



ನೈಋತ್ಯ ರೈಲ್ವೆ / दक्षिण पश्चिम रेलवे

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

SANKALP

A SPECIAL VIGILANCE BULLETIN

VIGILANCE : SOUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY



**VIGILANCE
AWARENESS
WEEK-2025**

27th OCT - 2nd NOV - 2025



नागरिकों के लिए सत्यनिष्ठा प्रतिज्ञा

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।

INTEGRITY PLEDGE FOR CITIZENS

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.



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सतीश कुमार
SATISH KUMAR



सत्यमेव जयते

अध्यक्ष एवं मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी,
रेलवे बोर्ड
पदेन प्रमुख सचिव, भारत सरकार
रेल मंत्रालय,

CHAIRMAN & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
RAILWAY BOARD
EX OFFICIO PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

MESSAGE

As we observe Vigilance Awareness Week, let us reflect on this year's theme "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility" – a principle that must guide us every day as proud members of Indian Railways.

Indian Railways has been the lifeline of the nation for decades – connecting people, moving goods. Each of us should take pride in being part of this great organization that has contributed immensely to the country's development.

With pride comes a massive responsibility. Vigilance is an integral part of administration to assist in clean and efficient delivery of services. Vigilance is not the job of a few – it is a collective responsibility. It means being alert, honest and committed to transparency in everything we do.

By upholding integrity, following procedures and reporting wrongdoings, we strengthen not only our systems but also win the trust of the people we serve.

Let us carry forward the legacy of Indian Railways with dedication and ethical conduct. Together, we can build a better, more accountable and stronger organization for Vikasit Bharat.

I extend my best wishes for the grand success of this year's Vigilance Awareness Week.

(Satish Kumar)



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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Hubballi - 580020

MESSAGE

I am pleased to learn that the Vigilance Department is bringing out **SANKALP** to mark **Vigilance Awareness Week 2025**, being observed from 27th October to 2nd November 2025 with the theme **“Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility.”**

This theme underscores a vital principle: vigilance is not confined to the Vigilance Department alone; it is a **collective duty**. Every employee, regardless of role or designation, plays a crucial part in fostering integrity, preventing corruption, and ensuring transparency in our organization.

“Our Shared Responsibility” reminds us that **each one of us must remain alert**, report irregularities, and uphold ethical standards in every action. By working together with honesty and accountability, we can create an environment where corruption finds no place and public confidence in our services grows stronger.

Let us all reaffirm our commitment to:

1. **Integrity and Ethical Governance** – Conducting every task with fairness and transparency.
2. **Collective Alertness** – Staying watchful and reporting any malpractice or deviation.
3. **Trust and Confidence** – Nurturing faith among employees, stakeholders, and the public.

I call upon every member of our Railway family to actively participate in this Vigilance Awareness Week and embrace vigilance as our shared and continuous responsibility. Together, we can ensure that our organization remains a model of honesty, efficiency, and public service.

Mukul Saran Mathur
General Manager



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डी के सिंह
प्रधान कार्यकारी निदेशक (सतर्कता)

D.K. Singh
PED (Vigilance)



MESSAGE

Vigilance Awareness Week is observed annually to highlight the importance of integrity, ethics and moral conduct in public life, reaffirming our collective commitment to these values. This year's theme " : " "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility" as chosen by the Central Vigilance Commission, emphasizes the collective role of citizens and institutions in building a transparent and accountable

In line with the CVC's directions, Indian Railways has launched a three- month long campaign from 18th August to 17th November, 2025 with centered focus on preventive vigilance and systemic improvements. Our efforts aim not only at curbing corruption but also simplify procedures, ensuring fair and just decisions at every level which is critical in promoting integrity and trust in governance.

Let us reaffirm our resolve to make vigilance a shared value. This can be achieved by reporting misconduct, adhering to ethical practices and encouraging transparency in all our actions. Together, we can foster an environment where integrity is the norm, not an exception.

I extend my sincere greetings to all who are contributing to this cause and wish everyone a meaningful and successful Vigilance Awareness Week.

(D. K. Singh)



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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Hubballi - 580020

MESSAGE

I extend my greetings to all employees and officers of SWR on the occasion of **Vigilance Awareness Week 2025**, which is being observed with the inspiring theme “**Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility.**”

This theme reminds us that vigilance is a **collective effort** that we must inculcate amongst every single person in our organization. The responsibility to prevent corruption and safeguard integrity belongs equally to each one of us—whether on the ground level of service delivery or in the corridors of administration.

True vigilance is more than identifying wrongdoing; it is about **proactive awareness and alertness at all times, thereby inculcating a culture of integrity on a daily basis.** When every employee stays alert, questions irregularities, and follows transparent processes, we create a system where unethical practices cannot take root. Each honest decision, no matter how small, contributes to an environment of trust and faith and strengthens the moral fabric of our institution.

To make vigilance a shared responsibility, we must:

1. **Stay Informed and Alert** – Understand rules and procedures in our daily tasks to recognize and report deviations.
2. **Encourage Openness** – Foster a workplace where concerns can be voiced without fear.
3. **Lead by Example** – Demonstrate fairness and accountability in every action at an individual level.

I commend the Vigilance Department for their sustained efforts in reminding us in promoting ethical practices and encouraging us to uphold these principles in our daily work. Let this Vigilance Awareness Week serve as a reaffirmation of our collective commitment to integrity & honesty, ensuring that our organization continues to earn the trust of the citizens we serve.

(P. Ananth)
Addl. General Manager/SWR



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FOREWORD

The Vigilance Organization of South Western Railway is pleased to bring out the Vigilance Bulletin *SANKALP* on the occasion of **Vigilance Awareness Week 2025**, being observed from **27th October to 2nd November 2025**. This year's theme is **"Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility"** where shared responsibility means that every person connected with the Railway - be it staff, contractors, vendors, or passengers - has an equal role in safeguarding integrity. Each act of alertness, from adhering to ethical procedures to reporting irregularities, strengthens the organization's moral fabric.

Vigilance is not merely about detection; it is about **prevention and proactive engagement**. When each individual commits to transparency, honesty, and accountability in their sphere of work, we create a strong defence against corruption and inefficiency. Indian Railways, as one of the nation's largest public service providers, depends on this collective integrity to maintain the trust and confidence of the millions we serve every day.

A corruption-free system cannot be achieved by stringent legislation or monitoring alone. It requires **continuous awareness and personal commitment** by all stakeholders. By embracing vigilance as our shared duty, we foster an environment where ethical practices thrive and public confidence grows.

I warmly invite all stakeholders - employees, contractors, vendors, and passengers - to actively participate in the activities and outreach programmes organized during this Vigilance Awareness Week. Your engagement, suggestions, and watchful eyes are invaluable in strengthening our systems and ensuring that integrity remains the cornerstone of our operations.

Together, let us reaffirm that vigilance is indeed our shared responsibility, and through our combined efforts we can build a transparent, efficient, and corruption-free Railways for the nation.

times.

(A Annadurai)

Senior Dy. General Manager/SWR



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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



In the spirit of Vigilance Awareness Week, we proudly present the latest edition of 'Sankalp 2025'. This year's theme, "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility," emphasizes the collective duty of every citizen and employee to uphold integrity and transparency. It reminds us that vigilance is not the task of a few but a shared commitment to ethical conduct that strengthens our institutions and nation.

This edition of 'Sankalp' brings together a thoughtful compilation of case studies and insightful articles that highlight collaborative approaches to promoting vigilance. The content aims to inspire shared ownership in combating corruption and building systems rooted in accountability and fairness.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all contributors of this bulletin and to every member of South Western Railway who continues to demonstrate integrity and commitment in their daily work. Let this publication serve as a reaffirmation of our collective Sankalp - our pledge to be alert, responsible, and united in the fight against corruption.

Together, let us nurture a culture where vigilance becomes a shared value and integrity a way of life.

Happy reading!

Warm regards,
Amit Pratap Singh
Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer (A&P)/SWR



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1.0 A GANDHIAN TAKE ON ETHICS

by Sri G. Venkatesh,
Deputy Chief Vigilance Officer/Mech./SWR

Most of us belong to a generation born much after Gandhiji and long after the pain of the independence movement. We know him through history books and speeches at school and these build a rather dull and boring image of an old man who preaches too much. His idea of truth and non-violence was *"truth and non-violence are as old as the hills. All I have done is to try experiments in both on as vast a scale as I could"* did not make much sense to me. In any case, I grew up in country in which everything from a driving license to a telephone connection needed a bribe- the India of the late 80's and 90's. There were teachers at school who taught tuitions and deliberately "failed" large numbers in tests to encourage more students to join their classes.

So, it was only much later as I grew up and started to ponder over issues deeply on my own that I could understand to some extent what Gandhiji meant, what ethics is and why we should even be bothered by it. Two books played a big role in this.

The first is a dull and heavy read- "Small is Beautiful" - book on economics by E F Schumaker. Written in 1973, it is considered to be one of the first books on environment. We live in an era in which mankind is seriously contemplating a colony on Mars. We live in a tiny planet and have been around for just 2,00,000 years and yet talk of the history of our universe which is 13.7 billion years old. But, in spite of all this technical advancement, there are millions who go without food, river and canals are polluted and air in major cities like Delhi is too polluted to breathe. Although income disparity is growing and millions line up without basic necessities of life, bio-diversity is at a threat and species evolved over 3.5 billion years are facing a mass extinction. At the root of all our troubles are not issues of a lack of technology or capability but questions of *"sharing"*, *"responsibility"*, *"devotion"* and in general what we call ethical conduct.

Gandhiji, the visionary had envisioned this long before these concerns became prominent and said *"the world has enough for our needs, but not for our greed."* EF Schumaker in *"Small is Beautiful"* writes about Gandhian economics and self-sufficient small scale economic units. He talks about treating natural resources as a capital which can get exhausted and put a limit to natural growth.

Gandhian thinking, even in India, has been given a short shrift to the megalomania of large corporations and consumerism. But, again as concepts like solar powered micro-grids for remote areas, organic farming and urban agriculture start to appear in our everyday dialogue, it is like what we have known for ages but forgotten, coming back to remind us of its relevance.



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The problem is that in general, it has never been easy to be ethical. Mankind has grappled with these issues from long-from the Code of Hammurabi to the Vedas. The Indian epics-Ramayana and the Mahabharata also dwell deeply on the issue of ethics. Ramayana depicts the ideal human being-Lord Rama. Except for the perhaps the killing of Bali, there isn't much to pick about. He's the ideal son, ideal ruler and the protector of the masses. It looks like he is bad as a family man, abandoning Sita and his son to live in a hermitage but even there, things come to a full circle through the story of the Ashwamedha Yagya. But, the Mahabharat is different. Yudhistira is truthful but tainted by the vice of gambling. Arjuna is dutiful but hampered by the love of his near and dear. Dhritarashtra isn't just literally blinded, perhaps his blindness is a metaphor for his blind love and turning a blind eye to whatever wrong happens around him. In the aftermath of the Satyam Scandal, Shri Gurcharan Das wrote a book "The Difficulty of being Good" which talks about the predicament of Yudhistira and draws parallels from it to the current world. We all are aware as to what ethical behaviour is. We learn from our school days that ethics and morals are the foundations of our society. We expect a rule of law and feel cheated when something contrary happens.

However, there are many instances in which we deviate from the ideal. A student may try to peek into his neighbour's answer sheet. An official may accept a dinner from a firm to which he is awarding a contract. In Ahmedabad, the entire city drives on the lane meant for the "Bus Rapid Transit System" Bengaluru sees road rage and wrong side driving on a daily basis. A housewife tries to jump the line in a supermarket. A kid lies to her mother for an extra piece of chocolate.

The above "petty" examples of unethical behaviour have been deliberately chosen from daily life and are not fancy textbook/newspaper examples. It's easy to complain about unethical behaviour on the part of the rest of the society but when we look inward, haven't we all even the most scrupulous of us indulged in an act as innocuous as described above.

In India, particularly we have a *Chalta Hai* attitude towards a lot of actions just mentioned. Its these little things that ultimately pile up and turn into a monster. Ethics is not just about fancy lofty terms. It's also about empathy. A simple barometer would be to just think how our actions affect others. If we do that, taking a bribe, jumping the red light, cheating just for a couple of marks would all become unthinkable and we all would start living in a society that's more humane, just and equal. And when there's enough food in the world, it's kind of obvious that no child should sleep hungry.



2.0 STRENGTHENING VIGILANCE IN INDIAN RAILWAYS: A VISION FOR TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY

by Sri Nitish Kumar Ranjan,
Dy. Commissioner of Railway Safety/
Southern Circle

"Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. The task of vigilance is to ensure that, in Indian Railways, everyone is always watched—by conscience, by system, and by society."

1. Introduction – The Strategic Importance of Vigilance in Railways

Indian Railways is not only the **lifeline of the nation**, but also one of the world's largest organizations—spanning 12 lakh employees, thousands of contracts, lakhs of crores in annual expenditure, and billions of passengers journeys every year.

With such scale comes immense vulnerability. Corruption, if unchecked, leads to loss of public trust, financial leakages, operational inefficiencies, and reputational harm. Vigilance, therefore, is not merely an administrative function; it is the moral spine of Railways.

This Vision Paper outlines a multi-pronged strategy for strengthening vigilance, bringing down corruption, and embedding transparency into the DNA of Indian Railways.

2. Current Challenges in Vigilance

- *Human-Centric Bottlenecks:* Reliance on manual inspections and audits limits speed and scope.
- *Siloed Data:* Procurement, operations, HR, and finance often operate on disconnected platforms.
- *Fear-Based Culture:* Employees sometimes view vigilance as punitive rather than preventive.
- *Low Transparency in Complex Processes:* From tendering to postings, opacity breeds suspicion.
- *Technological Lag:* While core operations have adopted digital tools, vigilance processes remain partly traditional.



3. The Cognitive Revolution in Vigilance

For decades, vigilance has been a human-intensive pursuit: painstaking audits, field inspections, whistleblower reports, and manual scrutiny of documents. These methods have served us well, but they are often reactive, limited in scale, and vulnerable to subjectivity.

Indian Railways faces vigilance challenges of unprecedented complexity. Tens of thousands of contracts, millions of daily passenger interactions, sprawling procurement systems, and assets worth lakhs of crores create a scale that human vigilance alone cannot cover.

We are now at an inflection point. As Indian Railways launches bullet trains, technology-driven signalling, smart stations, and 24x7 digital services, its vigilance mechanism must also evolve. Artificial Intelligence offers that leap.

AI is not simply another digital tool. It is a cognitive partner capable of learning, adapting, and predicting. With AI, vigilance can shift from investigating losses after they occur to preventing them before they arise.

4. The New Watchdogs: AI and Data Analytics

Imagine a system where:

- (i) Every tender submission is automatically screened by algorithms that flag patterns of cartel formation.
- (ii) Payment systems highlight unusual billing cycles or abnormally high-cost variations.
- (iii) Procurement data is continuously compared with historical averages and market prices.
- (iv) Employee postings, transfers, and leave records are scanned for signs of favoritism or irregularities.
- (v) IoT sensors combined with AI detect unusual stock movements or pilferage in stores and depots.

AI thrives in spotting anomalies, patterns that deviate from the norm. A vigilance officer may manually examine a dozen files in a week, but an algorithm can scan thousands in minutes. These digital “watchdogs” do not get fatigued, influenced, or fearful of pressure.



5. Data – The New Rail Network of Vigilance

Just as trains run on tracks, AI-driven vigilance can run on data networks. Every ticket booked, every locomotive sensor reading, every procurement bill, and every parcel scanned is a data point. Together, Indian Railways generates a universe of real-time information—a data behemoth unrivalled in scale.

Until now, much of this data lay in silos, unused, fragmented, or under-analysed. But when integrated into AI-driven platforms, it becomes the railway of vigilance: a living system where information travels like trains, interlinked across stations of integrity.

This data-driven vigilance grid allows AI algorithms to spot patterns invisible to the human eye, from subtle procurement collusion to unexplained spikes in diesel consumption.

6. Pillar 1 – Predictive Analytics: The Algorithmic Crystal Ball

AI's most powerful promise lies in prediction.

How does it work?

Machine Learning (ML) models are trained on historical vigilance data, including contracts, costs, performance records, and past malpractices, to create a baseline of “normal” operations. Live data is then continuously compared against this baseline. Deviations automatically generate a **risk score** and early alerts.

AI in Action

- *Vendor Integrity Scorecards:* Algorithms assess vendor's past performance, financial stability, litigation history, and director linkages to generate dynamic risk ratings.
- *Project Overrun Alerts:* AI models integrate weather data, fund flow patterns, and contractor track records to predict which projects may face delays or inflated costs, well before they occur.
- *Material Consumption Watch:* Expected norms for diesel, ballast, or spares are compared with actual usage. Anomalies, such as a sudden spike in parts replaced, trigger alerts for possible pilferage.

AI transforms vigilance from detective work to preventive assurance.



7. Pillar 2 – Computer Vision: The All-Seeing Guardian

(AI gives us a thousand eyes—none ever blink, none ever tire.)

AI in Action

- *Intelligent Video Surveillance (IVS):* Cameras powered by AI detect trespassing in restricted areas, unattended baggage, or overcrowding, and alert the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in real-time.
- *Revenue Protection:* Computer vision tracks passenger movement at gates to identify unusual flows indicating mass ticketless travel.
- *Goods Integrity:* Parcel docks and yards monitored by AI detect suspicious diversions during loading/unloading.
- *Geospatial Integrity:* Satellite and drone feeds, processed through AI, identify encroachments on railway land the moment they begin, an incorruptible guard over public property.

Computer vision extends vigilance into the physical world, ensuring that eyes of integrity are everywhere.

8. Pillar 3 – Natural Language Processing (NLP): The Unbiased Reader

Railways generate mountains of text, tender conditions, circulars, complaint letters, and investigation reports. Hidden within these words are signals of malpractice.

AI in Action

- *Tender Scrutiny:* NLP models scan clauses to detect restrictive conditions or unusual amendments favoring specific vendors.
- *Complaint Analytics:* Whistleblower reports and passenger grievances are clustered to reveal systemic scams across zones.
- *Workplace Culture Monitoring:* NLP tools anonymize and analyze communications for signs of coercion, harassment, or undue influence, enabling early interventions.

Where humans might overlook, AI reads everything, remembers everything, and connects the dots.



9. Human–AI Partnership: Augmenting Integrity

AI will not replace vigilance officers. Instead, it will elevate them.

- *From Detective to Strategist:* Officers shift from sifting files to focusing on high-value investigations identified by AI.
- *Bias-Free Prioritization:* Algorithms guide officers on where the risk is greatest, removing subjectivity.
- *Shielding Frontline Staff:* Platforms like online ticketing and e-office reduce discretion at lower levels, empowering employees to act without fear.

The human conscience remains at the core. AI is the magnifying glass, not the judge.

10. Case Study – The AI TTE (Ticket Examiner)

The Challenge

Ticketless travel drains revenue. Manual checking is random and often ineffective.

The AI Solution

1. *Risk Heatmaps:* Predictive models identify which trains, routes, and dates are most vulnerable to ticketless travel.
2. *Optimized Deployment:* AI generates a daily plan for TTEs and RPF, directing them precisely where losses are likely to occur.
3. *Real-Time Validation:* Station cameras provide footfall data to refine predictions dynamically.

The Outcome

Revenue checks become surgical and proactive. TTEs recover more dues with less effort. The pervasive sense of being “watched by intelligence” deters offenders, protecting both income and integrity.

11. The Ethical Dilemma: Who Watches the Machines?

However, we must ask a fundamental question: Can machines truly enforce integrity, or do they only enforce rules?

Humans code AI systems. If the dataset itself is biased, the algorithm will also be biased. For example, if contract award data historically shows a



preference for certain firms, an AI trained on this data may consider such bias “normal” and fail to flag it.

Further, over-reliance on algorithms may create a false sense of security. A clever wrongdoer might manipulate the system in ways even the AI cannot detect. As the saying goes, “When the watchdog becomes predictable, the thief adapts.”

This raises the principle: Vigilance must remain human-led, machine-assisted, not machine-controlled.

12. Blending Human Conscience with Digital Vigilance

The way forward is not to replace vigilance officers with algorithms, but to empower them. A practical model could be:

- (i) AI as an Early Warning System: Machines flag unusual trends, but final judgment rests with officers.
- (ii) Human Training of AI: Vigilance staff must learn how algorithms “think,” so they can guide their development.
- (iii) Transparency of AI Decisions: Officers should be able to question why a system flagged or ignored a case.
- (iv) Ethics First, Tech Second: Ultimately, no code can replace courage, integrity, and human values.

13. Railway Metaphor

Think of it like a train journey. AI is the automatic signal system, which warns of dangers ahead, ensures blocks are maintained, and prevents head-on collisions. However, the locomotive pilot, the human operator, still bears the ultimate responsibility. Signals assist, but conscience and judgment drive the train safely to its destination.

14. The Road Ahead – Building the AI Sentinel

For this vision to succeed, four foundations must be laid:

- 1. *Unified Data Lakes*: Clean, accessible, cross-departmental datasets.
- 2. *Cybersecurity Fortification*: Protecting AI from hacking or manipulation.
- 3. *Ethical AI Frameworks*: Ensuring transparency, fairness, and accountability.
- 4. *Capacity Building*: Training vigilance and technical staff in AI literacy.



The ultimate milestone is a **Centralized AI Vigilance Command Center**, a live dashboard where officers can see the **Integrity Health Score** of zones, receive predictive alerts, and monitor anomalies in real-time.

15. Conclusion – The Algorithm of Trust

Vigilance has always been about trust. The trust of passengers that their ticket price is fair, the trust of employees that rules are impartial, and the trust of the nation that its resources are safeguarded.

Artificial Intelligence offers us the unprecedented ability to hardwire trust into the system itself. Unlike human vigilance, which reacts after a breach, AI vigilance prevents the violation from ever occurring.

As Indian Railways steps into a future of bullet trains and digital dashboards, it must also build the AI Sentinel—an incorruptible, tireless guardian.

The new vigilance officer is not merely a person; it is a platform. Together, human conscience and machine intelligence can ensure that Indian Railways remains not only the nation's lifeline, but also its symbol of integrity.

"The trains of integrity must run on the tracks of trust guided by human conscience and powered by intelligent vigilance."



3.0 NON-COMPLIANCE IN RUB CONSTRUCTION: A CASE OF LAPSES AND LESSONS

by Sri Satyajeet Harne,
Deputy Chief Vigilance Officer/Engg./SWR

Road Under Bridges (RUBs) are critical infrastructure projects, particularly in the railway sector, where they are regularly constructed to eliminate Level Crossings (LCs) which is the intersections between railway tracks and roads and pose a significant risk of collisions between vehicles and trains. RUBs offer a seamless and safe connection for road users, while also preventing the disruptions caused by Level Crossings, where vehicles are often required to stop. A typical RUB consists of several key components, including RCC boxes placed beneath the railway tracks, retaining walls to support the road approaches, drainage systems to prevent water accumulation, and the road and finishing work itself. The construction of RUBs involves substantial concrete work and requires careful planning and execution, as it directly impacts public safety and must accommodate future increases in road traffic.

A recent case has highlighted a series of irregularities in the record keeping and construction of an RUB designed to replace a Level Crossing within a railway project. In this article, we will examine the details of this case, revealing the discrepancies uncovered and discussing the important lessons that can be learned from this situation.

Important agreement provisions in the RUB work:

- As per Agt condition (tender document no 6.0- P. No-102) technical specifications & special conditions for the **supply of cement** for construction works vide para (III).(i)), the contractor has to submit the Manufacturer Test Certificate (MTC)".
- As per Agt condition (tender document no 6.0-P. No-102) i.e., technical specifications & special conditions for the **supply of cement** for construction works vide para (III). (iv), the contractor shall arrange to carry out the following tests for every 100 MT of cement and every change in the lot/ batch.
- As per Agt condition (tender document no 6.0-P. No-106) i.e., technical specifications & special conditions for the **supply of steel** for construction works vide para (II) specifications for steel. item (vi), the contractor shall produce the MTC for each lot of supply satisfying the requirement for relevant specifications.



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- As per Agt condition (tender document no 6.0-P. No-106) i.e., technical specifications & special conditions for the **supply of steel** for construction works vide para (II). (vii), the contractor shall arrange to carry out the above tests for every 50 MT of steel and every change in the lot/ batch.
- As per Agt condition (tender document no 6.0-P.No-35) ENGAGEMENT OF TECHNICAL STAFF BY THE CONTRACTOR vide para-25.2.2, "One Graduate Engineer and at least one diploma holder Engineer when the cost of work is more than Rs.5.00 crore."
- As per Agt condition (tender document no 6.0-P.No-119 outlined in Para VII).vii. "Test cubes shall be cast at regular intervals and tested to ascertain the strength of concrete. The contractor shall establish a cube testing facility along with **operator at the site or nearby.**"
- As per Agt condition (tender document no 6.0-P.No-28) **Production of Vouchers** etc. by the Contractor vide para-14.0:, "For a contract of more than one crore of rupees, the Contractor shall, whenever required, produce or cause to be produced invoice, vouchers, etc."

LAPSES OBSERVED IN THE RECORD KEEPING & DOCUMENTATION:

- **Invoices pertaining to cement** (for concrete produced from RMC), as well as those for RCC pipes and concrete canvas, were not maintained in the execution file by the supervising staff, which is a violation of the agreement conditions. They were then submitted after the vigilance check in which it was noticed that most of the cement invoices submitted, cement was received by a store-in-charge from L&T, and the invoice was marked to L&T and not to the RMC plan from where concrete was procured, this discrepancy raises questions about the authenticity of the submitted documents.
- **Manufacturer Test Certificates (MTCs)** pertaining to steel, cement, concrete canvas, and NP-4 RCC pipes were not collected and maintained by the Supervisors.
- The supervisors responsible for executing the project were unaware of the **additional tests** required for reinforcement steel, cement, sand, and aggregates, as stipulated in the agreement. This reflects a clear lapse in diligence and a serious oversight in fulfilling their responsibilities.



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- **The weigh batching slips for M-25** grade concrete, used in the construction of the retaining wall, were reviewed and found to be incomplete, records were available for only 675 cubic meters of concrete, compared to the executed quantity of 909.26 cubic meters, that too with no attestation from Railway or Agency site supervisor. Additionally, the weigh batching slips pertaining to RMC were checked and it was observed that slips did not show batch-wise details of the constituents which can ascertain the quantity of different components used for producing the concrete and was not in line with the established practice.
- **Only one site engineer** was deputed by the agency, and no attendance records for this engineer were maintained by the Railway supervisors. This is a clear violation of the agreement, which mandated the deployment of two site engineers—one with a B.E. degree and another with a diploma qualification.
- The **required sampling** and testing of concrete cubes, as specified in Clauses 15.2.2 and 15.3 of IS 456:2000, were not carried out in proportion to the quantity of concrete produced. The cube test certificates submitted for M-25 grade concrete indicate that the tests were conducted at a laboratory in Hospet, approximately 250 km from the worksite. This raises serious doubts about the authenticity of the testing process, particularly regarding the feasibility of site supervisors traveling such a long distance regularly to witness the tests, as required.

LAPSES OBSERVED DURING EXECUTION OF WORK ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- U-type retaining walls have been constructed on both sides of the road approach. According to the approved structural drawings, water-tight expansion joints were to be provided at regular intervals. However, these expansion joints were not incorporated in the U-type retaining walls, contrary to the approved design specifications.
- The use of admixture was approved by the Engineer-in-Charge as part of the design mix; however, it was not utilized during the production of concrete with the Ajax mixer for the retaining wall construction. Furthermore, no specific approval was obtained from the Engineer-in-Charge for omitting the admixture.
- NDT test with rebound hammer was conducted by vigilance jointly with field executives, in which concrete parameters at many locations were below permissible values; hence, a third-party lab was engaged to carry out UPV, RBH tests, in which again, parameters were below desired values.



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- Proper vertical inward slopes (batter), which is recommended 2 degrees to 4 degrees as per IRC: SP:102-2014 was not ensured during execution.
- Hence, destructive testing of concrete (i.e. core test as per IS-516 part 4) was conducted by the NABL lab duly extracting the concrete cores from RCC boxes and retaining walls, in which concrete in the RCC box was found to be meeting the acceptance criteria, but the retaining wall at both ends (Goa and Khanapur) failed the acceptance criteria of the core test.
- In view of the above failing of retaining wall cores, executives have been advised to carry out further structural assessment of the retaining wall as per Annex-B 2.5.2 (b) of IS-516 (Part-4):2018

Consequences due to above irregularities

Due to inadequate care during the construction of the RUB retaining walls, the concrete strength was found to be below the intended grade. As a result, retrofitting or strengthening measures may be necessary to ensure the structure can safely sustain the load. Such retrofitting would involve rework on a recently completed project and could cause public inconvenience, as temporary road closures may be required during the repair period.

Actions Taken and the Way Forward

In response to these irregularities, Departmental Action Required (DAR) action have been approved for concerned Railway officials involved in execution of this Road Under Bridge.

Furthermore, recovery has been made from the firm involved in the construction of the RUB for failing to provide the site engineer as stipulated in the agreement clause and for the omission of the approved admixture. Also, it is advised to carry out the retrofitting required if any at the contractor's cost.

Conclusion and Takeaway

To conclude, this case underscores the critical importance of exercising due diligence during the execution of structural components, thoroughly reviewing approved drawings and their provisions, adhering to key agreement clauses, and maintaining proper documentation throughout the project. It also highlights the necessity for executives to conduct third-party testing on completed structures to objectively verify quality and compliance.

Ultimately, vigilance, accountability, and transparency must remain the guiding principles in all railway projects to ensure structural integrity, successful execution, and sustained public trust.



4.0 HEALTH IS WEALTH: THE ROLE OF INTEGRITY, HONESTY, AND ETHICS IN MENTAL WELL-BEING

by Sri Santosh Hegde,
Deputy Chief Vigilance Officer/Traffic/SWR

Health is one of the most vital components of human life. It is rightly said that “*Health is Wealth*”, for no amount of material prosperity can compensate for the absence of good health. Across civilizations and cultures, this truth has been universally acknowledged. A healthy person, both in body and mind, is capable of leading a meaningful, productive, and fulfilling life. While physical health is widely understood and discussed, mental health—though equally significant—often receives lesser attention. Yet, it forms the foundation of our happiness, relationships, and moral well-being.

Ayurveda, the ancient Indian system of medicine, provides one of the most comprehensive and holistic definitions of health. According to Ayurveda, health is not merely the absence of disease, but a state of equilibrium of body, mind, and spirit. This definition beautifully aligns with the one proposed by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, which defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” Thus, both Ayurveda and modern medical thought agree that health is a multidimensional concept encompassing both the physical and the mental domains.

Physical health refers to the well-being of the body. It includes factors like fitness, strength, nutrition, and absence of illness. It is what can be observed externally and tested through biological indicators such as blood pressure, body weight, or immunity. However, mental health, though invisible, is equally crucial. It governs how we think, feel, and act. It influences our decision-making, our capacity to cope with stress, our interpersonal relationships, and even our sense of identity and purpose.

Unlike physical health, mental health is complex and multifaceted. It is shaped by our emotions, thoughts, values, environment, and social connections. Let us explore the key components of mental health that contribute to an individual's overall sense of well-being.

1. Emotional Well-being

The foremost component of mental health is **emotional well-being**. This refers to our ability to manage emotions effectively and maintain a stable, positive state of mind. A person with emotional well-being is free from excessive stress, sadness, anger, or guilt. Such an individual experiences inner calm, resilience, and optimism even amidst challenges. Leading a **simple life**—one that avoids unnecessary complications, desires, and comparisons—greatly enhances emotional well-being. Simplicity leads to



clarity, peace, and a guilt-free conscience, which in turn reduce anxiety and foster happiness.

2. Positive Self-Image and Self-Esteem

Another vital aspect of mental health is **self-image** and **self-esteem**. These reflect how we perceive ourselves and how we believe others perceive us. A positive self-image builds confidence, self-respect, and a sense of worthiness. When we view ourselves as capable, ethical, and valuable members of society, we naturally cultivate mental strength and social harmony. On the contrary, negative self-perception can lead to insecurity, inferiority, and self-doubt, all of which undermine mental health. Therefore, nurturing self-esteem through honest self-assessment, kindness to oneself, and ethical living is essential for psychological stability.

3. Purpose and Meaning in Life

A healthy mind requires a **sense of purpose**. Every individual needs to know *why* they do what they do. Purpose gives direction to our actions and meaning to our existence. For instance, people work not merely to earn money but to take care of their families, contribute to society, and secure a better future for their loved ones. This feeling of meaningfulness creates satisfaction and reduces existential stress. A purposeless life, however, can breed confusion, apathy, and despair. Thus, finding purpose—through family, work, service, or creativity—is a cornerstone of mental wellness.

4. Values and Goals in Life

Values are guiding principles that shape our decisions and actions. They determine what we prioritize—be it honesty, education, health, or wealth. When our values and actions align, we experience inner harmony and self-respect. Conversely, when we compromise on values, we face guilt and mental unrest. Setting positive, realistic goals that reflect our values helps maintain focus and motivation. People with strong ethical values and meaningful goals tend to have better mental health because they live with integrity and self-consistency.

The Role of Integrity, Honesty, and Ethics in Mental Well-being

Mental health is deeply influenced by one's moral character and conduct. Qualities such as **integrity**, **honesty**, and **ethical behaviour** are not only virtues for social living but also powerful protectors of mental peace.



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Integrity

Integrity means alignment between what we say and what we do. It is the congruence between our thoughts, words, and actions. A person of integrity does not lead a double life or act with hypocrisy. When our inner beliefs match our outer behaviour, we live with authenticity and confidence. Integrity frees the mind from internal conflict, guilt, and fear of exposure. It builds self-respect and trust from others—both of which are essential for mental wellness.

Honesty

Honesty is the act of being truthful to oneself and to others. It is about acknowledging reality as it is, without deception or denial. An honest person does not waste mental energy maintaining falsehoods or pretence. Honesty nurtures openness, transparency, and self-acceptance—all of which promote emotional stability. Moreover, when we are honest with ourselves, we can recognize our flaws, learn from mistakes, and grow as individuals.

Ethics

Ethics refer to the moral principles that guide our behaviour in specific roles and situations. For example, a doctor follows medical ethics, a teacher follows academic ethics, and a public servant follows administrative ethics. Adhering to ethical standards builds social trust and respect. When we act ethically, our conscience remains clear, and our mind remains peaceful. In contrast, unethical behaviour may bring temporary gains but leads to long-term mental turmoil, guilt, and anxiety.

Together, integrity, honesty, and ethics form the moral foundation of good mental health. They reduce inner conflicts, prevent guilt, and foster self-worth—thereby ensuring psychological balance.

Practical Implications of Living an Ethical Life

The practical benefits of living with integrity and honesty are profound. When we live by moral values, we cultivate peace within ourselves and harmony with others. Such a lifestyle not only enriches our own life but also influences those around us—especially children.

Children learn more by observation than instruction. They imitate the behaviour of their parents and elders. When parents lead simple, ethical, and mentally balanced lives, their children naturally absorb these values. They grow up to become responsible, compassionate, and successful



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members of society. On the other hand, children who witness hypocrisy, dishonesty, or unethical behaviour often struggle with confusion and moral conflicts in adulthood.

Thus, by living a life of integrity, we contribute not only to our own mental health but also to the moral and psychological well-being of future generations. A home built on truth and simplicity becomes the foundation of a healthy, ethical society.

Conclusion

Health, in its truest sense, is not limited to physical fitness. It is a harmonious balance of body, mind, and values. Mental health, being the invisible pillar of this balance, depends greatly on our emotions, self-perception, purpose, and moral integrity. A life guided by honesty, ethics, and simplicity brings inner peace, clarity, and happiness. It allows us to live without guilt, fear, or shame. When we embody these virtues, we not only strengthen our own mental health but also become role models for others—especially our children—thus creating a ripple effect of positivity and well-being in society.

Indeed, when health is seen as both physical and moral, *“Health is Wealth”* acquires a deeper meaning. A healthy body sustains life, but a healthy mind makes it truly worth living.



5.0 VIGILANCE: THE UNSEEN ENGINE OF PROGRESS (How Integrity Powers the Development of Indian Railways)

by Dr. V. Satish,
Sr. Divisional Operations Manager/Hubballi

Introduction – Redefining the Vigilance Narrative

For too long, the term "vigilance" has been narrowly defined and often misunderstood. It has been perceived as a necessary evil—a department of "no," a source of delays, and an investigative body that exists in the shadows of an organization, focused solely on catching wrongdoing. This perception is not only outdated but also fundamentally counterproductive.

As Indian Railways embarks on its most ambitious modernization drive in history, a new narrative is essential. We must consciously shift our view of vigilance from a constraining force to a liberating one. This Vigilance Awareness Week, we champion a simple yet powerful idea: **Vigilance is not an obstacle to development; it is its most critical enabler.**

True, sustainable development is not just about laying new tracks or launching new trains. It is about building a system that is efficient, trustworthy, and resilient. It is about ensuring that every rupee allocated translates into tangible national assets. This article argues that a robust vigilance mechanism is the bedrock upon which the future of Indian Railways is being built, ensuring that progress is not just rapid but also righteous and enduring.

The Guardian of Resources – Fuelling the Development Engine

The lifeblood of any development project is funding. The CAG and other agencies have often flagged concerns about cost overruns, inflated contracts, and substandard work in infrastructure projects. This is where vigilance transitions from a watchdog to a gatekeeper of national treasure.

How Vigilance Enables Development:

- **Ensuring Value for Money:** A vigilant procurement process, through e-tendering and reverse auctions, ensures that contracts are awarded based on merit and fair price. This directly translates to more kilometres of track, more modern stations, and more trains for the same investment. Every rupee saved from corruption is a rupee invested in development.



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- **Preventing Time and Cost Overruns:** Corruption is a primary cause of delays. Sub-standard materials lead to repairs, and deliberate delays are engineered to extract revised contracts. A culture of integrity, enforced by vigilant monitoring, ensures projects adhere to timelines and budgets. The timely completion of the Dedicated Freight Corridor is a testament to this principle.
- **Protecting Critical Assets:** The theft of materials like track fixtures, cables, and diesel directly impedes operations and development. Vigilance mechanisms secure these assets, ensuring they are used for their intended purpose: powering the nation's growth.

The Bottom Line: Vigilance does not slow down spending; it accelerates value creation.

The Catalyst for Efficiency – Streamlining the Path to Progress

Development is hampered by bureaucratic inertia, red tape, and opaque processes that create opportunities for rent-seeking. Vigilance, through systemic interventions, acts as a powerful catalyst for efficiency.

How Vigilance Enables Development:

- **Promoting E-Governance:** The push for transparency has been the driving force behind platforms like IREPS (e-procurement), FOIS (freight management), and online booking systems. These systems are, at their core, anti-corruption tools. They remove discretion, reduce processing times, and eliminate interfaces where "speed money" is demanded. This makes Indian Railways a more efficient and attractive partner for businesses.
- **Simplifying Decision-Making:** In an environment free from the fear of frivolous investigations, officials are empowered to take faster, bolder decisions. Clear, transparent rules protect the honest decision-maker. This is crucial for agile project management and innovation.
- **Optimizing Revenue Streams:** Vigilance efforts to curb ticketless travel, parcel theft, and freight pilferage have a direct impact on the railway's bottom line. This enhanced revenue is reinvested into new projects, making the organization more self-reliant and less dependent on budgetary support for its development goals.

The Architect of Trust – Building Partnerships for Growth

No organization, least of all one as vast as Indian Railways, can develop in isolation. It requires the trust and partnership of private industry, investors, and most importantly, the citizens. Vigilance is the chief architect of this trust.

How Vigilance Enables Development:



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- **Attracting Quality Investment:** A transparent and fair system attracts reputable domestic and global players. Companies are more willing to invest in PPP projects and long-term contracts when they are confident they won't be undercut by corrupt competitors or harassed for bribes. This is essential for initiatives like station redevelopment and private train operations.
- **Enhancing Brand Value:** The reputation of Indian Railways as a fair and efficient organization boosts citizen confidence. This translates into higher passenger traffic, greater freight share, and public support for its expansion plans. Trust is an intangible asset that pays tangible dividends.
- **Ensuring Social License:** Development projects often require land acquisition and cause temporary disruption. A reputation for integrity ensures the public that these sacrifices are for the genuine national good, not for private gain, making them more acceptable to communities.

The Protector of the Honest Employee – Unleashing Human Potential

The greatest asset of Indian Railways is its workforce. However, a corrupt environment demoralizes honest employees and forces them into complicity. Vigilance empowers and protects this silent majority.

How Vigilance Enables Development:

- **Creating a Safe Environment:** Robust whistleblower policies and swift action against malpractices create a safe space for employees to report pressure and corruption without fear. This protects them from coercion and allows them to perform their duties with integrity.
- **Fostering a Meritocracy:** When postings, promotions, and work allocations are based on transparency and merit (a key vigilance area), it boosts morale and productivity. A motivated, respected workforce is more innovative and committed to the organization's development goals.
- **Instilling Pride:** Working for an organization known for its integrity is a matter of pride. This pride translates into better customer service, higher operational efficiency, and a collective will to contribute to the railway's glorious future.



The Integrated Framework: Weaving Vigilance into Development DNA

For vigilance to be a true enabler, it cannot be a standalone department. It must be integrated into the lifecycle of projects.

- **Project Conception:** Vigilance input on tender design to ensure fairness and to prevent loopholes.
- **Planning & Approval:** Systems to ensure clearances are not a bottleneck for bribes.
- **Execution:** Real-time auditing and technology-driven monitoring of works and supplies.
- **Completion:** Post-project audits to institutionalize lessons learned for future projects.

This requires close collaboration between vigilance, finance, executives, and operational wings, united by the common goal of development.

The Road Ahead – Challenges and the Way Forward

Challenges remain:

- **Siloed Mentality:** Breaking the perception of vigilance as an external unit.
- **Fear of Innovation:** Officials may avoid new initiatives for fear of scrutiny.
- **Need for Continuous Change:** As development strategies evolve, vigilance tools must keep pace.

The Way Forward:

1. **Communicate Success:** Showcasing how vigilance-enabled projects have performed better.
2. **Incentivize Integrity:** Recognizing departments and zones that excel through transparent practices.
3. **Tech-Enablement:** Using AI and data analytics, as previously discussed, to make vigilance more efficient and less intrusive.
4. **Capacity Building** – Training vigilance officers in digital forensics, contract analytics, and behavioural science.
5. **Cultural Shift** – Embedding the message that vigilance is everyone's responsibility, not just a department.



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Conclusion – The Indispensable Alliance

This Vigilance Awareness Week, let us dismantle the artificial wall between vigilance and development. They are not opposing forces; they are inseparable allies. One cannot exist without the other.

Sustainable development is built on a foundation of trust, efficiency, and optimal resource utilization. This is precisely what a modern, proactive vigilance function delivers. It is the unseen engine that ensures the development journey of Indian Railways is not sidetracked by malfeasance.

Let us celebrate vigilance not as a necessary cost of doing business, but as the ultimate strategic investment in our future. By embracing integrity, we are not just building railways; we are building a legacy.

Vigilance is the guarantee that our progress today will not be undone by corruption tomorrow. It is the enabler that ensures our development is real, resilient, and remarkable.



6.0 ENSURING QUALITY IN PROCUREMENT THROUGH BIS CERTIFICATION

*by Sri Dipankar Mukherjee,
Deputy Chief Vigilance Officer/Stores/SWR*

In today's fast-paced procurement environment, **quality and authenticity are non-negotiable**. Yet, many items under the **Compulsory BIS Registration Scheme (CRS)** or **ISI certification** are procured without proper verification. Such lapses can lead to substandard products entering the system, affecting both **operational efficiency** and **safety**.

Why These Lapses Happen

Technical Oversight:

Departments framing specifications sometimes fail to check if ISI marking or BIS certification is applicable.

Verification Gaps:

Tendering officials and consignees often do not verify the authenticity of ISI marks or CRS licenses during tender evaluation or acceptance.

The consequences of procuring products without valid ISI marks or BIS certification are far-reaching. Substandard or poor-quality products not only compromise operational efficiency but can also pose serious safety risks. To mitigate these issues, it is essential to follow a structured approach during the procurement process.

Good Practices for Procurement

1. Preparing Item Specifications

- Verify if the product has an **Indian Standard (IS)** via the BIS website or BIS Care Mobile App.
- Clearly mention CRS/ISI requirements, including specification number, revision, and year.
- Avoid mentioning makes/brands if an Indian Standard exists.
- Prefer Indian Standards over international ones when available.
- For **safety-critical items**, third-party inspection is recommended even for lower-value purchases.

2. During Tendering

- Ensure bidders submit **valid CRS certificates or ISI licenses** and verify them online.
- Dealers or agents must provide **tender-specific OEM authorization** and confirm its authenticity.
- Clearly state **make, model, and OEM details (Name, Full Address, Contact No., email-ID etc.)** in the purchase order/Contract.

3. Field Verification

- Check that the **ISI mark is visible and permanent**, with a valid CM/L number.
- Verify license status online via **BIS Care App** or Official BIS website <https://www.manakonline.in>
- Collect supporting documents:
 - BIS license certificate
 - Manufacturer test report
 - Invoice showing CM/L number



Quick Decision Tips

Red Flags

- ISI mark without CM/L number
- License not traceable online
- Expired or cancelled license
- Product-category mismatch

Green Signals

- ISI mark with valid CM/L number
- License status “Active” and matches BIS records

Tip: A quick scan of the CM/L number on BIS Care App can save procurement teams from major compliance risks.

The Bottom Line

By following a structured procurement approach, procurement officials can ensure that **only certified, high-quality products** are purchased. This not only protects operational efficiency and safety but also strengthens accountability and builds a culture of quality in procurement practices.



7.0 VIGILANCE IS NOT A DEPARTMENT – IT'S A MINDSET

- by Sri Manoj R. Kodachwad,
Chief Vigilance Inspector (G), SWR

When we talk about Vigilance, most people immediately think of the Vigilance Department, surprise checks, or investigations. But if we look deeper, vigilance is really about something much simpler doing the right thing. It's a shared value that keeps any organization, especially one as vast as our Indian Railways, honest and efficient.

Vigilance Starts with Us

Each of us plays a role in keeping the system clean. It's not only about catching someone doing wrong; it's about preventing wrong things from happening in the first place. From the person processing a bill to the officer approving a tender, from the staff maintaining a train to the clerk handling a file, every single action matters.

When we think, "It's just a small thing, nobody will notice," that's exactly when problems begin. Small lapses, when repeated, become habits. And habits shape the culture of an organization. So, vigilance really begins with self-discipline with asking ourselves: Am I being fair, honest, and responsible right now?

A Lesson from the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic was a strong reminder of what shared responsibility means. Some people followed safety rules strictly, while others ignored them. The result affected everyone and not just those who were careless. Hospitals overflowed, families suffered, and economies struggled.

That's exactly how it works in an organization too. When even a few people neglect rules or misuse authority, everyone ends up paying the price in loss of reputation, efficiency, and trust. Vigilance is our way of saying, "We're all in this together."

Integrity Is the Real Strength

Integrity isn't a big, complicated idea. It's simply being honest, no matter what. It's about knowing that the decision you make today reflects who you are and also what kind of example you're setting for others. In Railways, where we deal with public money, safety, and trust, this matters more than ever.



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No circular or instruction can create integrity overnight. People learn most by observing. When person in powerful post lead by example by being transparent, fair, and consistent, the message spreads faster than anything else.

Similarly, when a colleague refuses to take shortcuts, it inspires others to do the same. Leadership in doesn't depend on designation. Anyone can lead by doing the right thing quietly and consistently.

A Small Story

Imagine you're standing beside a river, taking a sip of clean water. Suddenly, someone nearby throws a bag of garbage into it. You feel upset because that single act pollutes something meant to stay pure.

Now imagine hundreds of people doing the same. The river would soon be too dirty for anyone to use. That's how corruption or carelessness spreads. But if even one person stops and says, "No, I won't do that," the chain breaks. Vigilance is about being that person, the one who cares enough to stop pollution at its source.

Why Silence Helps Wrongdoing

Many times, people see something wrong but stay quiet. Maybe they fear conflict, or think it's not their business. But silence can be just as damaging as wrongdoing itself. When we look away, we indirectly allow wrong things to continue.

Reporting irregularities or raising questions doesn't make you difficult, it makes you responsible. Systems like the Public Interest Disclosure (PIDPI) policy exist to protect those who speak up. The courage to question something unethical is one of the highest forms of vigilance.

Technology Helps, But People Matter More

Railways has embraced a lot of digital tools viz. e-tendering, online payments, and digital record keeping. These changes have reduced opportunities for manipulation and made work more transparent. But technology is only a tool. The real safeguard is still the human being using it.

If we use systems honestly and keep their spirit intact, technology becomes a great ally. But if we find ways to bypass it, no amount of automation can save integrity. So, while we modernize, we must also humanize by keeping ethics at the heart of every process.



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Preventive Vigilance: Fix the System Before It Fails

The best vigilance is preventive vigilance. Instead of waiting for problems to happen and then finding culprits, it's smarter to close the gaps that cause those problems.

That means simplifying rules, reducing discretion, documenting decisions clearly, and encouraging open discussions. When people understand procedures well and have no reason to hide, the chance of wrongdoing reduces drastically. Prevention is always better than punishment.

Creating a Culture of Openness

True vigilance thrives in an environment of trust. When employees feel free to ask questions, admit mistakes, and learn, they're less likely to make poor choices. Blame and fear drive problems underground. Openness and guidance bring them to light.

If a new staff member feels comfortable asking, "Is this the correct way to process this?" instead of guessing or copying others, we've already taken a big step toward shared vigilance. A culture of honesty begins with simple conversations.

Conclusion

Vigilance isn't about suspicion. It's about awareness, responsibility, and pride in doing what's right. When we all take ownership, integrity stops being an individual trait and becomes an organizational strength.

Each of us can choose to be that drop of clean water in the river - the one that keeps it pure. When everyone does their part, there's no space for corruption, negligence, or unfairness.

So, let's make vigilance a habit, not an event. Let's carry it beyond this week and into our daily work. Because when we stay alert, honest, and responsible together, Indian Railways becomes not just a network of tracks and trains but, a symbol of trust, service, and shared integrity.



8.0 PROMOTING ETHICAL GOVERNANCE THROUGH VIGILANCE AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

*by Sri Ravi Metre
Chief Vigilance Inspector (P), SWR*

In the Indian Railways, the Vigilance Department plays a crucial role in ensuring transparency, fairness, and accountability in administration. Its primary purpose is not punitive but preventive i.e. to strengthen systems, identify vulnerabilities, and foster integrity at all levels. By preventing corruption, misuse of rules, and abuse of power, and it contributes significantly to improving administrative efficiency and promoting system improvement.

The essence of vigilance lies in self-discipline and ethical conduct. As laid down in the Railway Services (Conduct) Rules, 1966, every railway servant shall at all times maintain absolute integrity, maintain devotion to duty, and do nothing which is unbecoming of a railway servant. These rules serve as guiding principles for all employees, reminding us that honesty, transparency, and professionalism are essential attributes of public service.

True vigilance begins from within. When each of us develops a sense of moral responsibility and awareness, we become active participants in creating a clean and transparent work culture. In this sense, vigilance is everyone's responsibility - not only of the Vigilance Department but of every individual who draws a salary from public funds and serves the citizens of this country.

In recent years, Indian Railways has placed special emphasis on Capacity Building Programs. Under Mission Karmayogi, the Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT Karmayogi) platform - launched in 2022 - serves as the digital backbone of the mission, providing a comprehensive learning ecosystem accessible to civil servants across India. The platform hosts a range of self-paced courses, webinars, and peer-learning opportunities covering diverse areas of governance, policy, management, and technical skills.

Capacity Building Programs help employees update their knowledge, enhance their professional competence, and understand the importance of ethical conduct in administration. A well-informed employee is better equipped to take transparent and just decisions. Capacity Building also improves confidence and fosters a culture of accountability and continuous learning.



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Similarly, Digital Initiatives have revolutionized the way we work. By leveraging technology, we can minimize human interference, streamline processes, and create an environment where transparency becomes the norm. Online systems, e-procurement, digital record-keeping, e-office and HRMS modules have significantly reduced opportunities for manipulation and delay. Technology empowers both management and employees by bringing clarity, traceability, and efficiency into administrative functions, all of which are hallmarks of a vigilant and efficient organization.

Vigilance, therefore, is an empowerment; it empowers us to act rightly, to question irregularities, and to safeguard the organization's reputation. It motivates us to be courageous in upholding truth and fairness, even in the face of challenges. It is through collective participation, mutual trust, and shared responsibility that we can achieve a corruption-free and transparent system.

Let us take inspiration from this year's theme of VAW, "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility." Together, let us pledge to uphold honesty, accountability, and transparency in every sphere of our work. By doing so, we contribute not only to the progress of Indian Railways but also to the greater cause of national development. Vigilance is not merely a duty; it is a reflection of our character, our commitment, and our contribution to a better tomorrow.



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9.0

ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಸಪ್ತಾಹ-2025

- ತಿಪ್ಪೇಶ ಟಿ. ವಿ.

ಮುಖ್ಯ ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಕರು, ನೈಋತ್ಯ ರೈಲ್ವೆ

ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣ ನಮ್ಮ ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕ ಹೊಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆ:

ಭ್ರಷ್ಟಾಚಾರವು ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಪ್ರಗತಿಗೆ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ದೊಡ್ಡ ತಡೆಗೋಡೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇದನ್ನು ಹೊಡೆದು ಹಾಕುವ ಕೆಲಸ ಕೇವಲ ಸರ್ಕಾರ, ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಅಥವಾ ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕೆಲಸವಲ್ಲ, ಇದು ದೇಶದ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯುತ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಹಾಗೂ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ನೌಕರರ ಆಧ್ಯ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ, ಇದರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆಸ್ತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲವನ್ನು ರಕ್ಷಿಸುವ ಹೊಣೆಯೂ ಕೂಡ ಆಗಿದೆ.

ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣೆಯ ಮೂಲ ತತ್ವವಾದ ಸತ್ಯನಿಷ್ಠೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನೈತಿಕ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷ ಭಾರತದ ಉಕ್ಕಿನ ಮನುಷ್ಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸರ್ದಾರ್ ವಲ್ಲಭಾಯ್ ಪಟೇಲ್ ಅವರ ಜನ್ಮದಿನದ ಅಂಗವಾಗಿ ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಸಪ್ತಾಹವನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣ ಆಯೋಗದ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಭಾರತೀಯ ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆಚರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರ ಮೂಲ ಉದ್ದೇಶವು ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ, ನೈತಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯುತ ಆಡಳಿತದ ಮಹತ್ವವನ್ನು ಸಾರುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಅರ್ಥೈಸುವುದು ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣದ ಮೂಲ ಉದ್ದೇಶ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆ:

ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣದ ಮೂಲ ಉದ್ದೇಶವು ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಸುಧಾರಿಸುವುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಸುಧಾರಿತ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲು ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟುವ ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣ ಹಾಗೂ ದಂಡನಾತ್ಮಕ ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣ ಎಂಬುವ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಿವರವಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸುವುದಾದರೆ ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟುವ ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣ ಕೋನದ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಪ್ಪು ಅಥವಾ ಭ್ರಷ್ಟಾಚಾರ ನಡೆಯುವ ಮುನ್ನ ಅದನ್ನು ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಸುಧಾರಿಸುವುದಾಗಿದೆ, ಹಾಗೂ ದಂಡನಾತ್ಮಕ ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣದಲ್ಲಿ ತಪ್ಪು ಅಥವಾ ಭ್ರಷ್ಟಾಚಾರ ದಂತಹ ಘಟನೆಗಳು ಸಂಭವಿಸಿದ ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ದೂರಿನ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ತನಿಖೆಯನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಿ ಶಿಸ್ತು ಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡುವ ಮೂಲಕ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಸುಧಾರಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ನೆನಪಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಡಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಷಯವೇನೆಂದರೆ "ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು ಕೇವಲ ಶಿಫಾರಸ್ಸು ನೀಡುವ ಅಂಗ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಶಿಸ್ತು ಕ್ರಮ ಜರುಗಿಸುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳು ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ", ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣದ ಮೂಲ ಉದ್ದೇಶ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಸುಧಾರಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಇದರ ಮುಖೇನ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ, ಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯವೈಕರಿಯನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇದು ನಮ್ಮ ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕ ಹೊಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆ:

"ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣ ನಮ್ಮ ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕ ಹೊಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆ" ಎನ್ನುವ ಘೋಷವಾಕ್ಯವು ದೇಶದ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯುತ ನಾಗರಿಕರಿಗೂ, ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ನೌಕರನಿಗೂ ಒಂದು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾದ ಸಂದೇಶವನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ, ಒಂದು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಆಡಳಿತದ ನಿಲುವು ಕೇವಲ ಸುಧಾರಿತ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮತ್ತು ಕಠಿಣ ಕ್ರಮಗಳಿಂದ ಮಾತ್ರ



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ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬರ ನಿಷ್ಠೆ ಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕತೆ ಸತ್ಯಪರತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಾಗೂ ನೈತಿಕತೆಯ ಮೌಲ್ಯಗಳಿಂದ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇದರಿಂದ ದೇಶದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ಪಥವು ಕತ್ತಲಿನಿಂದ ಬೆಳಕಿಗಿಳಿಗೆ ಸಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಈ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವುಗಳು ಪಾಲಿಸಲೇಬೇಕಾದ ಕೆಲವು ಕ್ರಮಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಗಳು

- ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲಗಳನ್ನು ಅತೀ ಗೌರವದಿಂದ ದುರ್ಬಿಕ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಸುವಂತೆ ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು.
- ಸಹೋದ್ಯೋಗಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕತೆಯ ದಿಕ್ಕಿನಡೆಗೆ ತೆರಳುವಂತೆ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸುವುದು.
- ಆಡಳಿತದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ರಮ ಮತ್ತು ಭ್ರಷ್ಟಾಚಾರಗಳ ಸುಳಿವು ದೊರೆತಾಗ ಅದರ ಖಚಿತತೆಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದವರಿಗೆ ದೂರು ನೀಡುವುದು.
- ಭಾರತೀಯ ರೈಲ್ವೆಯ ಸೇವೆ (ನಡತೆ) -1966 ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ಅರಿತು ಅದರ ಚೌಕಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವುದು .
- ದಿನನಿತ್ಯದ ಕೆಲಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕತೆ ನೈತಿಕತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು

ಒಗ್ಗಟ್ಟಿನ ಜಾಗೃತಿಯ ಬಲ:

ಈ ಭ್ರಷ್ಟಾಚಾರ ಎನ್ನುವ ಪಿಡುಗಿನ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಹೋರಾಡಲು ಯಾರೋ ಒಬ್ಬರಿಂದ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ ಹನಿ ಹನಿ ಸೇರಿದರೆ ಹಳ್ಳವೆಂಬುವಂತೆ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬರೂ ಈ ಮಹತ್ತರವಾದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಕೈಜೋಡಿಸಿದಾಗ ಮಾತ್ರ ಭ್ರಷ್ಟಾಚಾರವು ಬೇರು ಸಮೇತ ಬುಡಮೇಲಾಗುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ಸಂಶಯವೂ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರ ಸಾರಾಂಶ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ನೌಕರರನೂ ಒಬ್ಬ ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಕರಂತೆ ಜಾಗೃತರಾಗಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ ಇದುವೇ ಒಗ್ಗಟ್ಟಿನ ಬಲದ ಮೂಲ ಮಂತ್ರ.

ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಸಾಪ್ತಾಹವು ಕೇವಲ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳ ಆಚರಣೆಯಾಗದೆ, ದಿನನಿತ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕತೆಯ ಹಬ್ಬವಾಗಲಿ ನೈತಿಕತೆಯ ಉತ್ಸವವಾಗಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆಯ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆಯಾಗಲಿ. ಒಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಸೇರಿ " ನಿಷ್ಠೆಯು ನಮ್ಮ ಶಕ್ತಿಯಾಗಲಿ, ನೈತಿಕತೆಯು ನಮ್ಮ ಉಸಿರಾಗಲಿ, ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕತೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಜೀವನದ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕ್ಷಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನಮ್ಮ ಜೀವದ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕಣದಲ್ಲೂ ಬೆರೆತು ಹೋಗಲಿ

ಈ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆದಾಗ ಮಾತ್ರ ನಮ್ಮ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಹಾಗೂ ದೇಶ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಥದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಿಂಚಿನ ಓಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣ ಆಗಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕ ಹೊಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆ
ಇರಲಿ ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲರ ಸಹ ಪಾಲುದಾರಿಕೆ
ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇಕೇ ಬೇಕು ಸತ್ಯನಿಷ್ಠೆಯ ಎದೆಗಾರಿಕೆ
ಇದರಿಂದ ಮುಚ್ಚುವುದು ಭ್ರಷ್ಟರ ತಯಾರಿಸೋ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ
ಇದುವೇ ನೀವು ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದ ಪ್ರಗತಿಗೆ ನೀಡುವ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯ ಕಾಣಿಕೆ.



10.0

“सतर्कता: हमारी साझा ज़िम्मेदारी”

सुजीत कुमार
मुख्य कार्यालय अधीक्षक/ सतर्कता विभाग/ हुबली

खुद से सुरुआत करके,
सबको यह बताना है ।
हम सबको अच्छे कर्म द्वारा,
बेहतर समाज बनाना है ।

पाप-पुण्य की भेद बताकार,
बच्चों को यह समझाना है ।
गलत काम को नहीं अपनाकर,
अच्छाई का ही साथ निभाना है ।

भ्रष्टाचार को मिटाकर,
कल को बेहतर बनाना है ।
सचाई के राह पर चलकर,
देश को आगे बढ़ाना है ।

यह कुछ लोगो का कर्तव्य नहीं है,
हम सबकी साझा ज़िम्मेदारी है ।
ईमानदारी और सत्य द्वारा ही,
श्रेष्ठ देश हमारी है ।



11.0 TOWARDS CORRUPTION-FREE RAILWAYS: THE ROLE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

by Sri Vipin Kumar Yadav
Sr. Programmer (IRVINS) Railway Board

Indian Railways, the lifeline of the nation, is one of the largest public sector organizations in the world. With its vast infrastructure, huge workforce, and millions of daily passengers, maintaining transparency, efficiency, and accountability is a continuous challenge. In this context, the vision of corruption-free Indian Railways is of utmost importance. To achieve this goal, Information Technology (IT) has emerged as a powerful enabler, driving reforms and ensuring that governance becomes transparent, effective, and citizen-centric.

The Challenge of Corruption in Railways

Given the scale of operations, railways face multiple challenges in areas such as procurement, contracts, human resource management, and service delivery. Manual processes often left scope for delays, favouritism, and irregularities. Vigilance mechanisms, therefore, are essential not only to punish wrongdoing but also to prevent it through systemic improvements.

Role of IT in Promoting Transparency

Information Technology has revolutionized the way vigilance functions in Railways. By digitizing processes, IT reduces human intervention, creates audit trails, and ensures that decision-making is data-driven. Some key contributions include:

- **E-Procurement and E-Tendering:** Online systems for procurement have made tendering transparent, competitive, and accessible, minimizing the chances of manipulation.
- **HRMS (Human Resource Management System):** Employee records, promotions, and transfers are now digitized, reducing subjectivity and favouritism.
- **Digital Vigilance Portals:** Online complaint registration and tracking allow employees and citizens to directly approach vigilance authorities without fear or delay.
- **Data Analytics:** Advanced IT tools help in analysing large volumes of data to identify irregularities, patterns of malpractice, and potential risks, thereby supporting preventive vigilance.
- **IRVINS:** To keep track of its Vigilance functionality IRVINS has been developed which will track and maintain complains, raised against the Railway employee.



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Spreading Vigilance Awareness through IT

IT is not just a tool for monitoring but also for spreading awareness. Online training modules, webinars, and digital campaigns during Vigilance Awareness Week sensitize employees and citizens about integrity and ethics. Integrity pledges taken digitally reach millions and create a sense of collective responsibility.

Benefits of IT-Driven Vigilance

The adoption of IT has resulted in faster decision-making, transparency in transactions, and efficient grievance redressal. It has also strengthened participative vigilance, where both employees and citizens play an active role in ensuring fairness. Ultimately, this has led to enhanced public trust and improved service delivery.

Future Outlook

The future of vigilance in Railways lies in adopting emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Block chain. Predictive analytics can detect anomalies before they turn into cases of corruption, while block chain can ensure tamper-proof records, further strengthening accountability.



12.0 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: BOON OR BANE

by Sri Mithun Jose CS
Chief Vigilance Inspector/IT/SWR

Artificial Intelligence (AI) — the ability of machines to think, learn, and make decisions like humans — is one of the most powerful technologies shaping the 21st century. From self-driving cars to voice assistants, and from precision healthcare to smart governance, AI is changing how we live and work.

However, as AI becomes more embedded in everyday life, it brings both tremendous opportunities and serious challenges. The key question is whether AI will remain a boon that enhances human potential, or turn into a bane that threatens jobs, privacy, and ethics.

Boons of Artificial Intelligence:

1) Efficiency and Automation:

AI systems can perform repetitive and complex tasks faster and more accurately than humans. Industries use AI for quality control, logistics and process optimization, reducing time, cost, and human error.

2) Better Healthcare:

AI-powered tools help in early disease detection, image analysis, and patient monitoring. In India, AI is being used in telemedicine to reach rural areas with limited access to doctors.

3) Improved Agriculture:

In a country like India where farming supports over half the population, AI helps predict weather, detect pest attacks, and suggest best crop practices. (ex: Kisan e-Mitra Chatbot)

4) Enhanced Education:

AI-powered adaptive learning apps personalize content to match a student's pace and understanding. AI tutors and chatbots assist learners anytime, anywhere.

5) Smart Governance:

Government agencies use AI for traffic control, digital document verification, fraud detection, and citizen grievance redressal.

6) Economic Growth:

According to The NASSCOM-McKinsey report released on August 26, 2025, highlights AI's role in driving \$300 billion to \$500 billion in new opportunities for India's tech services industry by 2030.



Baneful Effects of Artificial Intelligence

1) *Job Displacement:*

Automation threatens traditional employment in sectors like manufacturing, customer service, and transport. Workers without technical skills are in a risk of being left behind.

2) *Ethical and Privacy Concerns:*

AI systems rely on large amounts of personal data, raising questions about data security, surveillance, and misuse. Without strong regulation, sensitive information could be exploited or leaked.

3) *Bias and Discrimination:*

If AI algorithms are trained on biased data, they can produce unfair outcomes.

4) *Dependency on Machines:*

Overreliance on AI may reduce human creativity and decision-making. It can make societies overly dependent on automated systems, which may fail or be manipulated.

5) *Misuse:*

AI Technologies like Deepfake can spread fake videos or propaganda or impersonate a person undermining trust in media and governance.

The future of AI depends on how wisely it is developed and deployed. India's "AI for All" strategy by NITI Aayog aims to ensure responsible and inclusive AI that benefits every citizen. Ethical frameworks, strong data protection laws and investment in AI education are essential.

Developing human-centred AI — systems that complement, not replace, human intelligence — can ensure technology serves society rather than dominating it.



13.0

VAW 2025 Activities

1. Inter-school Elocution Competition:



Inter-school Drawing Competition:





Inter-school Essay Competition:



2. Inter School Quiz Competition for Govt. Kannada Medium Schools:





3. Sensitization sessions at various stations / units





4. Sensitization Sessions at Divisions & Training institute:



"CORRUPTION IS THE STAIN TO THE FABRIC OF NATION"

ANTI CORRUPTION NATION IS



"CORRUPTION KILLS SELF-RESPECT"



"You can keep the awards but not the corrupted self"



"Corruption kills Future"



JUSTICE



SUCTION OF common blood

"YOUR CORRUPT DEEDS HAS A BAD DEATH"



"DON'T KILL JUSTICE"



ANTI-CORRUPTION TOOL BOX



"KILL CORRUPTION BEFORE IT KILLS YOU"

"HONESTY, JUSTICE SPARKS, CORRUPTION FADES"

"CHOOSE THE PATH RIGHT, STOP BRIBE" "HONESTY RULES, CORRUPTION FOLLOWS"