgart since 1997, is on a week-long visit to India along with 25 German delegates from sectors like education, infrastructure and the media, Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

"All our civil servants are well-paid. There is no question of corruption. All kinds of corruption are a real criminal act. You (India) need to have a long-term strategy to change this mentality. We see corruption in Germany (also)," Schuster said at an interactive session organised by industry body PHD Chamber.

He said corruption is not just restricted to bribes, it can be non-payment of taxes.

"You have to structure quality of civil servants, education and training and payment of taxes. Tax payment is very small. Revenue is a huge problem...," he said.

Schuster is working with 23,000 employees at his office to turn Stuttgart -- the sixth-largest city in Germany -- into the most child-friendly city in the country. On the quality of services provided by public institutions, like airports, he said they can only improve if citizens pay taxes.

"If you want to provide education, you need public money. Public money is a critical issue for India. It's normal for us to pay taxes. India has to decide... where to go. You have to think about what's the right way," he said.

"The local governance depends upon tradition. India is different from Germany. Germany is different from Europe. I can't give recipes."

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