

SAY NO TO CORRUPTION; COMMIT TO THE NATION



ನೈಋತ್ಯ ರೈಲ್ವೆ / दक्षिण पश्चिम रेलवे
SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Sankalp 2023



Vigilance Awareness Week
30th Oct. - 5th Nov.
A Special Vigilance Bulletin



Integrity Pledge for Citizens

I believe that corruption has been one of the major obstacles to economic, political and social progress of our country. I believe that all stakeholders such as Government, citizens and private sector need to work together to eradicate corruption.

I realise that every citizen should be vigilant and commit to highest standards of honesty and integrity at all times and support the fight against corruption.

I, therefore, pledge:

- To follow probity and rule of law in all walks of life;
- To neither take nor offer bribe;
- To perform all tasks in an honest and transparent manner;
- To act in public interest;
- To lead by example exhibiting integrity in personal behaviour;
- To report any incident of corruption to the appropriate agency.

नागरिकों के लिए सत्यनिष्ठा प्रतिज्ञा

मेरा विश्वास है कि हमारे देश की आर्थिक, राजनीतिक तथा सामाजिक प्रगति में भ्रष्टाचार एक बड़ी बाधा है। मेरा विश्वास है कि भ्रष्टाचार का उन्मूलन करने के लिए सभी संबंधित पक्षों जैसे सरकार, नागरिकों तथा निजी क्षेत्र को एक साथ मिल कर कार्य करने की आवश्यकता है।

मेरा मानना है कि प्रत्येक नागरिक को सतर्क होना चाहिए तथा उसे सदैव ईमानदारी तथा सत्यनिष्ठा के उच्चतम मानकों के प्रति वचनबद्ध होना चाहिए तथा भ्रष्टाचार के विरुद्ध संघर्ष में साथ देना चाहिए।

अतः, मैं प्रतिज्ञा करता हूँ कि :-

- जीवन के सभी क्षेत्रों में ईमानदारी तथा कानून के नियमों का पालन करूँगा ;
- ना तो रिश्वत लूँगा और ना ही रिश्वत दूँगा ;
- सभी कार्य ईमानदारी तथा पारदर्शी रीति से करूँगा ;
- जनहित में कार्य करूँगा ;
- अपने निजी आचरण में ईमानदारी दिखाकर उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करूँगा ;
- भ्रष्टाचार की किसी भी घटना की रिपोर्ट उचित एजेंसी को दूँगा।



सत्यमेव जयते

केन्द्रीय सतर्कता आयोग CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION



सतर्कता भवन, जी.पी.ओ. कॉम्प्लेक्स,
ब्लॉक-ए, आई.एन.ए., नई दिल्ली-110023
Satarkta Bhawan, G.P.O. Complex,
Block A, INA, New Delhi-110023
023/VGL/035
सं./No.....
दिनांक / Dated..... 25.10.2023

MESSAGE

Vigilance Awareness Week (30th October to 5th November, 2023)

Central Vigilance Commission is observing Vigilance Awareness Week, 2023 from the 30th October to the 5th November, 2023. Every year, Vigilance Awareness Week is observed as an outreach measure to create greater awareness about the importance of integrity and ethics in public life. The theme for this year is :

**"Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation,
भ्रष्टाचार का विरोध करें; राष्ट्र के प्रति समर्पित रहें"**

As a prelude to Vigilance Awareness Week 2023, the Commission has sought the participation of all Central Government authorities/organisations to undertake a three-month campaign (16th August to 15th November) on preventive vigilance activities as focus areas. As a means of eliciting public participation while also disseminating information on vigilance matters, the Commission has launched a quiz on vigilance matters.

The Commission is also issuing three publications : (i) Best Practices in Vigilance Administration, (ii) Increasing transparency through the use of technology, and (iii) Public Procurement: Challenges and Way Forward . The idea behind these is to disseminate information regarding effective and innovative initiatives undertaken by different organizations to serve as a point of reference and a way forward.

The Commission solicits the participation of all the citizens to come together in bringing about transparency and accountability in public administration.



(Arvinda Kumar)
Vigilance Commissioner



(Praveen K. Srivastava)
Central Vigilance Commissioner



SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Hubballi - 580020

MESSAGE

South Western Railway is observing Vigilance Awareness Week from 30th October to 05th November 2023 with the theme "Say no to Corruption; Commit to the Nation" **भ्रष्टाचार का विरोध करे ; राष्ट्र के प्रति समर्पित रहें.**

The primary objective of commemorating Vigilance Awareness Week is to enhance public awareness regarding the dangers of corruption.

To achieve a corruption-free India, it is imperative that we concentrate on assessing the extent of corruption within the system and rectifying these vulnerabilities to enhance service delivery. An essential component of this endeavor involves instilling ethical values among the staff.

I am delighted to learn that the Vigilance Organization of South Western Railway is releasing a vigilance bulletin to mark the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week in 2023. I anticipate that the articles and case studies featured in the bulletin will contribute to fostering a culture of vigilance among Railway employees, empowering them to execute their duties without fear.

SANJEEV KISHORE
GENERAL MANAGER



सत्यमेव जयते



भारत सरकार
रेल मंत्रालय, (रेलवे बोर्ड)
रेल भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)
RAIL BHAVAN, NEW DELHI-110001

Shobhana Bandopadhyaya

Principal Executive
Director (Vigilance) &
Chief Vigilance Officer

MESSAGE

Vigilance Awareness Week is celebrated every year to highlight the importance of morality and uprightness in public life. This year, Vigilance Awareness Week is being celebrated from 30th October to 05th November, 2023. The theme chosen by Central Vigilance Commission this year i.e. **“Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation”** “भ्रष्टाचार का विरोध करे; राष्ट्र के प्रति समर्पित रहें” appears to be true as corruption being a public evil is proving harmful to the health of the economic and technological richness of the nation.

I would also like to mention here that CVC has also emphasized and directed for taking certain preventive vigilance activities as a focus area and asked to initiate 03 month's campaign starting from 16th August 2023 to 15 November, 2023. Accordingly all the units must be doing needful to achieve the systematic objectives. I am of firm belief that besides taking various preventive measures along with creating awareness among Railway employees and citizens, it is possible to eliminate/reduce corruption in the organization.

I also feel that Indian Railways has a strong prospective of getting rid of corruption if everyone works in unanimity, pledges not to take or give bribe and also initiate some stern measures for tooth and nail eradication of this menace. I therefore extend my greetings to all those associated in this movement and convey my wishes for a successful Vigilance Awareness Week.



SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Hubballi - 580020

MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that the Vigilance Organization of South Western Railway is bringing out the 'Sankalp' – Vigilance Bulletin on the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week 2023.

The Central Vigilance Commission has this year chosen the theme “Say no to Corruption; Commit to the Nation” **भ्रष्टाचार का विरोध करे ; राष्ट्र के प्रति समर्पित रहें**. Saying “No” to corruption is a crucial goal for the betterment of society and the promotion of ethical and transparent governance. The fight against corruption is an ongoing battle that requires the collective effort of governments, institutions, and citizens. It is a moral imperative and a critical step in building a just and prosperous society.

On this occasion, I extend my greetings to all those associated with this issue and convey my wishes for success in this endeavour, during Vigilance Awareness Week and beyond.

U. SUBBARAO
ADDL. GENERAL MANAGER



FOREWORD

Manoranjan Pradhan
SDGM & CVO/SWR

The Vigilance Organization of South Western Railway is bringing out the Vigilance Bulletin "Sankalp" on the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week from 30th October to 5th November 2023. This year the CVC has chosen "Say no to Corruption; Commit to the Nation" भ्रष्टाचार का विरोध करे ; राष्ट्र के प्रति समर्पित रहें as the theme.

"Fight Corruption; Commit to the Nation," is an unyielding reminder that our nation's integrity and development depend on the resolute efforts of its people. This issue serves as an inspirational and educational platform, shedding light on the multifaceted aspects of corruption.

The fight against corruption is not a single battle; it is a continuous commitment that necessitates vigilance, unwavering resolve, and determination. It is a commitment to the values that define our nation and the principles that guide our actions.

As you explore the contents of "Sankalp", I urge you to consider your role in this collective effort. Whether you are an individual, a leader, or a policymaker, there is a part you can play in the ongoing struggle against corruption. Let these pages serve as a source of inspiration and motivation, compelling you to take action and join hands with countless others, who are dedicated to the sole objective for a better future for our nation.

I am sure the Vigilance Organization of SWR would continue to receive the support of all stakeholders in combating corruption.

EDITOR'S DESK

In the context of Vigilance Awareness Week, we present the latest edition of "Sankalp" with a profound sense of purpose. This year's theme, "Fight Corruption; Commit to the Nation," mirrors the resolute commitment to our nation's values and guiding principles.

Corruption is not a singular battle; it's an ongoing commitment that demands vigilance, unwavering determination, and collective effort. As you delve into the pages of "Sankalp," we encourage all readers to reflect on their role in this essential endeavor. Whether as individuals, leaders, or policymakers, each of us has a part to play in the fight against corruption. This issue serves as a source of inspiration and motivation, compelling us to take action and unite with countless others dedicated to securing a brighter future for our nation.

We sincerely hope that this edition of "Sankalp" proves to be both inspirational and educational, shedding light on the multifaceted aspects of corruption and offering valuable insights into the path ahead. Your support and commitment are invaluable in our collective efforts to combat corruption and foster a more transparent, just, and prosperous society.

We extend our gratitude to all the stakeholders in our organization and hope that you find this issue of Sankalp useful.

Warm regards,

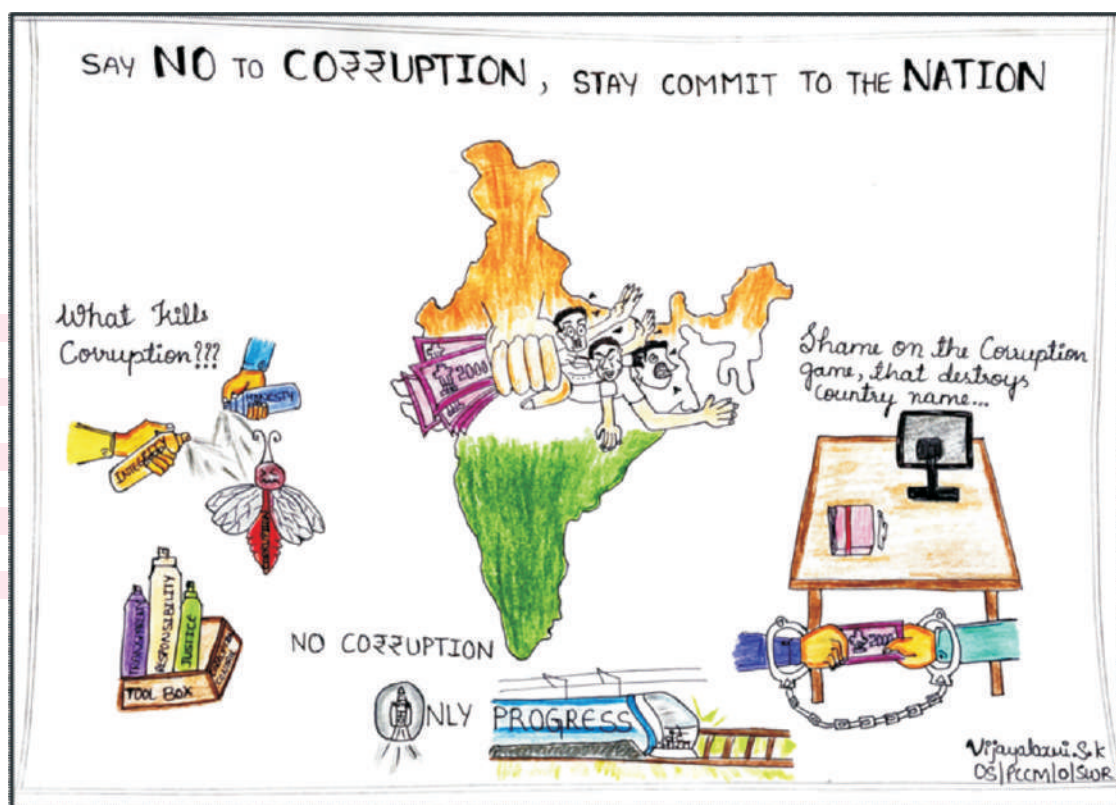
R. Prasad S. I.

Dy. Chief Vigilance Office (C&IS)/SWR

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CORRUPTION AND PATRIOTISM

by **Shri Manoj R. Kodachwad**
Chief Vigilance Inspector (G)/Vig./SWR

₹ 21,61,12,00,00,00,000/- is an estimation of how much corruption costs the global economy “every year”. The amount is so big that one's mind cannot comprehend such a quantum of money. This amount otherwise could have been utilized for the betterment of society.

According to a recent report by corruption watchdog Transparency International, India has the highest incidence of bribery in Asia and the greatest number of people who utilize personal connections to gain governmental services which otherwise they wouldn't have access to. India has the greatest percentage (46%) of citizens who use personal connections to access public services. We all have come across such situations in our lives.

In their book 'Corruption in India: The DNA and RNA', professors Bibek Debroy and Laveesh Bhandari assert that public employees in India may be siphoning out as much as 921 billion, or 5% of GDP, through corruption. According to the book, bribery is most prevalent in the transit, real estate, and government-provided services sectors.

It's important to note that accurately quantifying the economic cost of corruption is a complex task, and the numbers mentioned in reports and studies may not capture the full extent of the issue. Corruption has both direct and indirect economic consequences, including reduced public services, hindered economic growth, and compromised investment climate.

Combating corruption is not the responsibility of a few individuals but a collective effort. It calls for unity among citizens to create a society that values transparency and accountability. Saying no to corruption is synonymous with advocating for good governance, fair practices, and the rule of law. It reinforces the idea that a just and equitable society benefits everyone.

Coming to this year's Vigilance Awareness Week's theme, 'Say no to Corruption; Commit to the Nation' invokes patriotism in its call to fight against corruption. Corruption and Patriotism are two concepts that are often intertwined within the context of a nation's governance and civic values. The relationship between corruption and patriotism is complex and can profoundly impact a country's well-being and integrity. Patriotism can serve as a deterrent to

corruption. Citizens who deeply love their country may be more motivated to report corrupt activities, hold corrupt officials accountable, and actively engage in efforts to combat corruption. It's essential to strike a balance between patriotism and the accountability of government officials. Blind loyalty to a nation can sometimes shield corrupt practices, so constructive patriotism should emphasize the importance of holding leaders accountable.

In conclusion, the relationship between corruption and patriotism is complex and multifaceted. Corruption can undermine patriotism by eroding trust and diverting resources from national interests. However, patriotism can also serve as a powerful force against corruption when it motivates citizens to actively engage in the fight against corrupt practices, demand ethical leadership, and uphold the values that make their nation strong and just. Balancing these aspects is essential for a healthy and accountable society.

In the words of the great Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, 'Young people have a responsibility to make a home clean and transparent'. The responsibility lies on the shoulders of the next Gen. It will take a collective effort from every individual, starting with when we say 'No' to corruption.

Corruption is not just a crime; it's a betrayal of trust that robs nations of their potential.



GUARDING AGAINST SOCIAL ENGINEERING ATTACKS : THE ZERO TRUST APPROACH

by **Shri R. Prasad S.I.**

Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer (C&IS)/SWR

The story is set in a busy Railway office, where dedicated railway employees work around the clock to ensure the smooth operation of the various systems. At the heart of this story is Raj, a diligent and unsuspecting railway employee, who received a phone call one day that would change everything. On the other end of the line was a persuasive voice, someone who seemed to know the inner workings of the Organisation. The caller spun a believable tale, convincing Raj to share sensitive Railway operations data. Little did Raj know that he had fallen victim to a social engineering attack.

This story sets the stage for our exploration of the interplay between social engineering and the Zero Trust Model in the realm of Indian railways cyber security.

Understanding Social Engineering: The Art of Deception Social engineering attacks, like the one that trapped Raj, rely on manipulation, persuasion, and deceit to exploit human psychology rather than technical vulnerabilities. Attackers often impersonate trusted railway authorities or use pretexting to extract confidential information.

In Raj's case, it was a carefully crafted call that mimicked the voice of a high-ranking Indian railway executive, making it tough to resist.

"Social engineering is the art of manipulating people into revealing confidential information." **Social Engineering Attack Strategies: A Closer Look** **Phishing:** Attackers impersonate trusted Indian railway authorities via email, seeking confidential operational data or encouraging recipients to click malicious links. Being Vigilant is crucial - don't trust emails blindly, even if they appear to come from legitimate sources.

Pretexting: Attackers weave elaborate tales to deceive their targets. These stories may be convincing but should raise suspicion if they request sensitive Information. Always verify the identity of the requester.

Baiting: Attackers use tempting offers, such as free software or downloads, to lure employees into providing operational data. The rule is simple: if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Tailgating and Impersonation: Attackers physically infiltrate secure railway premises or pose as employees to gain unauthorised access. Challenge anyone who attempts to enter restricted areas in Indian railway infrastructure without proper identification.

The Zero Trust Model: Trust No One

The Zero Trust Model is an approach that underscores the principle of "never trust, always verify." It mandates strict verification for every user, device, and application attempting to access Indian Railways Organisational resources. Applying the Zero Trust Model to protect against social engineering attacks means maintaining a healthy level of scepticism towards any request for information or access.

"Zero Trust: Trust is a valuable commodity – don't give it away easily."

Practical Pointers to Avoid Social Engineering Pitfalls

- **Verify Identity:** Always confirm the identity of the person making a request, whether it's a phone call, email, or in person. If you're uncertain, seek additional verification.
- **Protect Sensitive Indian Railways Information:** Educate railway employees about the importance of safeguarding operational and organisational data. Make it clear that sensitive railway information should never be disclosed without proper authorization.
- **Ongoing Training:** Conduct regular security awareness training to empower employees to recognize and respond to social engineering attempts effectively.
- **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):** Implement MFA for all Indian railway systems and accounts to add an extra layer of security, reducing the risk of unauthorised access.
- **Incident Response Plan:** Develop and rehearse an incident response plan to ensure a swift and effective response to any potential security breach.

Raj's Lesson: Trust but Verify

Returning to Raj's story, their unfortunate encounter with a social engineering attacker could have been prevented. If Raj in particular and the organisation in general had adopted the Zero Trust Model, they would have been less trusting of unfamiliar calls, even if they appeared to come from known railway contacts. They would have questioned and verified the identity of the caller, following security protocols.

The Power of Vigilance

In an increasingly interconnected world, the fusion of social engineering awareness and the Zero Trust Model forms a robust defence against cyber threats within the organisation. As seen through Raj's story, attackers are becoming more sophisticated in their techniques. But with the mantra of "trust, but verify" and a solid commitment to Cybersecurity best practices, Indian railways and our employees can fortify their defences and protect themselves from the dangers lurking in the digital realm.

Remember, the best defence against social engineering is a vigilant and well-informed Indian railway workforce that embodies the principles of Zero Trust, where trust is a valuable commodity not to be given away easily.

PROTECTING WHISTLEBLOWERS: A VITAL TOOL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

by **Dr. V. Satish**
Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer (T)/SWR

Introduction

Every human being is entitled to a life of dignity, and it is the solemn duty of governments and institutions to ensure that this fundamental right is upheld without compromise. Corruption, on the other hand, threatens the foundations of governance, weakens institutions, and strips citizens of their basic rights. It diverts essential resources from the vulnerable to the unscrupulous few, hampering the government's development objectives. Many citizens, feeling helpless to fulfill even their most basic needs, resort to raising complaints through various institutional channels. Yet, due to fear of retaliation, a significant number opt for anonymous or pseudonymous complaints. This dilemma raises an essential question: How can we protect those who wish to expose corruption without revealing their identity?

What Are Anonymous and Pseudonymous Complaints?

An anonymous complaint is any report that does not include the name and address of the complainant, while a pseudonymous complaint lacks the full particulars of the complainant or remains unsigned. These complaints, however, are unlikely to trigger any substantial action or investigation. To rectify this issue, individuals who wish to file a complaint while safeguarding their identity are presented with a challenge.

To address this predicament and shield the identities of whistleblowers, the Department of Personnel and Training introduced a resolution known as the "Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers (PIDPI) Resolution 2004."

The PIDPI Resolution

The PIDPI Resolution allows complainants to submit their grievances and request protection against potential victimization. Complaints received under PIDPI are treated as high-priority and are investigated in a timely manner. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of the respective ministry or department are designated to receive complaints from whistleblowers under the PIDPI Resolution.

Guidelines for Filing a PIDPI Complaint

Complaints should be placed in a closed and secured envelope, addressed to the Secretary of the Central Vigilance Commission. The envelope must be clearly marked with "Complaint under the Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers" or "PIDPI."

Complainants should include their name and address at the beginning or end of the complaint or in an attached letter. Importantly, this information should not be present on the envelope.

The jurisdiction of the Commission covers complaints related to Central Government employees, corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies, or local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government. Complaints concerning State Government personnel or activities fall outside the Commission's purview.

Complaints must be sent via post. Electronic submissions, such as emails or Complaint Management Portals, will not be entertained.

To protect the whistleblower's identity, the Commission will not issue an acknowledgment. Whistleblowers are advised not to engage in further correspondence with the Commission. The Commission assures that, if the facts are verifiable, it will take the necessary action as outlined in the Government of India Resolution.

Complaints should involve a vigilance angle and should not be related to grievance redressal.

PIDPI complaints should not contain information that reveals the complainant's identity. If such information is unavoidable, a regular complaint may be submitted through the CVC portal.

Maintaining Whistleblower Anonymity

Once a complaint is received under PIDPI following the above guidelines, detailed instructions guide officials in dealing with such complaints. These instructions ensure that investigative agencies and organizations remain unaware of the complainant's identity, safeguarding confidentiality. Such complaints received under PIDPI continue to be top priorities and are investigated within a defined timeframe.

The Purpose of PIDPI

The PIDPI Resolution aims to encourage individuals and employees to take a stand against corruption without fearing retaliation. Honesty, integrity, and transparency are values that should be upheld collectively by citizens, and PIDPI represents a genuine effort to engage citizens in the fight against corruption.

Conclusion

Protecting the identities of those who expose corruption is essential for maintaining the integrity of institutions and upholding the rights of all citizens. The PIDPI Resolution serves as a critical tool in the ongoing battle against corruption, ensuring that individuals can report wrongdoing without fear of reprisal and contribute to a more transparent and accountable society.



RAILWAY MATERIAL MISUTILIZATION AND FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES: A CAUTIONARY TALE

by **Shri P. Mahender**
Dy.Chief Vigilance Officer (Engg.)/SWR

Introduction

In the world of railway electrification and infrastructure development, efficient asset management and financial transparency are paramount. However, a recent incident in the South Western Railway (SWR) region serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of misutilization of materials and potential financial improprieties within the railway agency. This article sheds light on the events that transpired and the lessons we can learn from them.

Redundant Equipment

As part of the Railway Electrification project, the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) erected height gauges at all level crossing gates in the SWR region back in 2016. These height gauges were installed to serve the purpose of railway electrification, but when road underbridges (RUBs) were constructed at the same level crossings, these gauges became redundant and were left unused.

DS-8 Proposal for Scrap Sale

Recognizing the redundancy of the height gauges, a concerned Senior Section Engineer (SSE/W) submitted a DS-8 proposal for the scrap sale of this surplus materials. This proposal was put forward in January 2018, marking the first step in the series of events that would follow.

A Tender for New Height Gauges

In September 2018, the railway agency issued a tender for the provision of additional height gauges, specifically for girder bridges within the same SWR region and adjacent sections. It wasn't long before the Letter of Acceptance (LOA) for this new project was issued in November 2018.

Misutilization of Dismantled Material

Here is where the narrative takes an alarming turn. It appears that, during the process of tender finalization, from November to December 2018, the DS-8 proposal for scrap sale was withdrawn. Instead, the dismantled height gauges, initially slated for disposal, were used in the execution of the new additional

height gauges project. What's concerning is that this was done without proper documentation or authorization, ultimately resulting in a financial loss to the railway agency to the tune of Rs. 36 Lakhs.

Fake Invoices and Missing Steel

The situation took an even more ominous turn when it was discovered that some of the invoices used in this project were fabricated or fake. To compound matters further, a significant quantity of structural steel (127 MT out of 189 MT) went missing from the section. It is presumed that a substantial portion, 67 MT, was used in the execution of the new agreement.

Takeaway

The troubling sequence of events in this case serves as a reminder of the critical importance of proper asset management and the need for diligent record-keeping in the railway industry. It underscores the necessity of conducting due diligence in tender processes and taking swift and decisive action when financial improprieties are suspected.

In essence, this incident emphasizes that integrity and accountability are non-negotiable in the realm of railway electrification and infrastructure development. Moving forward, it is imperative for railway agencies to uphold stringent standards of financial and material management, ensuring the highest level of transparency and trust in their operations. Proper handing over and taking over of assets, regardless of their origin, must be rigorously adhered to, and all assets should be meticulously documented in registers and online modules to prevent similar incidents in the future.



FRAUDULENT SUPPLY OF INFERIOR QUALITY CABLES IN RAILWAY CONTRACTS

by **Shri Anweshkumar Aileni**,
Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer (S&M)/SWR

Introduction

Ensuring the quality and reliability of electrical cables is crucial in the railway industry. Recent investigations have unveiled a disconcerting case of fraudulent supply of inferior quality cables under various brands, with serious implications for railway projects. This article delves into the details of these irregularities, the methods used to uncover them, and the actions taken to rectify the situation.

Quality Checks on Electrical LT/HT Cables:

The quest for quality began with comprehensive checks on electrical LT/HT cables from several brands, including HAMSON, SHANTI, ROTO PLAST, GANAK, DURGA, HAVELLS, GLOSTER, and SBEE. These checks focused on key parameters, such as cable length, weight, and cable cross-sectional area.

The Challenge of Measuring Cable Length:

Measuring the cable length, typically ranging from 500m to 2000m, posed a significant challenge in field areas. Precise measurements were only feasible within industrial settings. Inspections were conducted by RITES, involving the cutting of a 10m length at one end of the cable.

The Importance of Cable Size Verification:

Recognizing the impracticality of verifying the physical length or weighing the cable drums, the focus shifted to verifying the cable sizes, specifically the cross-sectional area. The aim was to compare the actual dimensions and thickness of the cables, as well as their weight, with the values specified in the Purchase Order (P.O) or the theoretical weight of the cable.

Observations and Irregularities:

Several instances of irregularities emerged from the observations:

Purchase Order No. 200272: The specified cable size was 4 x 16 sqmm, with a PO quantity of 11,000 meters. However, the actual cable size, located at the end and the middle, was found to be 15.73 sqmm and 11.36 sqmm, respectively. This discrepancy represented a 28% reduction in area.

Purchase Order No. 1200271: The specified cable size was 4x95 sqmm, with a PO quantity of 2,800 meters. The actual cable size, found at the end and the middle, was 92.21 sqmm and 77.22 sqmm, respectively. This indicated an 18% reduction in area.

PO No.	Size as per PO	PO Qty	Actual Size & Location		% Reduction in Area
			END	MID	
PO NO. 200272, dt. 09.04.2022	4x16 sqmm	11000 mtrs	15.73 sqmm (7 strands in each core) Drum No.4681	11.36 sqmm (6 strands in each core) Drum No.4666 @361m	28%
PO NO. 1200271, dt. 09.04.2022	4x95 sqmm	2800 mtrs	92.21 sqmm (19 strands in each core) Drum No.7039	77.22 sqmm (16 strands in each core) Drum No.7039 @866m	18%

Discovering the Culprit:

The investigation revealed that a Delhi-based industry had supplied undersized cables bearing the brand "HAMSON" under a GeM contract. Subsequent scrutiny exposed a total of 31 Purchase Orders worth 2.87 Crores placed with the same firm across multiple railway zones, including NR, CR, WCR, SCR, SR, NER, NCR, ECR, ECoR, ER, and SECR.

Photographs Showing No. of Strands in each core : 4 x 95 sq.mm cable



At Ends :
4 x 95 sqmm - 19 strands in each core.



At Middle (@ 866m) :
4 x 95 sqmm - 16 strands in each core.



At Ends :
4 x 95 sqmm - 07 strands in each core.



At Middle (@ 866m) :
4 x 95 sqmm - 06 strands in each core.

Actions Taken and the Way Forward:

In response to these irregularities, all the concerned railway zones were promptly notified about the identified supply discrepancies. A joint inspection was arranged with RITES and the supplier in South Western Railway (SWR), and the materials were summarily rejected. The Stores Department was also advised to initiate appropriate action against the errant firm.

The firm's deliberate alteration of its assembly line to reduce the cable's cross-sectional area, particularly in the middle of the sections, raised further concerns. It was observed that such modifications aimed to circumvent the RITES inspection, which primarily focused on the cable ends over a 10m length.

Conclusion and Implications:

The revelations of fraudulent cable supply highlight the critical need for stringent quality control and vigilance in railway projects. These irregularities not only jeopardize project integrity but also raise significant safety concerns. In conclusion, it underscores the importance of adhering to procurement guidelines, ensuring quality inspections, and taking swift actions to rectify discrepancies. It's worth noting that not only HAMSON but irregularities in other brands such as NEHA CAB, GANAA, HYPHEN were also found, emphasizing the widespread nature of the issue and the urgency of addressing it.

Takeaway:

This case serves as a stark reminder of the importance of maintaining the highest standards of quality and authenticity in railway procurement. Vigilance in inspecting and verifying materials is crucial to ensure the safety and integrity of railway projects. Railway authorities must be proactive in identifying and rectifying such irregularities to maintain the public's trust and safety.



UNCOVERING IRREGULARITIES: FICTITIOUS MEASUREMENTS AND TENDER PROCESS DISCREPANCIES

by **Shri P. Mahender**
Dy.Chief Vigilance Officer (Engg.)/SWR

Introduction

In the realm of railway projects, ensuring transparency and accountability is paramount. However, a recent case has brought to light a series of irregularities in the tender process and fictitious measurements within a railway project. In this article, we will unravel the details of this case, shedding light on the discrepancies that were uncovered and the valuable lessons that can be drawn from this situation.

Parallel Tender Process and Variations

Our story commences with the initiation of a tender for a specific project, Work No.02, in March 2011. The tender's requirements were quite specific, stating that bidders must have prior experience in executing work of a similar nature, particularly encompassing "Earthwork and Bridge work." This work constituted 35% of the advertised value, and in addition, bidders were expected to have completed a set quantity of "blanketing work" – specifically, 19,646 cubic meters – either within the same contract or in another relevant contract.

One crucial stipulation within the tender conditions was that eligibility would be assessed based on three criteria: the original agreement value, the last sanctioned agreement value, or the last Certified Contracts (CC) bill quantity. The lowest among these values would be taken into account for determining eligibility.

Curious Documentation

Intriguingly, the case takes a twist when the Tender Committee (TC) took into consideration a Work Experience certificate submitted by the Agency. This certificate pertained to Work No.01 and was issued on 8th October 2010, stating that the work had been physically completed. However, a notable omission in this certificate was the absence of the exact date of completion. It's worth noting that the date of completion was subsequently listed as 30th June 2010, particularly when processing the Performance Guarantee (PG) release.

Significantly, it's revealed that the first variation for Work No.01 was approved on 15th September 2010, which occurred after the officially stated date of completion for the work. This first variation involved an increase in blanketing quantity from 9,000 cubic meters to 9,300 cubic meters.

Suspicion Arises

The situation becomes murkier with the second variation of Work No.01. This variation, approved on 30th May 2011, saw the blanketing quantity surge from 9,300 cubic meters to 14,250 cubic meters. What is striking is that on the very same date, the Chief Engineer (CE)/Chief Engineer Construction (CE/CN) requested confirmation of the authenticity of the Work No.01 experience certificates and asked for the quantity of blanketing executed, if any, from the issuing authority, i.e., Deputy Chief Engineer/Chief Engineer Construction (Dy.CE/CN).

Dy.CE/CN, in response to CE/CN's request, confirmed the certificate's authenticity and added that the total quantity of blanketing executed by the agency was 20,326 cubic meters, as per the final recording of the Measurement Book (MB) for Work No.01. This quantity is significantly higher than the quantity approved in the second variation, indicating that it was an enhanced (fabricated) quantity.

Parallel Processing and Discrepancies

The most striking revelation in this case is that the tender finalization process for Work No.02 and the processing of the second and third variations for Work No.01 occurred concurrently. Moreover, CE/CN was at the helm of both tender committees. This means that during the finalization of the Work No.02 tender, both CE/CN and Dy.CE/CN were fully aware that the contractor did not meet the blanketing quantity requirement of 19,646 cubic meters, as per the tender eligibility conditions.

Variations After Work Completion

The irregularities do not stop there. After the official date of completion of Work No.01 (30th June 2010), several red flags emerge:

Three bills (CC-5, CC-6, and CC-7 PVC) were processed after the date of completion, yet the blanketing quantity was not recorded in these bills.

Multiple variations were pointed out by the finance department after the physical completion of work.

Although the Measurement Books (MBs) for Work No.01 were available for recording, the third variation quantities were recorded in other MBs.

The recorded blanketing quantity, which was paid in the FCC-8 bill, was not carried forward in subsequent bills (CC-3, CC-4, CC-5, CC-6, and CC-7 PVC bills).

At locations where the variation quantities were shown as executed, ballasting and track linking works were carried out before the issue of the Letter of Award (LOA) for Work No.01.

Altogether, fictitious measurements amounting to Rs 58 lakhs were recorded by executives and paid to the Agency.

Actions Taken and the Way Forward

In response to these irregularities, Departmental Action Required (DAR) actions have been initiated against three railway officials. However, it is worth noting that three of these actions are time-barred, indicating the need for a swift response to such discrepancies.

Furthermore, steps have been taken to initiate the banning of the firm involved in these irregularities.

Conclusion and Takeaway

The case underlines the critical importance of maintaining transparency and integrity in railway projects. Proper due diligence, scrutiny of documentation, and diligent oversight are imperative to prevent such irregularities. Furthermore, the need for swift and stringent actions in response to discrepancies is evident.

In conclusion, this case serves as a powerful reminder of the significance of adhering to procurement and tender guidelines and maintaining meticulous records. Vigilance, accountability, and transparency should be the guiding principles in all railway projects to ensure their success and the public's trust.

Takeaway:

The importance of processing bills in a system that avoids and mitigates manipulations cannot be overstated, as demonstrated by the series of irregularities in this case. Proper oversight and adherence to established procedures are key to preventing such discrepancies from occurring in the future.



UNMASKING A WEB OF DECEIT: THE SCANDAL OF FAKE TRANSFER SICK CERTIFICATES IN INDIAN RAILWAYS

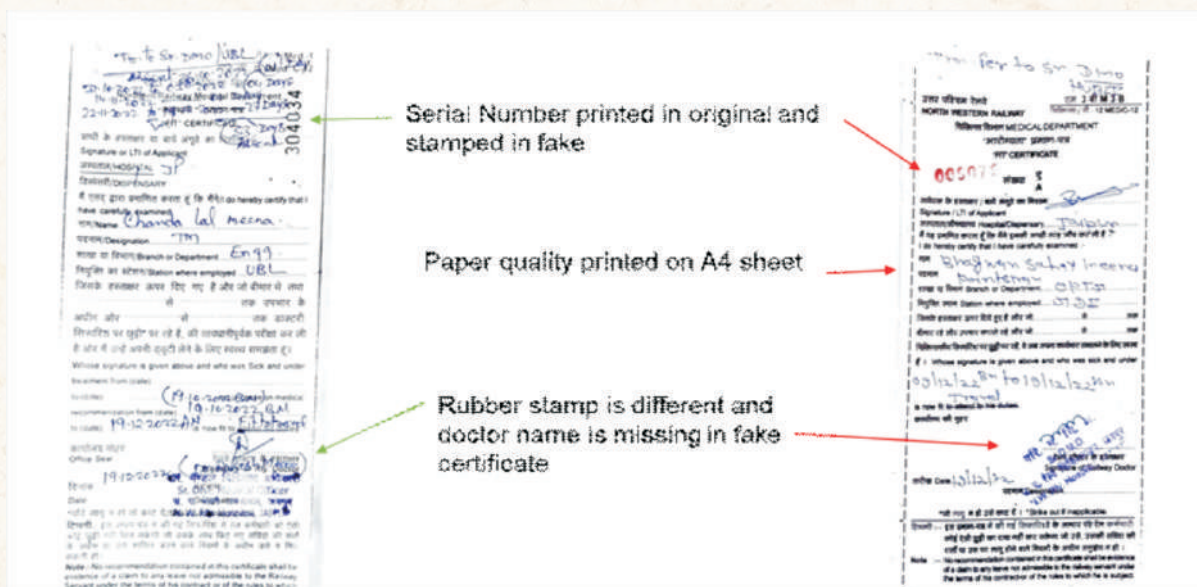
by **Shri Anweshkumar Aileni**,
Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer (S&M)/SWR

Introduction

In the heart of India's sprawling railway network, where millions of passengers and thousands of employees rely on a well-oiled system to keep the trains running, a shocking scandal has emerged. A preventive check in the Sick List Section of one of the Railway Hospitals in 2023 has revealed a web of deceit involving fake transfer sick certificates. This article unravels the intricate details of this scandal, the extent of its reach, and the dark motivations behind it.

The Discovery

The saga began with a targeted preventive check in the Sick List Section, focusing on the authenticity of transfer sick certificates. During the course of this examination, something sinister came to light. On a particular date, two transfer sick certificates bore the stamp and signature of the same medical officer, but they were starkly different. Not only were the signs and stamps inconsistent, but the texture of the paper, the print quality, and the numbering style were also at odds. Further investigation confirmed that one of the two certificates was a counterfeit, issued without the hospital's knowledge.



The initial revelation triggered a deeper probe. Transfer medical certificates from the said hospital, dating back to 2019, were summoned from all three divisions over the South Western Railway (SWR). What came to light was nothing short of shocking. Twenty-three fake transfer sick certificates had been issued. However, the extent of the problem went far beyond these initial findings.

FAKE CASE PAPER



The modus operandi behind this scandal was a complex web of deceit. Employees seeking fake certificates paid varying sums, ranging from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 10,000, to a private individual. The price depended on the number of days for which the sick leave was desired. Payments were made either in cash or electronically, through platforms like PhonePe and Google Pay.

The fake sick certificates and transfer sick certificates were typically issued in tandem, either at the beginning or at the end of the sick leave period. They were collected by the employees at a specific location outside the railway hospital, or sometimes even door-delivered. This entire operation had a target group, consisting of individuals hailing from the vicinity of Jaipur.

The Vast Extent of the Scandal

The magnitude of this scandal is alarming. Scrutiny of the fake certificates exposed a disturbing truth: between 2021 and 2022, more than 1,000 fake certificates were issued to employees across the Indian Railways. The financial implications were significant, with a staggering transactional value ranging from approximately Rs. 50 lakhs to 1 Crore in just one year.

The Road Ahead

The investigation is now in its finalization stage, with far-reaching implications for those involved in this scandal. The uncovered web of deceit not only jeopardizes the integrity of the Indian Railways but also raises questions about the systemic vulnerabilities that allowed such a fraud to take place.

In conclusion, this scandal serves as a stark reminder of the importance of vigilance, accountability, and integrity in all aspects of railway operations. It calls for a thorough examination of the processes and systems in place, to ensure that such incidents do not recur. The road ahead will undoubtedly involve holding those responsible accountable for their actions and tightening the safeguards against such fraud in the future.

Takeaway:

The scandal of fake transfer sick certificates underscores the critical need for robust oversight and vigilance in railway operations. It's a lesson in the importance of stringent verification procedures, as well as ethical and transparent practices, to ensure the integrity and reliability of one of the world's most extensive railway networks.



SOCIAL ENGINEERING ATTACKS

by **Shri Chiranth Gautham**
Vigilance Inspector (IT)/SWR

The Computer Response Emergency Team - India (CERT-IN) is the nodal governmental agency monitoring cyber attacks carried out in the Indian cyber space. In a report from CERT-IN 1,12,474 cyber security incidents have occurred till June 2023 and 1,92,439 incidents in 2022, on government organizations or systems. As per studies by various security organizations, 98% of cyber attacks and 90% of data breaches involve social engineering. It is usually the first step in a successful cyber attack.

Social engineering involves gaining information privy to the victim using deceit or trickery. A typical cyber attack in this form occurs with a hacker/fraudster gaining authorization to an information system from a legitimate user through deceit. This could be in the form of impersonation, fake links/website, false promise of benefit etc. The hacker usually then tries to escalate his privileges in order to access more resources on the system. They then use these privileges to perform unintended and deviant operations and/or copy classified data to remote locations. They carry these operations in stealth and cover their tracks while exiting the system. Social engineering is used extensively by scamsters who intend to defraud people financially. These days, applications are equipped with robust security measures and are difficult to hack directly. Hence social engineering becomes a low hanging fruit for hackers to gain access to an information system.

There are different techniques in social engineering. The prominent ones being phishing, pretexting, water holing, baiting and quid pro quo. Phishing is the most common form of social engineering attack. It involves obtaining personal information such as name, addresses, identity numbers, financial information etc by using shortened or misleading links, redirecting to suspicious websites. Fear and a sense of urgency is leveraged to manipulate the target into responding quickly. In pretexting, an elaborate scenario is invented and used to target a victim to divulge information or perform actions that would be unlikely in ordinary circumstances. For example, an attacker claims to be part of IT support and requests the victim's password for maintenance purposes.

In waterholing, the trust users have on websites they regularly visit is capitalized. The victim is more likely to click a link in the website they frequently visit, rather than a link in an unsolicited email. In baiting, the curiosity or greed of

the target is exploited usually by promising free goods. In quid pro quo, the target is offered something in exchange for information. For example, an attacker asks the target's password claiming to be a researcher doing an experiment, in exchange for money.

In the words of the infamous hacker Kevin Mitnick “The biggest threat to the security of a company is not a computer virus, an unpatched hole in a key program or a badly installed firewall. In fact, the biggest threat could be you”. Humans form the weakest link in the overall security of the information system. The mantra to protect oneself from social engineering attacks is to be aware, be vigilant and stay safe. Awareness of end users to spot the common social engineering techniques and understand the psychological triggers attackers use to take advantage would be a key deterrent. Tips, guidelines, updates etc are posted by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology advisory committees like Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA - infosecawareness.in, @ISEA), Stay Safe Online (StaySafeOnline.in @SSO), CyberDost etc. South Western Railway Information Security team posts regularly at twitter.com/SWRInfoSec.

Defense in depth would also play a vital role in preventing these attacks. Similar to peeling an onion, more security layers would inhibit the attacker from gaining access to classified information. Some of these measures would be two factor authentication, updated anti virus, non-administrative user accounts and periodic backups. Two factor authentication in the form of OTP/notification on mobile, authenticator service or biometric recognition prevents unauthorized login. Updated anti virus would help in containing malware and identifying phishing links. User accounts without administrative access would not give attackers or malware the ability to run privileged operations or system commands. Role based access to applications will prevent attackers from escalating their privileges. Periodic backup of user data would act as a fail safe in the event of a data loss or a ransom.

It is aspired that every individual would endeavor to protect their personal and collective cyber space. Be aware. Be vigilant. Stay safe online!!



DATA ANALYSIS OF IT APPLICATIONS IN INDIAN RAILWAYS: A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY

by **Shri R. Prasad S. I.,**
Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer (C&IS)/SWR

Introduction

In the ever-evolving landscape of Indian Railways, data analysis of IT applications plays a pivotal role in streamlining processes and ensuring compliance with various statutes. This comprehensive study delves into various aspects of data analysis, including GST verification, input tax credit, and the implementation of eInvoices. The period under examination spans from April 2020 to February 2023, covering Headquarters, Hubli division and workshop, Bangalore division and construction, Mysore division, and workshop.

Analyzing GSTIN Verification

As per the provisions of the GST Act, suppliers engaged in business-to-business (B2B) transactions must issue invoices with valid GSTIN. The GSTIN should correspond to the registered name, excluding subsidiary or joint venture companies.

Using data from executive bills passed in the Integrated Public Accounting System (IPAS), party codes are cross-referenced with GSTIN information taken from the GST database. The matching percentage between supplier names in IPAS and trade/legal names in the GST database is computed. Bills falling below the 40% matching threshold for both trade and legal names are flagged as non-compliant.

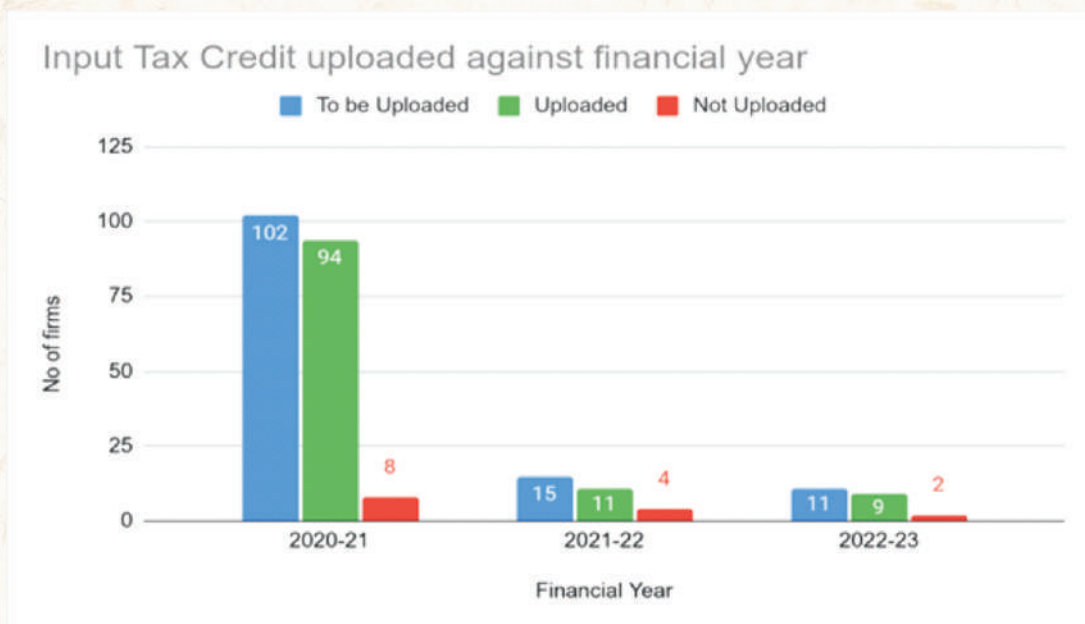
Another crucial aspect is bills passed after the cancellation of GSTIN. These bills are scrutinized to ensure alignment with GST norms and regulations.

It was observed that around 7 lakhs and 56 lakhs of GST amount has been paid to suppliers with erroneous registered names and whose GSTIN has been canceled, respectively.

Validating Input Tax Credit

The study proceeds to validate Input Tax Credit (ITC) claims on the GST portal. To do this, it analyzes data from GSTR2A reports for fiscal years 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23. The ITC Eligible field in IPAS marks tax credit eligibility for each bill. Bills that qualify for complete ITC are examined to check whether the GST amount paid in IPAS aligns with the amount in GSTR2A reports.

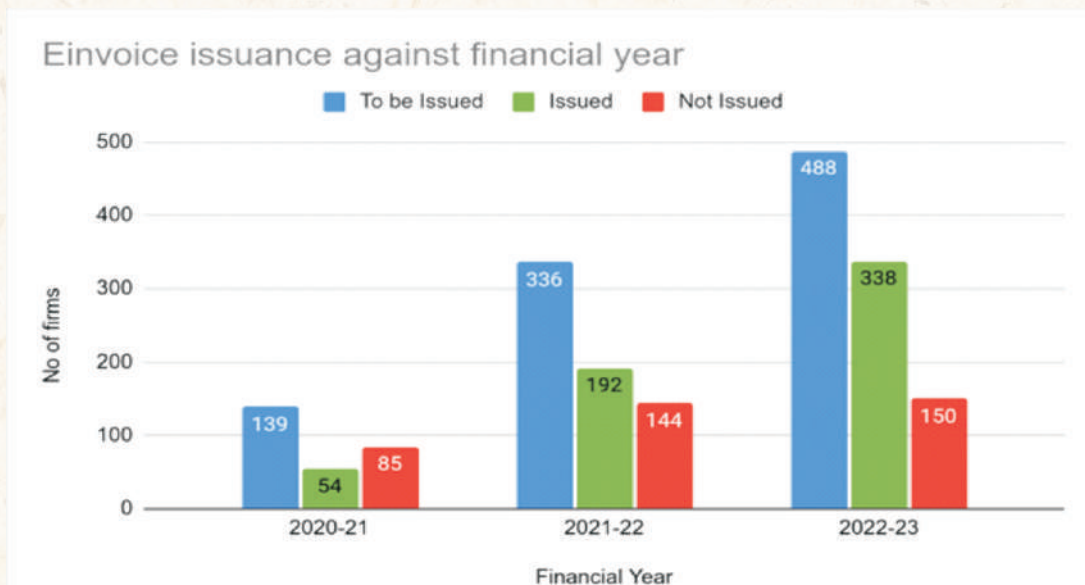
The number of companies who have not uploaded on the GST portal is on a decreasing trend.



Mandating eInvoices

A significant shift in the GST landscape is the mandate for eInvoices. Suppliers with a turnover above a certain threshold are obligated to issue eInvoices for B2B transactions. To ensure compliance, the eInvoice enablement status from the GST database is cross-referenced with bills in IPAS to identify invoices requiring eInvoicing. The number of companies issuing eInvoices is on an increasing trend.

This analysis extends to categorizing bills based on supplier turnover. It is observed that a significant proportion of bills fall under the ambit of eInvoicing, emphasizing the need for mandatory compliance.



Conclusion and Recommendations

The study reveals critical insights into GSTIN verification, ITC validation, and eInvoice implementation within Indian Railways. Many of these variations can be curtailed by the use of eInvoice. eInvoice has been found to be useful, by validating GSTIN of suppliers, automatically updating input tax credit, curbs to check fake input tax credit, and achieving syntactic interoperability among information systems besides others.

Suppliers will continue to use the current method for invoice generation. However, their accounting software or alike should be capable of creating a JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) of the final invoice capturing all the mandatory parameters. An IRN (Invoice Reference Number) is generated using supplier's GSTIN, supplier's invoice number and financial year, which is unique to the supplier. This IRN is generated using the prescribed hashing algorithm. The JSON and IRN is uploaded to the IRP (Invoice Registration Portal) using a GSP (GST Suvidha Provider). The IRN is validated and stored in the Central Registry. IRP will generate a QR code and digitally sign the invoice and make it available to the supplier. The eInvoice is also sent by email to the buyer and supplier.

In conclusion, this comprehensive study sheds light on the intricate landscape of GST compliance within Indian Railways. Adherence to GST norms, thorough verification, and the implementation of eInvoices are instrumental in achieving streamlined and efficient operations within the railway sector.



SAY NO TO CORRUPTION; COMMIT TO THE NATION.

by **Shri BK Madhava Rao**
Station Supdt./BYD (MYS)

Introduction

The Menace of Corruption

It is stated by every one that corruption is a malignant cancer that erodes the very foundations of a nation. It robs a country of its potential, hinders progress, and creates an atmosphere of distrust and cynicism. To build a prosperous and just society, we must collectively commit ourselves to saying no to corruption. Corruption may be by act or by thought. Psychologically it diminishes the morality of an unhappy person or ethical imbalance due to socio-economic factors. Corruption appears in many forms, ranging from bribery and embezzlement to extortion and fraud. It damages trust and erodes public confidence, leading to a breakdown of institutions that are responsible for maintaining law and order. It's also curtailing the nation's economic, social, fabric and they negatively impact society. This essay explores the psychology behind corruption and outlines the steps we can take to combat it, emphasizing the importance of psychological rebuilding of personalities.

Effects of Corruption: Corruption is the abuse of power for personal gain, and it can manifest in various forms, such as bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, and fraud. Its consequences are far-reaching and detrimental to the nation in several ways: **Economic Drain:** Corruption diverts resources away from essential public services and everyday needs of the common man in General and every citizen in total. This not only impedes unequal economic growth but also exacerbates poverty and inequality.

Weakened Institutions: Corrupt practices erode the trust in public institutions, undermining their legitimacy and effectiveness. When citizens lose faith in their government, the cohesive fabric of society disrupts leading to social unrest.

Injustice and Inequality: Corruption often results in unequal access to opportunities and resources. Here three losses we can find:

1. Corrupting the system
2. Denial of rights to eligible

3. The ineligible become a burden to the system. Corrupts get unfair advantages, perpetuating inequality and stifling social mobility.

Erosion of Moral Values: Corruption habituates unethical behaviour and sets a poor example for future generations. It erodes the moral fabric of society. Dishonesty and greed will be rewarded. **Psychological angle of corruption:** The psychology of corruption is a complex and multifaceted topic that encompasses various psychological, social, and cultural factors that contribute to corrupt behaviour. Corruption refers to the abuse of power or position for personal gain, often at the expense of others or the public interest. Understanding the psychology of corruption involves examining the motivations, rationalizations, and behaviours of individuals engaged in corrupt activities. Here are some key psychological factors associated with corruption:

Motivation for Corruption:

Financial Gain: One of the primary motivations for corruption is the desire for financial benefits is universally accepted. It's the greed behind it.

Power and Status: Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely. Corruption is a means to exhibit the power and status for these individuals. The thirst for power is the psych behind this.

Fear and Survival: In some cases, individuals may engage in corruption out of fear for their safety or job security due to corruption of higher up. Polluted atmosphere pollutes the individual.

Rationalization:

Moral Disengagement: Corrupt individuals often employ cognitive mechanisms to distance themselves from the moral implications of their actions or describe it as universal. They may justify saying it's mutual benefit.

Minimization:

Individuals may downplay the significance of their corrupt actions, stating that the harm caused is minimal compared to the benefits they receive. But a drop of buttermilk spoils the milk.

Normalization:

In environments where corruption is widespread, individuals may come to view corrupt behaviour as normal or acceptable. This normalization can contribute to the perpetuation of corruption.

Social and Cultural Factors:

Social Pressure:

Social norms and peer pressure can play a significant role in encouraging or discouraging corrupt behaviour. Individuals may engage in corruption to fit in with a corrupt group or to avoid social isolation.

Cultural Tolerance:

In some cultures, corruption may be more accepted or even expected. Cultural factors can influence an individual's perception of what is right or wrong.

Psychological Stress and Coping Mechanisms:

Stressors:

High levels of stress, job dissatisfaction, or personal problems can increase the susceptibility to corruption as individuals seek coping mechanisms or escapes from their problems.

Psychological Defence Mechanisms:

Corruption can be a way for individuals to cope with feelings of inadequacy, insecurity, or low self-esteem.

Opportunity Structure:

The presence of opportunities for corruption, such as weak oversight or inadequate enforcement of rules and laws, can facilitate corrupt behaviour. It's important to note that not all individuals in positions of power or influence engage in corruption, and many factors can influence whether someone chooses to act corruptly or ethically. Additionally, efforts to combat corruption often focus on both prevention of opportunity for corruption and promotion of honesty. It can be done by addressing the psychological and cultural factors that contribute to corrupt behaviour. These efforts may include ethics training, transparency and accountability measures, and cultural change initiatives.

A lack of transparency and effective regulations are often the main causes of corruption.

Commitment to Combat Corruption:

Transparency and Accountability:

Implement and strengthen mechanisms that promote transparency and accountability in government and public institutions. This includes transparent budgeting processes, public access to information, and stringent auditing.

Education and Awareness: Foster a culture of ethics and integrity through education and awareness campaigns. Teach the youth about the consequences of corruption and the importance of ethical behaviour.

Whistleblower Protection:

Enact laws and create a safe environment for whistleblowers to report corruption without fear of reprisals. Whistleblowers play a crucial role in exposing corrupt practices.

Strong Legal Framework:

Establish and enforce robust anti-corruption laws. Ensure that those who engage in corrupt activities face severe consequences, including jail time and hefty fines.

Public Participation:

Encourage active citizen engagement in the governance process. When the public is involved in decision-making, there is less room for corruption to flourish.

Ethical Leadership:

Elect and appoint leaders who prioritize integrity and ethical behaviour. Leaders should lead by example and demonstrate a commitment to eradicating corruption. Conclusion Saying no to corruption is not just a slogan; it is a commitment to the prosperity and well-being of our nation. Corruption not only hinders economic growth but also erodes the very essence of our society. To build a just, equitable, and prosperous nation, we must take a stand against corruption at all levels of society.

As responsible citizens, it is our duty to hold our leaders and institutions accountable for their actions. By promoting transparency, ethical behaviour, and a culture of integrity, we can create an environment where corruption has no place to thrive. Let us commit ourselves to saying no to corruption, not only for our sake but for the sake of future generations who deserve a better, more just society. Together, we can build a nation that is free from the shackles of corruption and stands as a beacon of hope and promise.



11.0 भ्रष्टाचार को हराना है

- सुजीत कुमार

मुख्य कार्यालय अधीक्षक / सतर्कता विभाग / हुबबल्लि

दो रास्ते हैं,
पर एक तरफ जाना है।
भ्रष्टाचार एवं ईमानदारी में,
किसी एक को अपनाना है।।

समाज की,
सब से बड़ी बुराई है भ्रष्टाचार।
यह लोगों द्वारा,
लोगों पर करता है अत्याचार।।

सभी के सहयोग से,
ये भ्रष्टाचार का रोग मिट सकता है।
ईमानदारी के साथ चल कर,
आराम से ज़िन्दगी कट सकता है।।

सबका साथ, सबका विकास,
यह अभी देश का नारा है।
इसे हासिल करने के लिए,
ईमानदारी ही एक सहारा है।।

न रिश्वत लेना है और न रिश्वत देना है,
सभी लोगों को ये समझाना है।
भ्रष्टाचार को हराकर,
भारत को विकसित देश बनाना है।।

THE CHANGE STARTS WITH YOU

by **Shri Vikram Dubey**
Office Supdt./PCSTE/O/SWR

In one aspect or the other, we all have come across the word 'Corruption.' According to political ideology's definition, 'Corruption is a form of dishonesty or criminal offence undertaken by a person or organization entrusted with a position of authority, to acquire illicit benefit or abuse power for one's private gain.' Seems lengthy and confusing, right? Most simply, corruption is dishonest behaviour practised by authorities such as managers or government officials. This is how people with power rule the world, thereby violating certain people's rights and privileges.

It is said that time changes everything. But here it is, this dishonest act and the unsatisfying term haven't changed for years on end. It is still prevalent. The main reason for corruption in India is the link between bureaucrats, politicians, and criminals.

Gone are the days when bribes were given when things were wrong. Presently, bribes are received to hide the right stuff. May it be a minor issue or a life-threatening one, a younger child or an adult man, a school-going boy to a working person everyone has seen and has fallen prey to corruption. These days, even if a person isn't qualified enough for a public sector job, he can quickly get it by spending money and giving bribes to higher officials. Corruption can never be complete without looking at the causes of corruption. We often hear people saying, 'Everything happens for a reason. This states that Everything happening around us is driven by a strong desire or motivation behind it. In the same way, corruption also has some hidden causes behind it. Enlisted are the causes of corruption:

- Greed of money
- Poverty
- Lack of values and ethics
- Lack of education
- High level of bureaucracy and inefficient administrative structure
- Political instability

Corruption is not a new word for all the citizens of our country. In fact, it is the most common word and everyone is familiar with the problem we have faced after the corruption. Corruption is basically the use of public power, property and

influence to obtain money or personal advantages. Corruption is not only a problem in India but is also a problem for the whole world. However, the difference is that in our country India it is being performed at the most extreme level due to which the growth of our country has been slowed down very much. On the other hand, if we talk about corruption in developed countries, we will definitely find that corruption in those countries is least but not eliminated completely.

It requires authorities to "take appropriate measures to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in the prevention of and the fight against corruption"

A day dedicated to raising public awareness about the dangers corruption poses to the stability of a society, and mobilizing political will to tackle this global issue. Corruption affects all countries worldwide and it weakens the foundation of democratic institutions, stunting economic development, undermining the rule of law, and eroding the quality of life for all citizens. Fighting corruption is not a simple task. It's a fight that concerns everyone and requires everyone's involvement to prevent its manifestation or to react decisively to wrongdoing. It calls not just for the dedication of independent anti-corruption bodies in preventing, detecting, and holding corrupt officials accountable, but also for the active public involvement of every citizen by saying NO to corruption, not turning a blind eye, and demanding transparency and accountability from those they vote into public office. The fight against corruption is never truly "won" or "over." The fight against corruption, therefore, depends on citizen awareness, support, and participation. The people are the first line of defence. Citizens are drivers of accountability, reform and change. It is therefore important to put citizens at the centre of fighting corruption. This event is one of many efforts to empower citizens to act against those who are corrupt.

Building a culture of integrity in society begins with the education of young people. The knowledge, skills and behaviours they acquire will shape the country's future and will also help them to uphold integrity, which is essential for preventing corruption. Engaging the youth is thus also critical to inspiring norms for integrity, ethical behaviour and equipping the youth with knowledge and skills to resist corruption. Public integrity means doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. When corruption and unethical behaviour seem normal, we can lose sight of what public integrity is and why it matters. It's important to educate for public integrity so that public good is emphasized over private gain. By teaching youth about public integrity, we give them the knowledge and skills to fight corrupt practices and establish new behavioural norms and values for society. This will harness youth's desire for fairness and equity. The goal being sustainable cultures

of integrity and a better future for all. Empowering young people to fight corruption begins with ensuring that they understand how to recognise it. It's important to help youth to understand corruption's causes and consequences, and introduce them to concepts such as the importance of proper processes and the need for transparency.

When corruption and unethical behaviour become part of everyday life, it is critical to establish what public integrity is and why it matters and how to find solutions to ethical dilemmas. It's also important to capacitate youth to understand how rules and laws protect all members of society, and why rules and laws must be obeyed - even when no one is watching.

Our government as well as the country is making many efforts to make our country corruption free. The government has passed many laws and taken action on them on short notice. Over the years, corruption has also come down, improving the economy and making the life of people easier. It will not be pragmatic to think that we can make India corruption free in 2 or 3 years. Definitely, eliminating or reducing corruption will take time as we have to be more patient and vigilant against corruption. Eventually, we the people of India also have to take responsibility for making our country corruption free.

I must bring to your notice certain measures to reduce this problem. "Every problem has a solution.....But it depends whether you want to solve it or not". It depends on us if we have to stand against this evil act or in support of it. People usually stay silent in such situations, but one must remember that mere silence leads to acceptance. We must unite together and try to reduce corruption. Enlisted are the various ways in which we can reduce corruption to a greater extent.

- People should start reporting cases of corruption without any delay.
- All the government, non-government, public, private, and educational should unite together and stand against corruption.
- The media and advertising sector should educate people against corruption regularly.
- We should provide students with additional courses to build better citizens for tomorrow.

To conclude, corruption is making life worse for the commoner. But he is the only one who can raise his voice and bring change. We should start from ourselves and change our thinking of 'Make a Change to that or Be a change' So, let's come together and stand in favour of the commoner and not corruption. Let's decide to be loyal and valuable citizens of our country.



CORRUPTION IN INDIA: A BARRIER TO EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

(Transcript of Master **Febin Shahul**, X std., Sanskaar School, Hubli.
Winner of 1st prize in Inter School Elocution Competition)

Even after 77 years of independence, our country continues to be the largest democracy in the world. We are a leading country in the current world order. Whether it be exploring the moon, or creating one of the most effective covid vaccines, India has been a global leader in almost every field.

However, even now, unemployment, hunger, poverty and illness rain on our country. According to multiple surveys by the UN, India has a very poor standing in the quality of life index. We have a long way to go. And it is in this context that I stand before you to talk about Saying no to corruption and commit to the nation. India is a Soviet, Social, Secular, Democratic Republic as we are always reminded. However, if we as a country, with all of our abundant resources and brilliant minds and principles, have not been able to reach up to our potential and fulfil it, the main cause has got to be, and most definitely is corruption.

If our aim is to grow as a country and if the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting even more poor, then something is definitely going wrong. These past years, India has grown financially and the effect should be evenly distributed among all of its citizens. Should it not be? But unfortunately, the benefits of these growths are eaten up by 8-10% of the richest people in the country. The rest of the 80% of the people only get to enjoy a measly 20% of their country's progress. And again, if you care to look for the cause of this unfairness, it would again lead you to corruption.

Corruption is not only about leeching money from government contracts. Keeping funds and amenities meant for the needy and denying them is also a form of corruption. Even if it's the simple act of procrastination. to not do what you're supposed to do. To avoid your duties. To not to do them sincerely. It is also a part of corruption. To exploit our resources. To behave like the only needs that matter are yours. To give no care to the future of the planet. It is all a part of corruption.

But one of the major hindrances in this battle against corruption is the misunderstanding that corruption is only done by rich people in positions of power. It is high time we realise that corruption has infected our entire community like a disease.

When a child tells their parent he/she needs a printout for school, and if their parent takes one from the office printer, then that might be one of the first instances of corruption that the child witnesses. Then comes the teacher who might not be properly teaching her syllabus and instead rushes through it for the sake of completion. Then the shopkeeper who has rigged the weighing balance. The doctor who makes one take unnecessary tests just for the sake of a profit. The cab drivers who pretend to lose their way in order to charge extra. Similarly, there are so many different forms of corruption happening all around us, in every field imaginable. And that is the issue. Corruption is making the very bedrocks of our democracy crumble under our feet and it is all our own doing.

So how do we change this? How can this situation be rectified?

This change has to start from our attitudes, our interests, our thoughts and our approach towards every situation we encounter. We should embrace the concept of Vasudeva Kutumbaka, the world is our family and care for everything and everyone around us in the way we would care for our own kith and kin.

We should forgo the 'I'. The concept of making everything about oneself has to change. We need to learn to think about others and see how our actions may affect the people around us. Think about what it does for our country and how our actions might be contributing to the good or the bad that we see around us.

We need to bring about a change in the way we view development. Gandhiji had once said that when you think of a new plan for development, the first person you think of has to be the most underprivileged person you know. And if and only if that plan benefits him too should you ever go through with it. Thus, only when it benefits every person in need will a plan finally lead to development.

Next, if the current laws seem to be falling short of their expectations, we must work to strengthen them. And likewise, punish anyone and everyone who goes against them. Making sure that the message is loud and clear against corruption. But above all, what we require are citizens who recognise corruption and are willing to stand against it. And the key to that is the youth of today. It is only we who can bring about a change for our future. We need to be aware, we need to ask questions and demand answers. Only then can we hope to bring about the change that we desire. And that is when we can defeat corruption. So hold your heads high. Do what is right. Ask questions. Demand answers. And show them how it's done.



CORRUPTION'S IMPACT ON SOCIETY AND HOW TO COUNTER IT

(Transcript of **Miss Banashree Kuballi** of Convent High School, Hubli.
Winner of 2nd prize in Inter School Elocution Competition)

Corruption is the misuse of power/position for personal gain. In simple terms it is the wrong Usage of power That is authority or position of an official for him being benefited personally.

Corruption not only affects our nation, but the entire world. It is the most destructive force that hampers the progress as well as the development of our nation. As responsible citizens of our nation, it is our duty and due responsibility to Stand united together and say no to corruption and commit yourself for the betterment and welfare of our nation.

There are various types of corruption namely bribery, influence peddling, nepotism, cronyism, patronage, embezzlement and many more.

1. Bribery : A bribe involves a payment made to any official for the exchange of use of his official power.
2. Influence peddling : It is another type of corruption where influence is involved in trading.
3. Nepotism : It is the practice among those with power/influence of favoring their associates, friends or even relatives by giving them jobs.
4. Cronyism : This is similar to nepotism. It is the appointment of friends, associates or even relatives to positions of authority but without proper regard to their qualifications.

In all these types of corruption, we can see that many incompetent people in the system are leaders over the abled ones.

Moving on to the consequences of corruption:

The consequences of corruption could be devastating to both individuals and society as whole.

Economical effect:

Corruption not only hinders economic growth but also depletes the national wealth. The welfare of communities and societies have compromised themselves for the benefit of some officials which thus leads to the misuse of national resources and the sum of essential services like education, health, infrastructure, etc.

Political effect:

Corruption becomes a major obstruction. It is like a roadblock for the rule of law and democracy. The political system loses its legitimacy when power is used for private advantage

Environmental effect:

Corruption results in the degradation, negligence and exploitation of natural resources which results in the turbulence in the ecological systems and creates turbulence in the ecology which thus gives a negative impact on the environment.

Now let's know on how to take a stand against the corruption:

1. Effective law enforcement is the key to ensure the punishment of the corrupt and culprit. And for this purpose, we need a strong legal framework. The judiciary must also be firm and non-corrupt.
2. Improving financial management and strengthening the role of auditing agencies will also assist in curbing corruption.
3. The tradition of government openness, the freedom of press, transparency and access to information will also play a significant role in curbing corruption.
4. Knowledge is the most powerful tool in fighting against corruption, the Evil Act.
5. Strengthening citizens' demands and empowering them to make the government accountable is a great approach to build the Mutual Trust between government and its citizens.

Conclusion:

To sum it up, corruption is the biggest evil of any society. All the necessary steps must and should be taken in order to eliminate this evil act. Not only the ones with power, but at times even the weaker section of society tend to become a culprit of this issue.

Our commitment to the nation and rejection of this corruption would contribute much more in developing, in building a more just equitable and a prosperous society. Thus, this will ensure a complete, socioeconomic and political development of our country.

Eventually I would like to tell, that if I was given an opportunity to stop this evilness my first step and my focus would be on transforming citizens into “politically matured citizens” because 'WE' are the foundation, 'WE' are the pillars. “WE” are the base who need to, who have to, who must plant seeds of HONESTY, LOYALTY and EFFICIENCY in our children as It is they who will be the FUTURE POLITICALLY MATURE CITIZENS of our nation. They will be successful in contributing to the eradication of corruption in the future.

Also, I'd like to bring to your notice that corruption is one of the reasons why India is a developing country but not a developed country.

Lastly, I would like to conclude my speech with a slogan:

“Break the chain; refuse the bribe”. A clear conscience is far more valuable than money.



YOUTH AGAINST CORRUPTION: THE PATH TO A BETTER TOMORROW

(Transcript of **Miss Unaizah Navalur** of Kendriya Vidyalaya No.2, Hubli.
Winner of 3rd prize in Inter School Elocution Competition)

Can we all imagine our society growing up day by day along with a dangerous disease like cancer?

Ah! Our heartbeat stops! We cannot even imagine it, but unfortunately corruption is the cancer spreading worldwide rapidly. Many countries are choked by corruption.

But what actually corruption is? It is dishonest conduct by the people, it is bribing money for getting work done, it is embezzlement or theft of entrusted funds provided by Govt., it is illegal activity involving children or minors. It is said: **भयमेवस्ति शत्रुः**; which means fear is the only enemy. And it is not the power that corrupts, it is the fear that corrupts. Fear of losing power leads to corruption, fear of becoming poor leads to corruption, fear of failure leads to corruption, even a school going child unknowingly falls into corruption due the fear of failing in exams. And it is also said, **लोभं हित्वा सुखी भवेत्**; A man becomes happy by renouncing greed. The other reason for corruption is greed. Greed of always being first, rich, powerful, etc. According to a survey, in our country Kerala is the least corrupt state because of the highest literacy rate. My friends, it is difficult to fool those who are educated, hence, we have a better state. It is our duty to create awareness against corruption. Our law has introduced Article 13 for creating awareness and giving education about corruption

According to a corruption report by Transparency International, India is the 85th least corrupt nation out of 180. Hence, this makes a clear statement that if a country has to be corruption free, it must have a transparent professional system.

We all have seen people protesting against corruption since our independence. Even regular rallies are organized. But, what I personally feel is it's not enough. The young generation right from their school must stand against corruption, and this is possible by introducing comics with good morals against corruption. Theatre and Drama can have a good message against corruption. We can also introduce games and online games for this goal. Today standing on this stage, I strongly say NO to corruption and commit to the nation. I will not let anyone walk with their dirty feet through my mind. Let us all take an oath that we will not let corruption rule our system, we will remain honest and we will commit to develop our nation corruption free.

वतन पे जान निसार है, वतन के काम आएंगे हम इस जमीन से भ्रष्टाचार को भाग एक रोज आसमान बनाएंगे।

JAI HIND

SAY NO TO CORRUPTION; COMMIT TO THE NATION

by **Ms. Sihi R. Sankal**, X Std. Parivarthan Gurukul Heritage School, Hubli
Winner of 1st Prize in Essay Competition

A stack of cash passed from beneath the table, a call of favour from 'the powerful one', an unknown source of income, a threat in the mailbox, a gross theft by one trusted with power,all day, every day we witness such acts of immorality and manipulation ...acts of corruption . Bribery, favour peddling, blackmailing, theft, embezzlement, fraud, abuse of power, tax evasion and many more are the vices that constantly poison our society .

Corruption can be simply described as an abuse of entrusted power for the sole purpose of personal financial gains. Corruption can occur anywhere, in businesses, the government, the media, the courts ,etc. Corruption seldom fails to stretch its greedy arms into every possible sector .None is safe from it, not even the most developed of countries, nor the narrowest alleys.

Ranging from nationwide scams to petty bribery in the smallest of offices, corruption has plagued every office of power. Either way it affects the delivery of basic services and rights to the common. But why, why do people entrusted with power commit such crimes, what sways them away from the path of morality? The answer is simple: greed, greed for money, greed for luxury. But what aids this greed is the unabashed fearlessness that comes with power.

Bribery is the most prevalent form of corruption in India .It is an exchange of money or 'gifts' in order to get work done. Not only is bribery used in getting a specific work done but it is also used to suppress horrendous crimes by the rich or the influential so as to cover up a scene and come out clean in case of an investigation. Blackmailing, though not commonly considered a form of corruption, is again a blatant abuse of strength. Sending death threats, emotional blackmailing, physical torture and so on are ways used by the powerful rogues to extract money, services or to make one withhold sensitive information.

Embezzlement is another form of corruption in which funds are stolen by those trusted to keep them safe . It is commonplace among the owners of multi-crore companies, who misappropriate funds from their investors, thereby getting richer themselves and giving not a single penny of dividend to their stockholders .Favoritism, on a larger scale called nepotism is another prevalent form of corruption that we very often see. When happening in homes, schools or colleges it can be shrugged off as a normal human tendency, but when happening on a wide scale while promoting a particular company, product, or person thereby affecting the progress or security of our nation , this simple human tendency of favour becomes a menace.

All these forms of corruption, though different on the face, are still the same in their very core, all of them make the rich richer, the poor poorer and the powerful only more powerful. But the ramifications of corruption range beyond the immediate stakeholders. Corruption naturally decreases the level of trust people have on each other, more the corruption, more are people skeptical of each other. We no longer know whom to trust for we no longer know of the wolf in sheep's clothing. With the loss of trust people eventually become disillusioned, thereby reducing public participation, fostering cynicism towards the government and eroding social cohesion. As a domino effect, all of this leads to lesser economic production, lesser development, increased crime rates and decreased safety levels.

Corruption often leads to deviation of public funds away from essential public sectors like transport, education, registration offices, judiciary, healthcare etc. This leads to reduced development. Moreover, seeing the rich show minimal income, pay minimal tax yet acquire money by unknown sources thereby becoming richer ought to make the hard-working taxpayers sour towards those in power. This creates an economic class divide in our society, an economic division in an already socially fragmented society like ours only spells out doom.

Corruption significantly distorts economic mechanisms by creating money gaps in an economic cycle, moreover attempts of money laundering further creates disproportionality in a nation's economy. By promoting favour calling and nepotism the spirit of innovation among the young is crushed. Nepotism stifles a fair competition thereby leading to lesser knowledge or economic enrichment. Corruption significantly affects foreign investment into a country as foreign investors often check on corruption rates before investing, loss of foreign investors would mean a loss of valuable foreign exchange, loss of new outlooks, perspectives and ideas.

Everyone knows corruption exists, everyone knows its causes, everyone knows of its effects, but does anyone do anything against it? For most part of it, no. This is mostly because those involved in corruption are just too powerful to talk against, the whistle-blowers are silenced even before they begin speaking out. Moreover, a corrupt officer or head is committing corruption and is yet safe from the law only because his subordinates are also equally corrupt and are profiting from his illegal acts. Hence the basic question is, how do we eradicate corruption when it is so deeply embedded into our society? The solution is not simple, but neither is it impossible. Corruption can be eradicated when the government and individual citizens work hand in hand, for the good of the nation.

Over the years, almost all the governments have taken constructive steps towards reducing corruption rates in India. Laws like Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, The Companies Act, 2013, The Foreign Contributions Act, 2010, etc. aim at driving out the corrupt. One of the

most outstanding steps taken was the setting up of The Lokayuktas in local areas to call out corruption in its very beginning stages. These refer to local bodies required to act independently from the government and have been empowered to investigate allegations of corruption against public servants which include even the highest offices in the area. This initiative is a beautiful example of government - individual cooperation aiming towards making the nation stronger and more morally sound.

The government might take sound steps against corruption ,but at the end of the day isn't it in our homes, in our localities, in our cities that corruption occurs at its smallest stages? Though difficult to accept, it is highly possible that a friend or a relative would go on to become corrupt and abuse his /her power. It is the basic lack of morality and a sense of duty that blinds one's conscience and makes him/her commit corruption, this is the ground reality, the basic problem. Hence the only way we can prevent corruption in the long run is by instilling ideas of morality in children from a very young age. Children must be taught moral science with the same seriousness as they are taught science, maths or English.

From a very small age students must be made aware of the duty they carry towards their fellow countrymen ; they must understand that selfishness might give oneself joy but it would in the process hurt one's motherland . Along with teaching students about freedom fighters, we must also be taught of current heroes, people in the present world who have earned name and fame through moral ways. Students must learn about eminent personalities from fields of research, science, sports, business, art, literature etc. so that they have a living example of attaining success by sheer hard work and talent and not by nepotism or immorality.

When one hints at bribery or endorsement, we mustn't be quiet, we must learn to speak up against the corrupt .If we sense danger we shouldn't back down , instead we must find discreet ways of doing what's right while staying safe . It is only if we speak up that we can completely eradicate corruption . Remaining silent is no longer an option.

Our nation is a rich land ,a land of rich hearts and rich mines! India is a land of greatness; her land and her people are a class above the rest of the world. We are not those who back down in face of adversity. We carry the blood of the greatest warriors, the bravest kings, and the smallest strategists in our veins .Why must we let such greatness be extinguished by some who forget their duties and work against their own!? We must rise above such people, pushing them out of the way, clearing the path and rising back to the heights of glory.

Let us take a pledge to say no to corruption and commit to make our country, to make India, to make Bharat the greatest of all!

SAY NO TO CORRUPTION; COMMIT TO THE NATION

by **Kum. Arsalan Mohsin**, IX C std., Parivarthan Gurukul Heritage School, Hubli
Winner of 2nd Prize in Essay Competition

Corruption is a form of dishonesty and criminal activity. It involves the misuse of power by a person, an institution or even the government of a country for their own personal gain. Corruption can take place in many forms such as bribery, embezzlement or nepotism. One must always be vigilant and alert, so as to not fall victim to such petty and evil acts.

Corruption occurs in both public and private sectors, affecting government officials, businesses, and individuals. Corruption allocates resources inefficiently, perpetuates inequality and leads to a number of concerning problems in the society. It undermines the rule of law and hampers economic growth, posing a serious threat to the well-being of nations.

We shall now look at some of the biggest consequences of corruption: Corruption hinders economic growth by increasing the cost of doing business. It diverts funds away from essential public services, such as healthcare and education, to the pockets of the corrupt. Corruption also causes social inequality as resources and opportunities are unequally distributed. People are less open to the amenities and opportunities that they deserve as it is passed on into the wrong hands. Corruption erodes trust in institutions and the government, leading to disillusionment and frustration among citizens. People lose faith in their leaders resulting in political instability and public protests. Corrupt practices in public services lead to the undermining of the well-being of the people. It affects healthcare, education, and infrastructure, leaving the vulnerable in dire straits.

Corruption is like a termite that eats away the efficient working of the government of a democratic country. What is a democratic country wherein its citizens cannot be granted justice and equality? What kind of government is it, when it is filled with so called “representatives” that offer great promises for the betterment of the nation but instead, end up taking away huge amounts from the funds entrusted with them, and use it for their own pleasures?

Yes, these are real-life problems of the society and most of the time we, the citizens, aren't even aware of these evil acts prevailing in our society. But to be honest we have all seen these harmful acts being committed right in front of our eyes, but we fail to take any action against it. This is in fact very wrong. A great personality once said that “The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything”.

We mustn't be afraid of these figures, as after all it was us who helped these people rise to power. We must raise our voice against these corrupt and unjust people, we as citizens of a democratic nation must take action against them and teach them a proper lesson in order to infuse the fear in their minds, of ever committing these evil acts again.

So, in order to put an end to these miscellaneous activities it is imperative that we Say no to corruption in the society. Here are some methods and ways with which we can achieve this.

Encouraging transparency in government operations and public spending is crucial. Openness allows citizens to scrutinize actions, making it harder for corruption to thrive.

We must give importance to Education and Awareness of the masses regarding corruption and its ill effects. Educating citizens about the detrimental effects of corruption is vital. Schools, media, and civil society organizations can play a pivotal role in raising awareness about the consequences of corruption.

Implementing and enforcing anti-corruption laws is essential. Laws should be stringent, and the judicial system should be impartial and efficient in prosecuting corrupt individuals. Encouraging and protecting whistleblowers who report corruption is crucial. They often play a key role in exposing corrupt practices and holding wrongdoers accountable.

And last but not least, we as the responsible citizens of this country must think twice, if not a hundred times before electing our representatives and leaders in the government. We must not fall trap to the false promises of political leaders and only with a calm and intelligent mind should we cast the vote to the right person. The person who identifies as impartial, just, trust- worthy and one who is definitely not corrupt must be elected. As, if the corrupt people weren't brought to power in the first place, they cannot cause any harm to the country.

After following these methods to say no to corruption, committing to a Corruption-Free Nation is very important as well. Some ways to commit to a corruption-free nation have been explained below.

We must uphold honesty and integrity in all aspects of life, setting a positive example for others to follow. We as the youth and the future of the country and the entire world must follow in the footsteps of the people who did the right things and get inspired by them instead of following the people who only did bad things for the society. We must understand the different forms of corruption and how they harm society. Awareness is the first step in combating corruption.

If you encounter corruption or unethical behaviour, report it to the relevant authorities or use whistleblowing mechanisms if available. We must support initiatives that promote open data and disclosure.

Participate in civil society organizations, watchdog groups, and community initiatives that work to combat corruption. We must choose leaders who prioritize anti-corruption measures and support policies that enhance transparency and accountability.

To build a prosperous and equitable nation, it is crucial to combat corruption at all levels. All this hard work is after all to strive for the betterment of the country and for the betterment of our lives as its citizens. A corruption-free society offers several benefits, some of which have been explained here.

A government free from corruption can better allocate resources, provide essential services, and make decisions that benefit the broader population. Reducing corruption can attract investment, stimulate economic growth, and create jobs, benefiting citizens and the national economy.

A corruption-free environment fosters trust in institutions, encouraging citizen participation in civic activities and promoting social cohesion. Without corruption, resources are distributed more fairly, ensuring that all citizens have equal access to opportunities and services. A society with reduced corruption strengthens the rule of law, ensuring that justice is impartial and accessible to all.

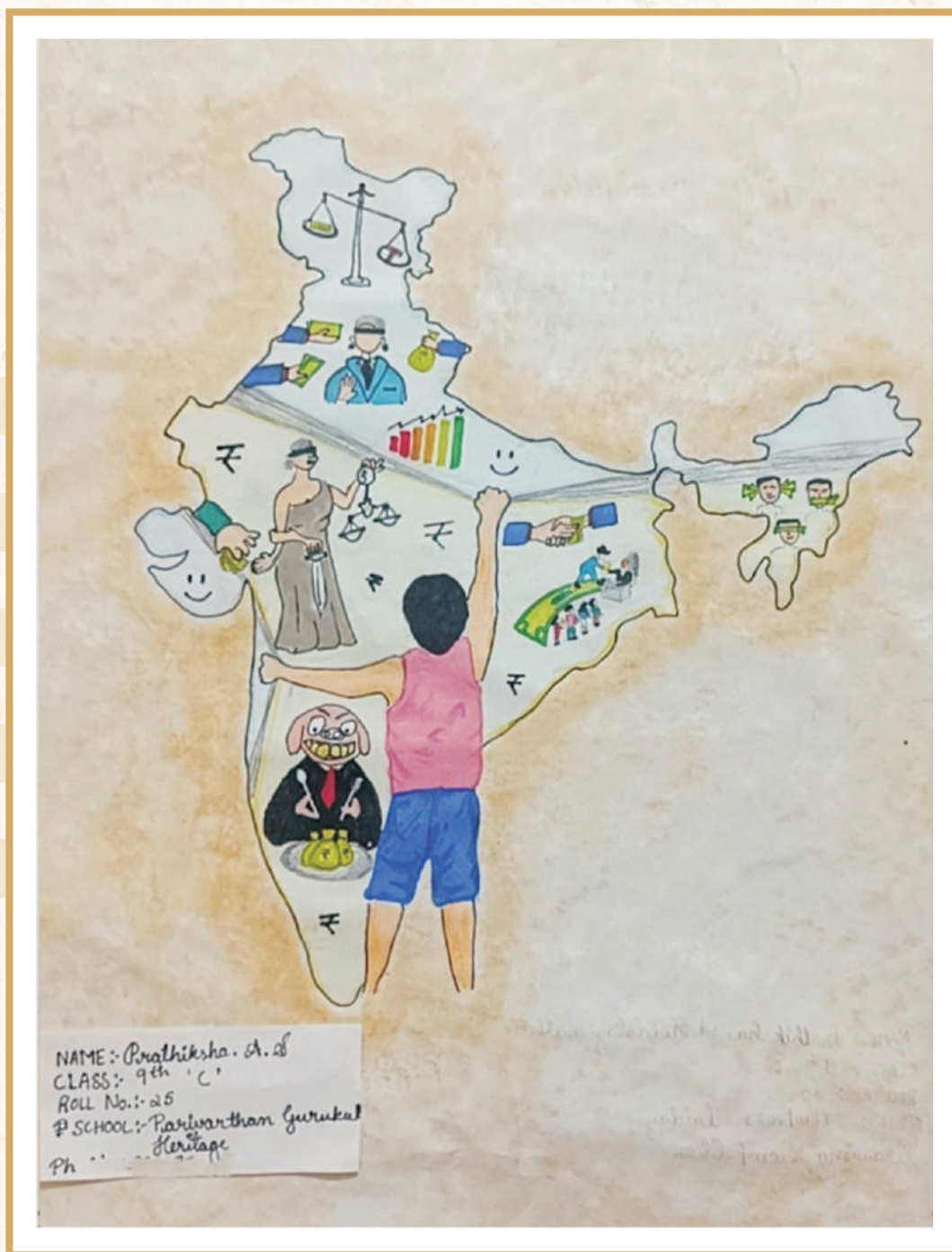
Thus, a corruption-free country is the dream country. Corruption is a scourge that undermines the progress and prosperity of nations. To build a better future, we must say no to corruption and commit to the values that promote transparency, accountability, and integrity.

Let us all cherish this beautiful nation that has been gifted to us. Let us not let the hard-work of our freedom-fighters go to waste. They never fought for a country that would be filled with corruption and other evil acts as such. They fought for a country wherein we could all live as one happy family with no problems and sufferings, just freedom and equality of opportunities for all.

So, in conclusion I would like to say that corruption and other evil acts as such just represent the unfair side of our wonderful country. Yes, the corruption in India is rampant, but it is also true that by and large the common men and women of India are honest and have an evident dislike for corruption and however deep rooted the corruption might be, it could be successfully eliminated with political will and public awareness. Each individual has a role to play in this endeavour, and by collectively working towards a corruption-free nation, we can create a just and prosperous society for all.

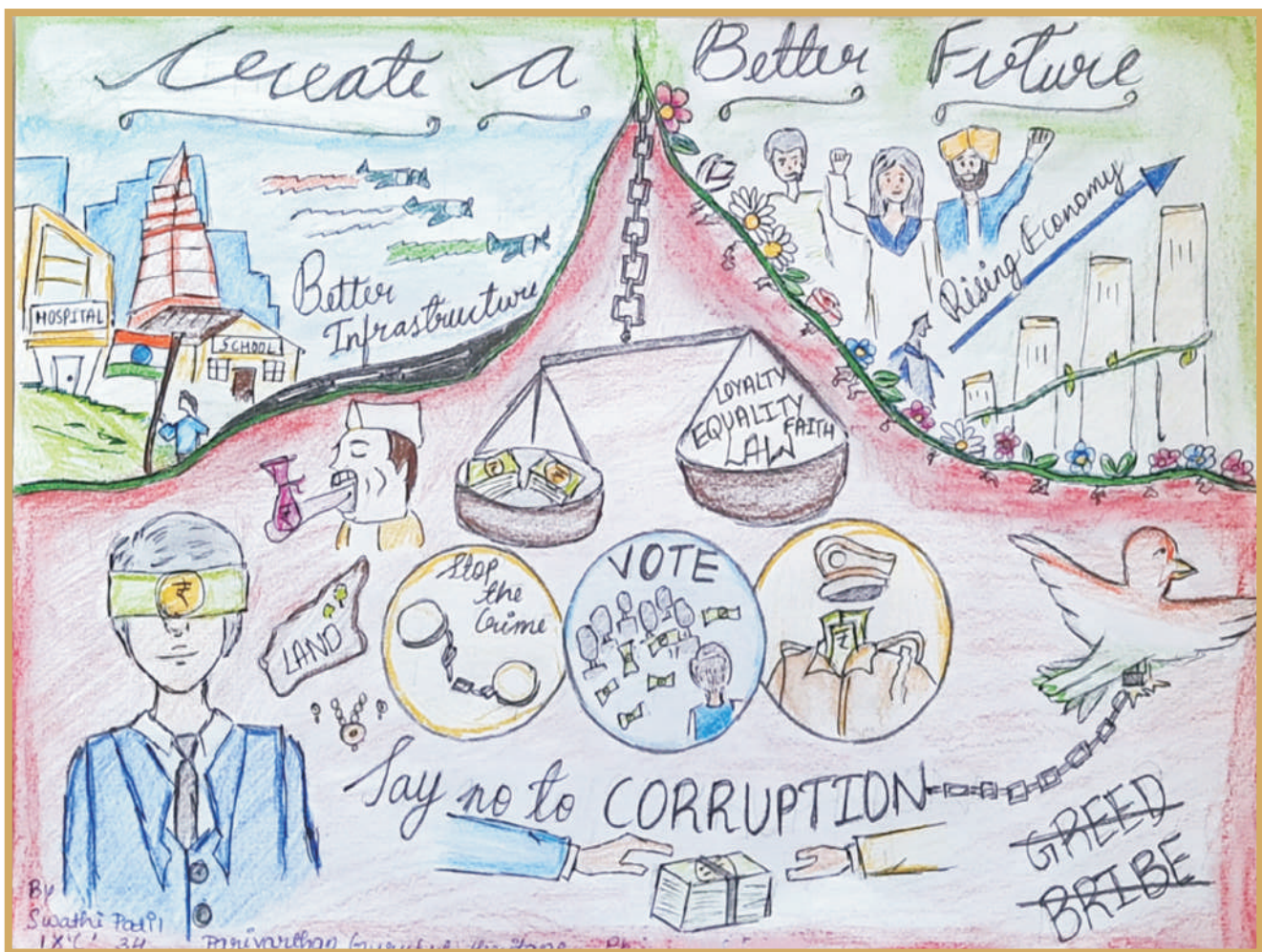
Winner of 1st Prize in Inter School Drawing Competition:

Ms. **Pratiksha A. S.,**
IX C, Parivarthan Gurukul Heritage School, Hubli



Winner of 2nd Prize in Inter School Drawing Competition

Ms. Swathi Patil, IX C, Parivarthan Gurukul Heritage School, Hubli



VAW 2023 ACTIVITIES PHOTOS



INTER-SCHOOL ELOCUTION COMPETITION 2023



WALKATHON AT HUBLI NUKKAD NATAK AT SBC STATION



NUKKAD NATAK AT SBC STATION



NUKKAD NATAK AT UBL STATION



SENSITIZATION SESSION AT SBC & UBL



SENSITIZATION SESSION AT REMOTE STATIONS & OTHER OFFICES



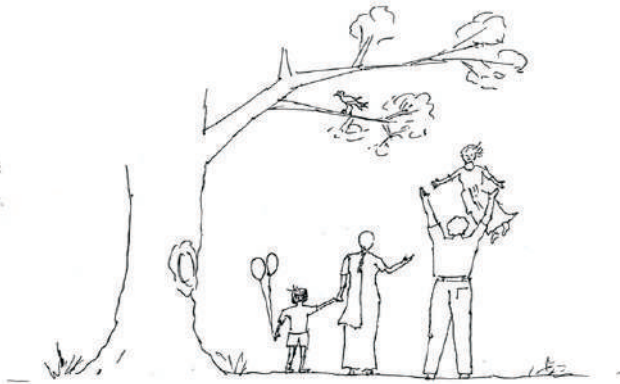
INTER SCHOOL QUIZ COMPETITION FOR GOVT. KANNADA SCHOOLS



PLEDGE CEREMONY AND RELEASE OF VAW POSTERS 2023



HONESTY BRINGS HAPPINESS AND HARMONY



INTEGRITY - A WAY OF LIFE

REPORT ANY INCIDENT OF CORRUPTION



HONESTY BRINGS FAME



CORRUPTION BRINGS SHAME



TO BELIEVE IN SOMETHING,
AND NOT TO LIVE IT IS
DISHONEST

MK GANDHI



वैश्वेव कुटुम्बकम्
ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE