



अनिमिषा ANIMISHA

सतर्कता बुलेटिन

Vigilance Bulletin

2023

**SAY NO TO
CORRUPTION
COMMIT TO THE
NATION**

भ्रष्टाचार का विरोध करे
राष्ट्र के प्रति समर्पित रहें



दक्षिण मध्य रेलवे
South Central Railway

अंक/No.
56

दक्षिण मध्य रेलवे
South Central Railway

सतर्कता बुलेटिन
Vigilance Bulletin - 2023

Issue No.56



अरुण कुमार जैन आई आर एम एस
ARUN KUMAR JAIN IRMS



सत्यमेव जयते
भारत सरकार Govt. of India
रेल मंत्रालय Ministry of Railways



महाप्रबंधक
दक्षिण मध्य रेलवे
रेल निलयम, सिकंदराबाद - 500 025
General Manager
South Central Railway
Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad - 500 025



MESSAGE

The Central Vigilance Commission is steadfast in its commitment to upholding integrity in public life and striving for a society free from corruption. Every year, it marks the Vigilance Awareness Week as a testament to this mission. This year, the chosen theme is "भ्रष्टाचार का विरोध करे; राष्ट्र के प्रति समर्पित रहे," i.e. "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation." It underscores the fundamental truth that creating a new and better India, one with robust Human Development Index parameters and a population living in contentment, can only become a reality by rooting out corruption from our society. The theme is pertinent in our present circumstances, and it is our collective duty to pursue it with unwavering determination.

The Indian Railways, often referred to as the backbone of the nation's economy, plays a significant role in the eradication of corruption. South Central Railway, in particular, has been in the forefront and demonstrated remarkable efforts in its fight against corruption. The zone has implemented several measures to increase transparency and minimize human intervention through the adoption of advanced technologies and proliferation of IT-based applications.

I urge all the Railway personnel to embrace and adhere to this year's vigilance theme and implement it individually within your respective departments to yield the best results. Let us acknowledge the gravity of corruption and join hands in its elimination, contributing towards the creation of a corruption-free India.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Vigilance department for presenting the 56th edition of the Vigilance Bulletin 'Animisha'. I trust that the case studies and articles contained within will prove to be invaluable resources for readers, aiding them in avoiding common errors and nurturing a deeper understanding of vigilance matters. Together, let us continue to build awareness and foster a culture of integrity.


20/10/2023
ARUN KUMAR JAIN
(General Manager)



Shobhana Bandopadhyaya
Principal Executive
Director (Vigilance)
&
Chief Vigilance Officer



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

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 रहे” 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.

(Shobhana Bandopadhyaya)



अरविंद मालखेडे
वरिष्ठ उप महाप्रबंधक एवं
मुख्य सतर्कता अधिकारी
ARVIND MALKHEDE
Senior Deputy General Manager &
Chief Vigilance Officer



दक्षिण मध्य रेलवे
SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
महाप्रबंधक का कार्यालय
General Manager's Office
सिकंदराबाद (टी.एस.)
Secunderabad - 500 025. (T.S.)



FOREWORD

South Central Railway is observing Vigilance Awareness Week from 30th October to 5th November, 2023 on the theme is “**भ्रष्टाचार का विरोध करे; राष्ट्र के प्रति समर्पित रहे**” “**Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation**”. On this occasion Vigilance Department of South Central Railway is bringing out the 56th edition of the Vigilance bulletin “**Animisha**”. The Bulletin is being issued as e-Edition and would be available on South Central Railway website. The bulletin is a collection of articles/stories/poems contributed by railway employees, case studies, system improvements and overview of vigilance activities. Dissemination of anti-corruption message and stressing the necessity of committed workforce for prosperous India is one of the objectives of this bulletin.

Corruption has a wide impact on the fabric of the society and life of general public. It obstructs the growth of a nation and has the ability to destroy the economic status of a country. It the root cause for impeding the development of a nation.

South Central Railway Vigilance department is committed to eradicate corruption through preventive measures so that necessity of punitive measures is minimized. Several system improvements have been accepted by various departments and are being implemented. This has prompted usage of modern technology to minimize human intervention and work in a transparent manner. However, to overcome the evil of corruption, it is imperative that everyone inculcate highest morals and values individually and create an environment that it is followed by others also. This will help in making the society and nation as a whole corruption free.

Any suggestions and ideas, which can be beneficial to vigilance functioning and in bringing about improvement in Railway services are always welcome and will be given utmost importance.

(ARVIND MALKHEDE)

Contents

S.No	Description	Page No
1.	Leveraging Technology and Artificial Intelligence - Shri Arvind Malkhede Sr. Deputy General Manager,SCR	1
2.	Integrity Pacts: A New Paradigm in Preventing Corruption - Shri Ankur Srivastava Controller, National Remote Sensing Centre (Ex Dy.CVO/Stores/SCR)	4
3.	Citizen Blues – Institutionalization of Corruption - Shri G.V. Prasad Rao Dy. CE & Secretary to PCE,SCR	7
4.	Relevance of Integrity, Morality and Ethics in leadership in contemporary world - Smt. J. V. Anoosha, IRSE Sr. DEN/Co-ord/GNT	10
5.	A lesson for life - Smt. Rajani Jha Dy FA&CAO/LGD	13
6.	Corruption a Challenge to Nation Building - Smt. Anita Barik Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer/Traffic, SCR	16
7.	TRD Works Estimate Preparation: A Vigilance Focus - Shri B. Siva Prasad Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer/S&T, SCR	19
8.	Say No to Corruption :: Commit to the Nation - B. Ramakrishnan, Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer/Accounts, SCR	23
9.	a. Understanding and Misunderstanding b. Lesson from History : Alexander, The Great - Shri S R Shelke Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer/Stores, SCR	26

10.	Focus Areas on Establishment Matters - Shri B Srinivasa Rao Sr.Vigilance Officer/Personnel, SCR	28
11.	Say No To Corruption, Commit To The Nation - Shri Vrushank N Y Sr.AFA/M&P, SCR	30
12.	Stand against corruption and support the country - K.V.S.S.S.Rama Raju AWSO, SCR	33
13.	Mobile Security : Threats & Measures for Safe Web Browsing - Shri G Sreenivasa Babu SO/IT/Vigilance, SCR	35
14.	A Corrupt Free Nation; A Commitment by All Towards The Path of Development - Shri B.Phani Vinayak Rao CVI/Accounts, SCR	38
15.	Tricksters humbled - Sudhakar CVI/Stores, SCR	42
16.	Bribe is Blood Money - Smt. Z Rajini OS/Vig/SCR	43
17.	Freedom of Mind - Arnab Ghosal SSE/Drawing/PCE	44
18.	Vigilance Case Studies & System Improvements ➤ Accounts ➤ Engineering ➤ Electrical ➤ Mechanical ➤ Medical ➤ Personnel ➤ S&T ➤ Stores ➤ Traffic	47 49 60 66 69 71 75 77 81

टिप्पणी

इस बुलेटिन का प्रयोजन पूर्ण रूप से दिशा-निर्देश देना है और यह केवल सरकारी उपयोग के लिए है तथा इसे किसी भी सरकारी संदर्भ में प्राधिकारी के रूप में उद्धृत न किया जाए और न ही किसी अदालत में प्रस्तुत किया जाए. जब कभी आवश्यक हो इस विषय पर मूल आदेशों को देखा जाए

NOTE

This Bulletin is purely for the purpose of providing guidelines and is intended for official use only and should not be quoted as authority in any official reference or produced in a court.

A reference, whenever necessary, should always be made to the original orders on the subject.

**Articles on
Vigilance Management**

Leveraging Technology and Artificial Intelligence

▪ **Shri Arvind Malkhede**
Sr.Deputy General Manager

Corruption, a persistent menace that plagues organizations/nations across the globe, corrodes the very foundations of society. Combating corruption has always been a top priority for governments and the integration of technology and artificial intelligence has emerged as a powerful supporter in this battle. In this article, we will explore how harnessing the capabilities of technology and AI can empower individuals and organizations to combat corruption and commit to a brighter future.

Transparency and Accountability:

Transparency is the foundation of any anti-corruption effort. The advent of technology has made it possible to create transparent systems and processes that leave no room for corrupt practices to flourish. Digital records, online transactions, and blockchain technology have revolutionized the way financial transactions are conducted and recorded. These innovations allow for an unalterable ledger of transactions, reducing the opportunities for corrupt officials to tap off public funds.

Moreover, AI-powered analytics can scrutinize large datasets to detect irregularities and patterns that might indicate corruption. By automating the monitoring of financial activities, AI acts as a vigilant watchdog, ensuring that corruption does not go unnoticed. This increased transparency and accountability are critical steps toward eradicating corruption at all levels of society.

Streamlining Government Services:

One of the grounds for corruption is the bureaucratic labyrinth that individuals must cross to access government services. Lengthy and opaque processes often require individuals to pay bribes to expedite services. However, e-governance solutions, powered by technology and AI, can simplify these processes, making them efficient and corruption-resistant.

For example, India's Aadhar system, which utilizes biometric data and digital identity verification, has reduced corruption in welfare distribution by ensuring that benefits reach the intended recipients. Similarly, AI chatbots and virtual assistants can provide citizens with information and assistance, reducing the need for middlemen who may demand bribes to facilitate government services.

As a national Transporter, Indian Railways has transformed conventional working into IT based working through adoption of various applications like PRS, IREPS, IMMS, IRWCMS, FOIS, ICMS, NTES, IPAS, HMIS, GeM, CMS, HRMS, e-Office etc.

Whistleblower Protection:

Fear of retaliation/revenge often discourages individuals from reporting corruption. Technology can provide a safe and anonymous platform for whistleblowers to come forward. Secure websites and apps enable individuals to submit evidence of corruption without revealing their identities, safeguarding them from potential harm. One such step is enabling the citizens complaint through the resolution of PIDPI (Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informer). The combination of anonymity and AI-powered analysis empowers whistleblowers and strengthens the fight against corruption.

Several government agencies in India have leveraged AI and technology to tackle corruption effectively. Here are some examples of how AI is being used:

- * E-Governance and Digital Identification: UIDAI has implemented Aadhar, which has greatly reduced identity fraud and misallocation of Government benefits, helping to curb corruption in welfare distribution.
- * Data Analytics for Tax Compliance: The Income Tax Department employs AI and data analytics to identify discrepancies and tax evasion.
- * AI-Driven Fraud Detection: RBI and some commercial banks use AI-based systems for fraud detection.
- * Public Service Chatbots: Some government websites and mobile apps feature AI-powered chatbots that provide information and assistance to citizens for reducing the need for intermediaries.
- * Predictive Policing: Some police officials in India are using AI for predictive policing, which helps in identifying potential crime hotspots and allocating resources accordingly.

It's worth noting that while AI and technology have proven their importance in the fight against corruption, they are not a panacea. Effective implementation, data privacy, and cyber security concerns are all important considerations. Additionally, continuous vigilance and public participation are crucial for the success of these initiatives.

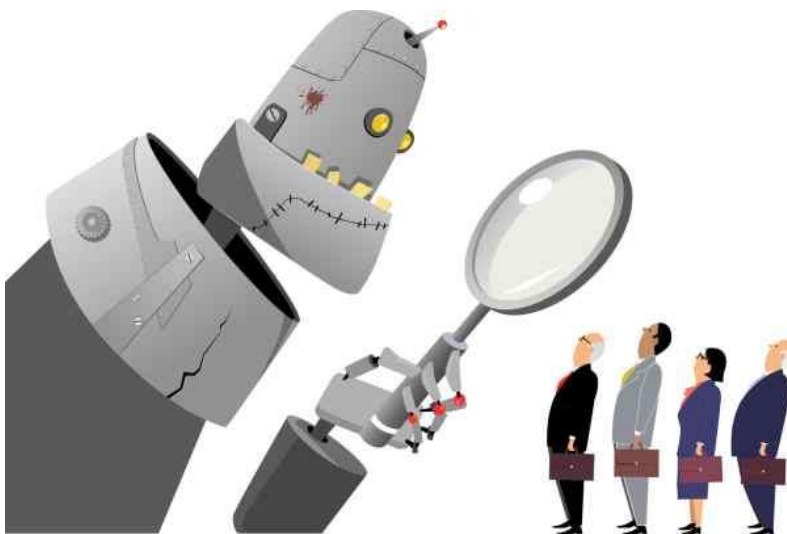
Conclusion:

Transparency, accountability, streamlined government services, whistleblower protection, and data analytics are just a few of the ways in which technology is changing the landscape of anti-corruption efforts.

As citizens, we must commit to our nation by supporting and advocating for the implementation of these technological solutions. Endeavour of Government departments should be to invest in technology and AI infrastructure to strengthen anti-corruption initiatives. Future is technology, Future is Transparency and Future is Accountability. Taking this into consideration, CVC has rightly coined the caption for this year's Vigilance Awareness Week;

“भ्रष्टाचार का विरोध करे; राष्ट्र के प्रति समर्पित रहें”

“Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation”.



Integrity Pacts: A New Paradigm in Preventing Corruption

▪ **Ankur Srivastava,**

Controller, NRSE(Ex.Dy.CVO/Store/SCR)

It is estimated that public procurements account for anywhere between 10 - 20% of government spending. This is a hefty expenditure, and added to that it is a part of government decision making which has its own issues of “indirect agency” and lack of ownership by individuals in decision making process. These factors lead to public procurements being a hot-bed of corruption. Procurement functions vest a lot of financial resources, and trust, on individuals responsible for discharging these functions, and there is a huge incentive for such individuals to bely the trust for personal gains. At the same time, procurement activities have very little public visibility and therefore, irregularities in procurements seldom come to the notice of the public. This makes it all the more easy for the perpetrators to indulge in corrupt activities.

Objectives of Integrity Pact:

It is to stem this growing malaise that Transparency International designed and launched an innovative tool, “the Integrity Pact (IP)” in the 1990s. Integrity Pact, as the name suggests, is an agreement between parties in a contractual relationship, to not involve in corrupt practices when dealing with agents of either party. The goal of Integrity Pact is to reduce any chances of corrupt practices during procurement through a binding agreement between the agency and bidders for specific contracts and help governments, businesses and civil society fight corruption in the field of public contracting where the scope of abuse is immense owing to the large value of contracts

It is intended that an integrity pact will accomplish the twin objectives of

- a. Assuring the bidders that the process of awarding contracts shall be fair and transparent, and
- b. Enabling the government to reduce the high cost and distortionary impact of corruption on public procurement.

Content of an Integrity Pact :

Towards this goal, an Integrity pact invariably incorporates the following commitments/undertakings from the government as well as the prospective bidders

An undertaking by the Public Agency that its officials will not demand or accept any bribes, gifts, etc., with provision for appropriate disciplinary or criminal sanctions in case of violation;

A statement by each bidder that it has not paid, and will not pay, any bribes and that it shall disclose all payments made in connection with the contract in question to anybody.

Explicit acceptance by each bidder that the no-bribery commitment and the disclosure obligation as well as the attendant sanctions remain in force for the winning bidder until the contract has been fully executed;

How an Integrity Pact Helps

In the first reading, these clauses do not appear anything out of the ordinary. After all, if any official is found to demand or accept bribes, or (with the new amendment to the Prevention of Corruption Act recently), if a bidder offers such bribes, they are liable to be prosecuted for criminal offences, even without these clauses being incorporated in the agreement.

However, the real benefit of Integrity Pacts is apparent, when these commitments of parties are seen along with the remedies provided for violation of Integrity pacts. Each integrity Pact incorporates a pre-announced set of sanctions for any violation by a bidder of its commitments or undertakings, including (some or all):

Denial or loss of contract;

Forfeiture of the bid security and performance bond;

Liability for damages to the principal and the competing bidders, and

Debarment of the violator by the principal for an appropriate period of time.

The key differentiator here is the fact, that these penalties for violation of the Integrity Pact are contractual remedies and do not require formal conviction in a court of Law. This makes the process simpler, faster and hence more effective. At the same time, an action or invocation of a clause from the pact (termination, penalty, blacklisting) would in no way preclude criminal prosecution for these offences.

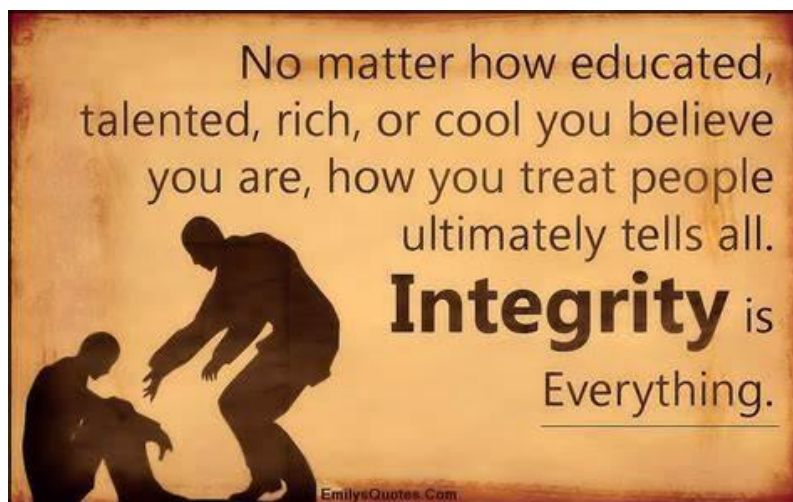
In addition, Integrity pacts usually incorporate another innovative condition, that of the role of an Independent External Monitor (IEM), which is an independent agency, with no interest in the outcome of contract. Usually reputed agencies like Transparency International are adopted as IEMs by public bodies. This provides an effective and independent check on the parties to avoid any willful deviation from their undertakings/commitments. The IEMs also work to disseminate the information regarding procurement decisions among the public, thereby bringing more

transparency in the system. Thus, IEMs play a crucial role in effective execution of integrity pacts.

Integrity Pacts (IPs) have been adopted in a number of countries as an instrument for

greater public oversight over possible corruption in government organizations. According to Transparency International, Integrity Pacts have been adopted by public procurement agencies in more than 15 countries across the world, and these agencies have also benefitted from these pacts. A stellar success of Integrity pacts was seen in India itself in the year 2014, when the Government of India cancelled an agreement of purchase of Augusta Westland Helicopters, taking cognizance of the proceedings in foreign court of alleged bribery by top executives of AugustaWestland. The agreement was cancelled, based on the Pre-Contract Integrity Pact, without having to wait for formal conviction of the allegations in an Indian court.

Thus, Integrity pacts appear to be bringing about a paradigm shift in handling corruption in public sphere, by providing a recourse to rights under the contract in addition to rigorous prosecution. This field is seeing a lot of activity now, and it is expected that we will see Integrity pacts in action in many more cases in the future.



Citizen Blues - Institutionalization of Corruption

- **G.V. Prasad Rao**
Dy. CE & Secretary to PCE

The government and its agencies have gone to the extent of making its citizens aware of corruption eradication as a mission item every year through various campaigns. Common man feels that corruption is a deep rooted disease in the society which internally is making the younger generations also corrupt through the doctrine of “used to”.

What exactly do we mean by corruption? Different people in different circumstances identify certain acts as corrupt practices. But, the actual definition of corruption is so large that it can encircle all activities in our day to day life.

Corruption manifests itself in all actions where a person/individual/ group are “benefiting from illegal acts, but it also includes acts of influencing to benefit”. For example, corruption is a process where persons wantonly modify facts, create delays, influence people to alter the course of things happening naturally for their personal benefits. These benefits could extend to monetary gain, influence, ego satisfaction etc.

Corruption has become so transparent in society that the younger generation do not even feel the stigma of wrong doing. In fact, the younger generation feel a sense of pride in such acts.

In public offices we often find that persons with powers to help, wantonly delay files, so that, the beneficiary should become desperate and reconcile himself for ensuring the benefit of the person in power. Such acts are common in any administration. Wantonly delaying decisions or keeping files pending is one of the major acts which germinate corruption and which brings about the stagnation in day to day life.

Remedy: Let’s sincerely do our job, for which we are paid salary.

Not discharging the designated duties by officials and staff during their working hours is also an act of corrupt practices. Some officials and staff may justify this that they have been working very hard and need a ‘BREAK’. But, it should also drawn on them that they are holding the system in abeyance just for the purpose of their ‘Break’. Many files of promotion, staff grievances, customer grievances are wantonly kept pending on the pretext of taking a ‘Break’. The desperation due to such acts felt by the society can be best understood when the man at the ticketing counter, banks, registration office etc., suddenly closes the window, in spite of the fact that people have been waiting in long queues for their turn. No doubt the employees need a break, but,

it should also be borne in mind that there are lot of expectations for the public from the official. The exasperation of the people standing in queue cannot be discounted and a little effort on his behalf would ease the aspirations and attentions of so many.

Remedy: Officials have to be punctual to the job and you will find that people will understand your need for BREAK. If possible, work for one-two hours extra daily.

The act of influence through corrupt practices has become so predominant in society that even the common man is lured into voting during election by the party which gives him freebies. It is highly illogical that people do not understand that no political party will be giving freebies from their own money/pocket and the hard earned money which is taxed, is utilized by the politicians to create a mirage of freebies where the common man will not even receive 50% and the bulk of the tax payer's money is distributed among their well-wishers. Society today has become so diluted in its outlook that they hardly recognize the inbuilt corrupt practices adopted by politicians, businessmen etc.

Remedy: Boycott all such parties and vote for an independent, so that, at least a good man does not lose his deposit.

Hoardings displaying "But Two - Get One Free" is another form of corrupt influence. Unless some malpractice has been adopted, no businessman would be giving so many freebies to its customers.

Remedy: Do not buy such old stock and devalue your hard earned money.

Similarly, parents induce their children with gifts and temptations to ensure children attend school, study properly, get good ranks etc.

Remedy: Parent should realize that they are germinating corruption - Please stop it.

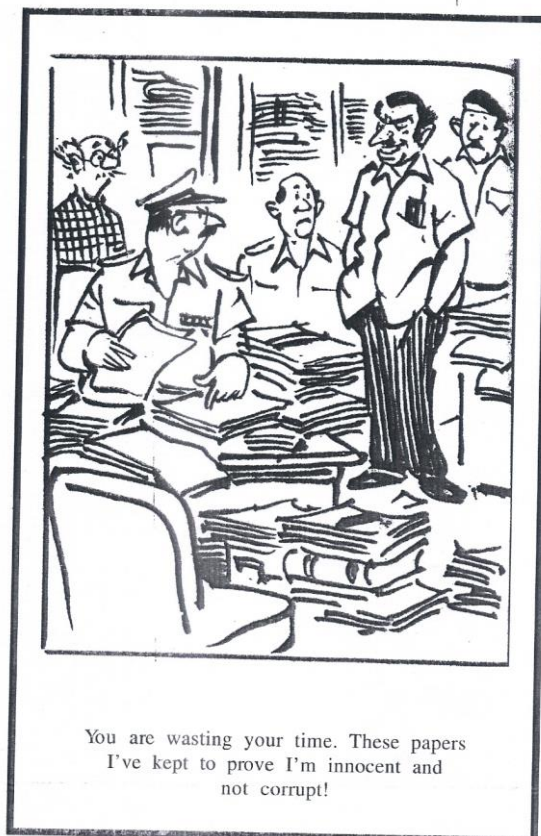
The concept of influence through corruption has been encrypted in the society by the British and today, society can hardly differentiate what corruption means. Although efforts are made from time to time for making people aware on the corrupt practices, people in general accept these awareness programmes only to the extent of the campaign period and thereafter life returns to normal.

Remedy: Legal action should be prompt and exemplary.

There may be many ways to minimize corruption, as I for one do not believe that corruption can be eradicated at least today, it can only be minimized and for complete eradication of corruption, a cultural revolution should start from within each and every citizen.

Remedy: Digitization and enforcing digitization should be resorted to, so that, monetary corruption can be plugged to a large extent. Every individual/citizen should be given unique identification number linked to a debit card/bank account, so that, physical rotation of currency is stopped.

Finally - No amount of preaching or campaigning will free us from corruption, unless **“WE DECIDE TO GIVE UP THE SHORT TERM BENEFITS OF WRONG DOINGS”**.



Relevance of Integrity, Morality and Ethics in leadership in contemporary world

▪ Smt. J. V. Anoosha, IRSE
Sr.DEN/Co-ord/GNT

- Integrity, morality and ethics are collectively known as “**Dharma**” which are the eternal laws of the cosmos. Moral value system is the foundation of human character, it forms the core of effective leadership, professionalism and personal happiness.
- Ancient scriptures such as Shrimad Bhagavat Gita, Quran, Bible are a treatise on morality-ethics or virtuous living and hold their applicability even in modern contemporary world because of its practical ethical ethos which has thrived over 5000 years. All books written for the welfare of human kind ardently endorse ethical and moral behavior, virtuous conduct, inner purity and selfless social deeds.
- The Sanskrit words “**arjavam**”- sincerity or straightforwardness, “**Sthairyam**” - Stability, “**kshantir**”- tolerance and **Atmavinigraha** - self control are a few of the values taught to mankind in these revealed scriptures for ethical conduct. It puts us on the right path in life by guiding us with noble human values. As described in Shrimad Bhagavat Gita, “**Sthitaprajna**” is a perfect person having all noble values, truthfulness, honesty, courage, benevolence, peacefulness, obedience and mercifulness which are outlined by Sri Krishna to Arjuna. These qualities form the core value system for true leaders even in the modern day.
- According to various researches done in the domain of establishing relationship between leader integrity (as ethical leaders) and employee work engagement, it is observed that such virtuous leaders not just significantly contribute towards establishing mutual trust between them and the followers, but also help to develop a highly integral and conducive work environment. Leaders with high integrity and morality strengthen the organization, the system and the nation at large.
- Great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Nelson Mandela and others had one thing in common; high integral conduct and ethical values. Leaders derive their credibility, respect and power from their unwavering commitment to walking the talk. In the Shrimad Bhagavat Gita Verse 3.21, it is said that

यद्यदाचरति श्रेष्ठस्तत्तदेवेतरो जनः ।
स यत्प्रमाणं कुरुते लोकस्तदनुवर्तते ॥

which means **“Whatever action is performed by a great man, common men follow in his footsteps. And whatever standards he sets by exemplary acts, all the world pursues”**. Therefore Lord Krishna advises Arjuna on the battle field of Kurukshetra that he needs to lead by example.

- Do not let tough situations challenge your moral conduct and value system. Do not let short term gains weaken your ethical contact. No matter, how intelligent, expert and talented you are, one is inferior than a blade of grass on the street, if you lack integrity, morality and ethics in your life. Therefore, leaders should stand the test of time and display exemplary conduct to set examples in the modern world which is by far driven by the inferior modes of passion and ignorance.
- Leaders are made after gradually nurturing principles of equanimity and mutual dependence both in their professional and personal life. No great leadership is possible without developing a sense of equanimity. This material world is full of dualities and in the Shrimad Bhagavat Gita Verse 2.14, it is said that

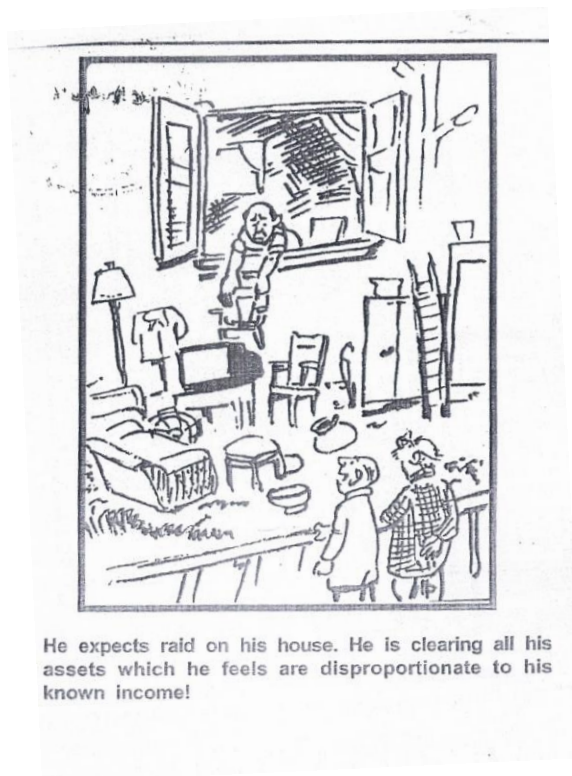
**मात्रास्पर्शास्तु कौन्तेय शीतोष्णसुखदुःखदाः ।
आगमापायिनोऽनित्यास्तांस्तितिक्षस्व भारत ॥**

which means **“O son of Kunti, the contact between the senses and the sense objects gives rise to fleeting perceptions of happiness and distress. These are non-permanent, and come and go like the winter and summer seasons. O descendent of Bharat, one must learn to tolerate them without being disturbed”**.

- These are the realities of life and they will come and go. If we do not learn to endure them, we will never be able to exhibit true leadership traits.
- The society today at large emphasis on individual rights as an important element of growth and progress. This idea of individuality is likely to transform into selfishness as people become very sensitive to their possessions and needs in process of advocating individual rights. This way the culture of sharing is done away with, greed penetrates, paving way for greater conflicts among individuals and finally between nations.
- But if one observes nature closely, the whole universe is interconnected. The material nature, animal and plant kingdom have a profound influence on us. That in order to achieve ultimate prosperity and success, we need to honour the principle of mutual dependence. The spirit of sharing, collectiveness and unconditional giving (the virtue of Yajna or sacrifice) is the basis on which

everything rests. The supreme energy blesses the living entities with this virtue and in turn the living entities begin giving back, to this supreme energy using this principle. Paraspara Bhava, Lord Krishna says, is the one that guarantees us ultimate prosperity (Param shrayas).

- By virtue of the position, a leader can command and it blindfolds them to the need to understand the importance of mutual dependence. People working with the leaders are as important as the leaders. A happy and successful married life revolves around the husband or wife understanding the value of mutual dependence. Similarly, government and society have to honour the principle of mutual dependence. Therefore, strong team building exercises in huge organizations start with mutually respecting team players before leaders look to challenges, improvements and achieving success.
- In the contemporary world, leadership is at its best only when it becomes inspirational. In order to achieve such a level of leadership, spiritual impetus is a must which will help individuals broaden their paradigms, strengthen them to take great decisions without the fear of failures. People having modern skills, scientific temperament and ability to perform should imbibe spirituality to define a true meaning to inspirational leadership.



A lesson for life

- **Smt. Rajani Jha,**
Dy FA&CAO/LGD

Shekhar used to stay in company quarters in the steel plant that his father worked in. The colony was a quiet and peaceful one at a walkable distance from the lush green golf course. The Quarters at the fag end of the colony shone the brightest with all the modern amenities. Whereas others had to slog to get things repaired in their houses.

Shekhar was very fascinated by the flawlessness of the house, by the extra amenities they had which others didn't have in the quarters of the same make and in the same colony. Sinha uncle inhabited that quarter and his son Rohit was a year junior to Shekhar in school.

One day Shekhar and his Grandfather were taking a stroll in their colony when he happened to mention the amenities that they were enjoying, an extra terrace, an extra large garage and the beautiful arch gate. He also mentioned to his grandfather that they had a small fountain inside the gate.

His grandfather briefly mentioned "Rakshak hi Bhakshak" which he could not understand, it made no sense to him. When asked to elaborate, Shekhar's grandfather simply Shrugged off saying "you are too young for this", will tell you when the time comes.

One fine day when Shekhar was coming back from school on his bicycle he found many white cars doing the rounds in the colony. He was amazed but didn't really mind that as some or the other functions kept happening inside the colony so nothing raised his antennae.

As soon as he entered his house he could see some neighborhood aunties occupying his living room. It seemed they had some fresh gossip which was so loud for him to overhear from stairs itself, however as soon as he entered the house there was pin drop silence. His mother waved to him to freshen up. She took out food for him and asked him to sit in his room. He didnt mind as he got extra screen time on his computer while having his lunch.

Next day at school he found people talking about Rohit's father whom Shekar fondly called Sinha Uncle. When his friends asked could tell him Sinha uncle has been taken up by higher Administration and may be even removed from service now.

Once Shekhar returned home he narrated the school gossip to his grandfather who then made him sit down and told him as follows.

. ‘Sinha uncle was in vigilance department of the company and he was entrusted with the supervision and control of the deviations in the administration. His responsibility was to probe into serious irregularities in the company based on source information, plug loopholes and suggest systemic improvements to curb corruption.

He was a bright and honest officer at the beginning of his career. However, in due course he started mis-utilizing his powers by scaring the implementing departments. That is how he had wielded so much of power inside the organization. Gradually he went to become senior most in his department so no one reprimanded him. No one dared to complain against him. Finally, after a lot of complaints and action from higher vigilance administration, a team from Headquarters uncovered the issue and matter was brought to light to the company administration. Mr. Sinha has been given compulsory retirement and he might also face some jail term for embezzlement of funds pertaining to Vigilance department.

You remember dear when I used an expression “Rakshak hi Bhakshak” that day when you praised his quarter and his powers and position. It meant that he was deputed to curb corruption but he himself got involved in it.

The incident gave Shekhar an insight into the power circles and how machineries of checks and balances can also malfunction without proper supervision and control. For the first time he also came to know that corruption can not only exist in Government bodies but also in private entities.

Days later he read in the newspaper regarding Vigilance awareness week and showed the same piece to his grandfather. His grandfather told him about the CVC(Central Vigilance Commission), its genesis as a result of Santhanam Committee and its current activities. Grandfather also told him that Vigilance awareness week started from the year 2000 to mark the birth anniversary of ‘Bismarck of India’, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who was a shining example of probity in public life. This Programme is conceptualized for sensitizing the common regarding the evil consequences of corruption.

His Grandfather went on to tell Shekhar how Kautilya has mentioned about the mentioned about menace of corruption in one of the earliest treatise of Statecraft i.e. “Arthashastra”. According to him “Just as it is impossible to know

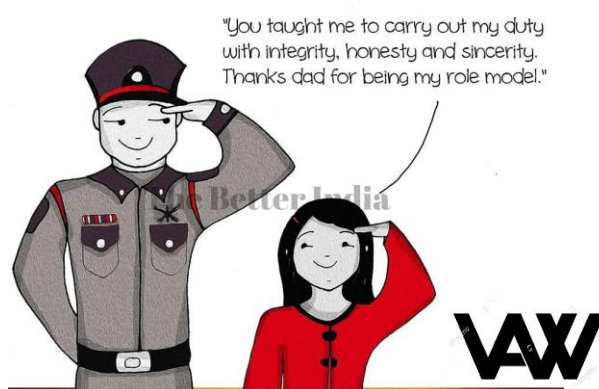
when a swimming fish is drinking water, so it is impossible to find out when a government servant is stealing money.” Kautilya has talked about 40 ways of embezzlement which is an evidence regarding rampant corruption even in ancient India.

Shekhar got too angry about hearing about corruption and he was of the opinion that strictest punishments to be given to such corrupt people. He said all such people should be immediately jailed. His grandfather asked him to calm down and think clearly rather than hastily.

Finally, his grandfather told him that he may not even know or realize that he himself must be witnessing corruption in smallest forms. For e.g. Cheating in examination, not taking receipt while purchasing something from local stores etc. This made a deep impact on Shekhar who was now aware and strived to be a responsible and vigilant citizen. He also promised his grandfather that he will educate and make aware at least 2 of his friends regarding this menace and its various forms.

Shekhar had now understood why the article that he read concluded as follows:-

“Vigilance awareness week being celebrated every year is a reminder to all of us that corruption is a menace that will not go away with one blow but with repeated efforts in every possible manner to eliminate subjectivity and living in transparency and accountability in our otherwise opaque system.”



Corruption a Challenge to Nation Building

▪ **Smt. Anita Barik**
Dy CVO/Traffic

Corruption is a pervasive and corrosive issue that affects nations across the globe. It undermines the foundations of democracy, hampers economic growth, and erodes public trust in institutions. To combat this menace, it is essential for every citizen to take a stand against corruption and commit to the betterment of their nation. This essay explores the significance of saying no to corruption and the importance of committing to the nation.

The Consequences of Corruption:

Corruption comes in various forms, from bribery and embezzlement to nepotism and cronyism. Regardless of its manifestation, corruption poses dire consequences for societies. It diverts funds that should be allocated for public services, such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure, into the pockets of a few individuals. This deprives the majority of citizens of essential services and perpetuates inequality.

Corruption undermines the rule of law and erodes trust in institutions. When citizens perceive that their government officials are corrupt, they lose faith in the system, leading to disillusionment and cynicism. This can result in social unrest, political instability, and a breakdown of the social contract between citizens and the state.

Corruption discourages investment and economic growth. Investors are wary of doing business in countries plagued by corruption due to the uncertainty and unfair competition it creates. Thus, corrupt nations often face stunted economic development and a lack of opportunities for their citizens.

Corruption, the unethical and illegal practice of abusing one's position for personal gain, remains a formidable obstacle to the progress and development of nations worldwide. To combat this pervasive problem, citizens must unite under the banner of "No to corruption, commit to the nation!" This slogan encapsulates the collective responsibility we have to eradicate corruption and work towards the betterment of our nations.

To combat corruption effectively, we must start at the grassroots level. Each individual must take personal responsibility for saying "No to corruption" and

commit to the nation's betterment. This commitment begins with our ethical choices in everyday life. We must resist the allure of corrupt practices and refrain from engaging in bribery, embezzlement, or any form of unethical behaviour. Our personal integrity is the foundation upon which a corruption-free society is built.

Whistleblowers play a pivotal role in exposing corruption within organizations and governments. Protecting and encouraging whistleblowers is essential for maintaining transparency and holding wrongdoers accountable. Whistleblower protection laws ensure that those who report corruption are shielded from retaliation.

Saying No to Corruption and Committing to the Nation:

Saying no to corruption begins with individual choices and actions. Citizens must refuse to participate in corrupt practices, whether as the briber or the bribed. It is imperative to hold oneself accountable and resist the temptation of shortcuts or unfair advantages. Committing to the Nation:

Committing to the nation means placing the interests of one's country above personal gain. It involves active participation in civic life, understanding the importance of the rule of law, and working towards the betterment of society. Citizens can commit to their nation by supporting initiatives that promote transparency and accountability. This commitment encompasses active participation in civic life, respect for the rule of law, and a dedication to societal progress.

Leaders and government officials bear a substantial responsibility in the fight against corruption. They must lead by example, adhere to strict ethical standards, and implement policies that effectively combat corruption. Transparent government operations, access to information, and the establishment of independent anti-corruption agencies are crucial tools for tackling corruption at the institutional level.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the slogan "No to corruption, Commit to the nation!" serves as a rallying cry for citizens to unite against the corrosive influence of corruption. Corruption's detrimental effects on society, governance, and the economy demand our collective efforts to eradicate it. By refusing to tolerate corruption, each individual can contribute to a brighter future for our nations, built on

principles of integrity, transparency, and fairness. Corruption is not an insurmountable problem, and change can happen when individuals and nations unite against it. By saying no to corruption and committing to the nation, we can build a more just, equitable, and prosperous future for all. Together, we can usher in an era of progress and prosperity for all.



This officer is in a position to take a lot of bribe. Still the poor chap is living within the known source of his income! How ?

TRD Works Estimate Preparation: A Vigilance Focus

▪ **B Siva Prasad**
Dy CVO/S&T

Back Ground: The Indian Railways has introduced a visionary policy called "Mission 100% Electrification," which is poised to be a transformative force in the country's energy sector. This initiative presents an unprecedented opportunity for India to not only meet but exceed the expectations of its citizens, both in terms of freight and passenger transportation.

In recent times, there has been a significant revival of interest in reimagining the railway system to make it the preferred choice for long-distance travel and urban public transit. In this context, the electrification of Railways emerges as a pivotal component, steering this transformation towards a more sustainable and efficient future.

The integration of TRD assets with the most up-to-date standards is now underway, leading to the requirement to replace older TRD assets in electrified sections where electrification took place several decades ago. This is essential to align the existing infrastructure with the latest standards. Many Divisions are strategically planning the replacement of aging assets, taking into account both their age and condition. Furthermore, replacements are being executed to ensure that these assets comply with the continually evolving standards set forth by RDSO and the Railway Board.

With the adoption of updated standards and benchmarks, a significant portion of the maintenance tasks in the TRD now necessitates outsourcing to contract labor. When engaging in maintenance contracts, the fundamental prerequisite is the meticulous preparation of cost estimates, serving as the foundation for tender invitations.

Prior to commencing any work, it is imperative to create a cost estimate to determine the necessary budget. The preparation of this, the estimate relies upon two key factors:

- a) An accurate assessment of the quantity of work to be undertaken.
- b) The applicable rates for the various components of the project.

To ascertain the quantity of work, a thorough field survey must be conducted. Usually, each department at the zonal level issues a "Schedule of Rates" (SOR). This schedule provides a comprehensive catalog of the various schedule items, along with their corresponding rates. When preparing estimates, the executive must have both the field survey report and access to the relevant Schedule of Rates to ensure precision in cost projections.

Observations:

During the preventive checks carried out by the vigilance department, several irregularities and discrepancies were identified in the context of estimate and Tender Booklet preparation for TRD works:

- a) Altering the description of SOR items in estimates without proper approvals to align them with the specific work.
- b) Lack of clarity in the tender booklet regarding which group of schedules is designated for the execution of particular work, causing confusion when recording Measurement Books (MB).
- c) Grouping different SOR items to execute a particular task without adequate reasoning or justifications.
- d) Using SOR rates for reference, even when a Purchase Order (PO) reference exists for the same item at a considerably lower value.
- e) Referring to rates defined for semi-skilled labor when the actual requirement on-site is for unskilled labor.
- f) Including unrealistic quantities in estimates, resulting in excessive accumulation of materials in store depots.
- g) Failing to differentiate between the store portion and cash portion when preparing estimates, potentially leading to financial implications.

In SCR, executive units have been relying on the SOR issued by CORE/ALD, which was formulated more than three decades ago, to prepare estimates. This SOR was initially developed with a focus on new installations and is not well-suited for projects involving the replacement of aging assets.

For instance, consider the following scenarios:

- a) Replacement of aging contact/catenary wires.
- b) Replacement of outdated neutral sections with modern PTFE sets.
- c) Replacement of 150mm RE pulley sets to 250mm RE sets.
- d) The replacement of conventional/porcelain insulators with long creepage insulators or composite insulators.

In these cases, the outdated SOR does not adequately address the unique requirements and specifications of these replacement works, making it necessary to develop new and tailored SORs to ensure correct estimates and efficient execution.

The estimation process currently segregates the erection and dismantling of the same asset, even though these activities are performed concurrently by the same labor force. This separation is necessitated by the absence of a single schedule item in the SOR designed for replacement works.

Over the past two decades, substantial technological advancements have revolutionized Over Head Equipment (OHE), Power Supply Installations (PSI), and Remote Control (RC) systems. The outdated SOR fails to account for these recent developments, necessitating a comprehensive revision to accommodate and reflect the latest technological advancements in these systems.

In Divisions, there is a practice of grouping of different schedules of the SOR when there is no specific item available during preparation of estimates, such as the replacement of long creepage insulators and the replacement of 150 mm pulleys with 250 mm pulleys. Similar approach is observed in other divisions, with different SOR items. Consequently, this method has led to the establishment of different base rates for the execution of similar work as tabulated below.

Division	SOR items used for	
	Replacement of Insulators	Replacement of Regulating Equipment
A	4.a(i), 31(r), and 39(b)	8(a)(v), 31(t)(i), 8(b)(ii), and 31(t)(v)
B	4 a(i) and 31(r)	8a(v) and 31 t(i)
C	31(r) and 39(b)	----

Another noteworthy aspect that requires attention is inconsistency of rates when preparing estimates across different divisions. Divisions have been introducing ad-hoc escalations over the SOR, often citing the outdated SOR and considerably higher market rates. However, it has come to light that these escalations vary significantly from one division to another. To provide clarity, the ad-hoc percentage escalations being followed by Divisions in South Central Railway (SCR) have been tabulated for reference:

	Schedule I, SOR Items	Schedule II, Non-SOR Steel Items	Schedule II, Non-SOR, copper items.	Schedule II, Non-SOR, Insulator Items
Division A	322%	85%	85%	53%
Division B	223%	49%	41%	33%
Division C	356.50%	78.67%	26.78%	42.85%
Division D	255%	75%	----	53%

The tabulated data clearly illustrates a significant disparity in the adoption of ad-hoc percentages by different divisions while preparing estimates. Such wide variations in tender base rates for similar works across divisions are not desirable.

Conclusion: In light of this, it is essential to take immediate action on the following aspects to ensure the realistic preparation of estimates for TRD works across all executive units:

- i) Fixing of ad-hoc escalation percentages above SOR during estimate preparation across all executive units until issue of new SOR.
- ii) Revision of SOR with latest rate analysis for TRD works and maintenance contracts.
- iii) Compilation of a comprehensive Master list of items that are exclusively procured through stores.
- iv) Segregation of store and cash portions of schedules during estimate preparation to avoid financial implications.
- v) Conducting proper rate analysis and obtaining financial vetting before introducing non-SOR items in the estimates.
- vi) Executive units to conduct realistic assessments by seeking input from field units at the time of estimate preparation.



Say NO to Corruption :: Commit to the Nation

▪ **B. Ramakrishnan**
Dy. CVO/A

Corruption is a pervasive and destructive social issue that plagues societies around the world. It is a cancer that eats the very fabric of the nation undermining trust, justice and prosperity.

Corruption has many forms, such as –

- Bribery
- Embezzlement
- Nepotism
- Cronyism
- Extortion

Corruption occurs when an individual in position of power and authority misuses their influence for personal gains, often at the expense of common good.

Consequences of Corruption

1. Economic Consequences
 - a. Reduced Economic growth
 - b. Inefficient Resource Allocation
 - c. Inequality and Poverty
 - d. Diversion of public funds and resources exacerbates poverty and income inequality
2. Erodes Trust

Corruption erodes public trust in institution that prioritizes interests of few over the welfare of the many.

3. Undermines Justice

Wealthy and influential escaping legal consequences while less fortunate bearing brunt of law

4. Hinders Economic Development – Diverts resources away from critical public service such as Health, Education and infrastructure. In turn which stifles economic growth.

Say NO to Corruption by -

- a. Promoting transparency
- b. Strengthen legal frame work – Enforce strict anti-corruption laws and regulations
- c. Educate and raise awareness
- d. Foster a culture of integrity
- e. Support independent media
- f. Engage in public participation

Conclusion

Saying NO to corruption is not just a moral imperative. It is essential for the well-being of individual, community and nation. When we say NO to corruption, we say YES to bright future for all.

Commit to the Nation

Is a fundamental and profound responsibility that should be ingrained in every citizen's heart a sense of duty, loyalty, dedication to wellbeing, Progress and Prosperity.

How one can contribute to commitment to the Nation –

1. Civic Responsibility: - Civic duties include –
 - a. Voting in elections
 - b. Paying Taxes
 - c. Obeying Laws
2. Community Involvement
 - a. Volunteering
 - b. Supporting local charities
 - c. Neighborhood improvement project
3. Promoting Social Justice
 - a. Advocate social justice
 - b. Advocate equality for eradicating discrimination, poverty and Inequality
4. Environmental Stewardship
 - a. Caring for natural resources & environment
 - b. Sustainable living practice
 - c. Supporting conservation effort
5. Education
 - a. Value of education
 - b. Quality of education

6. Defending national interest through military services

7. Economic contribution

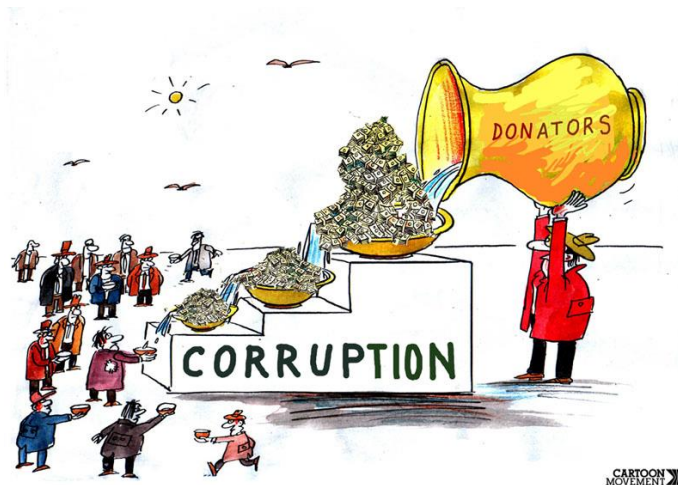
- a. Through working honestly
- b. Creating businesses
- c. Participation in Workforce

8. Benefit of above commitment is

- a. National Unity
- b. National Progress
- c. Social welfare
- d. Environmental sustainability
- e. Democracy

Conclusion

Commitment to the Nation is not merely a choice but a duty that every citizen should embrace



Understanding and Misunderstanding

▪ **Shri S R Shelke**
Dy. CVO/Stores

Sweaty and thirsty, you look for a shady tree and see where you can get water, then you notice a person standing in the window of the building in front of you and that person asks you if you want water!

What will you feel at that moment? What would you think of that person?!

The person then signals you to come down the building and closes the window, you rush there but no one comes there for the next 10 minutes!

What would you think of that person now?!

This is going to be your second opinion!

After a while the person comes there and says "Sorry I'm late but seeing your condition I have brought you lemon water instead of just water!"

Now what do you think about that person?!

You take a sip of syrup and you realize that there is no sugar in it!

Now what do you think about that person?!

Seeing your sour face, the person slowly takes out a small sachet of sugar from his pocket and says, I deliberately did not add sugar first thinking that you might not like it and how much less sweet you like!

What do you think about that person now?!

Then think about it in just 10-15 minutes you have to change your opinion, your attitude completely, even in a normal situation, your thoughts, your opinions can be completely wrong in a moment, then without knowing much about someone, without knowing how that person is going to act, only superficially. Is it right to misunderstand it after seeing it? If not, isn't it better to understand someone than to misunderstand them?

Is it that as long as someone behaves according to your expectations, they are good or bad? "Misunderstandings" turn out to be very bad and creates problems in life, hence it is always better to "Understand each other" so that problems will not arise in life.

Interesting or not? Don't be hasty in forming an opinion...!!

Moral of the Story – Vigilance investigation do not conclude opinion without thorough understanding of the pros and cons of the circumstances, situations and views of concerned stakeholders.

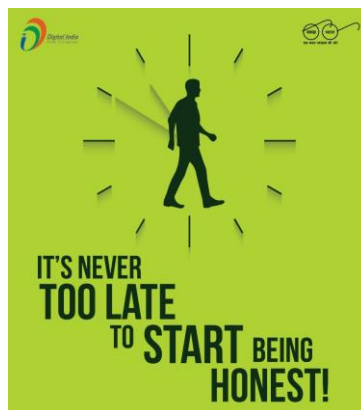
Why did Alexander The Great say "Both my hands be kept dangling out of my coffin" before he died?

As Alexander was lying on his deathbed he made these three wishes which baffled his fellow man. He first made his three wishes and interpreted each one of these, which were:

1. ***"My physicians alone must carry my coffin". ".... because people should realize that no doctor on this earth can really cure anybody. They are powerless and cannot save a person from the clutches of death. So let not people take life for granted."***
2. ***"I desire that when my coffin is being carried to the grave, the path leading to the graveyard be strewn with gold, silver and precious stones which I have collected in my treasury". ".....to tell People that not even a fraction of gold will come with me. I spent all my life Greed of Power, earning riches but cannot take anything with me. Let people realize that it is a sheer waste of time to chase wealth."***
3. ***"My third and last wish is that both my hands be kept dangling out of my coffin". "I wish people to know that I came empty handed into this world and empty handed I go out of this world"***

It is said that while India Alexander notice that many Indian saint, philosopher, would stamp the ground they stand on with their feet whenever they cross him. On inquiring he was told that it was a way to indicate to him that in truth a man possesses only that amount of land on which they are stepping or standing. His conquest was nothing but arrogance, a wrong assumption of land requirement and false illusion of ownership. He will after all die like everyone else and will require land sufficient enough to be cremated or buried in. Maybe that answer left deep impression in life and he finally realize its value on his deathbed.

Moral of the Story – Greed of Power has no limits, similarly Corruption is the abuse of power or position for personal gain and has no limits. However ethical values such as honesty, fairness, integrity, trustworthiness, respect etc. provides the moral compass by which we live our lives and make decisions.

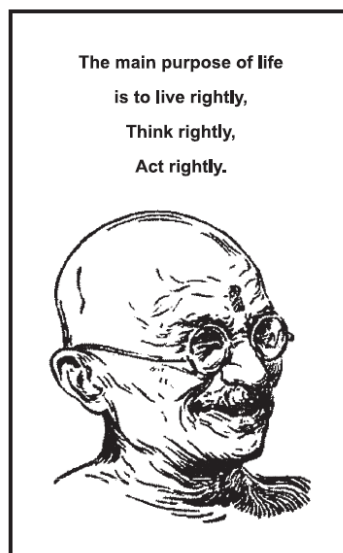


Focus areas on Establishment Matters

▪ **Shri B SrinivasRao**
Sr.VO/Personnel

1. Method/Procedure of selection should be spelt clearly in the notification.
2. Clear Instructions to Paper Setting & Evaluating Officer to be given and ensure that it is adhered strictly.
3. Avoid writing with pencil in roster register.
4. Do not delegate the work of setting question paper to others.
5. All questions should be prepared with multiple choice options with A,B,C,D in no case no of options are reduced to 2 or 3 and consistency in giving options uniformly for the all questions should be ensured.
6. All relevant instructions should be conveyed to the candidates including about negative marking and multiple bubbling.
7. DAR clearance and Vigilance position to be obtained before finalization of the panel and subsequently while issuing promotion order.
8. Ensure implementation of punishments in the IPAS and in SR to that effect. Non recording of punishment entries in the SR resulting in promoting employees while undergoing penalty.
9. Partial implementation of punishments resulting in less recovery from salary and also be treated as non compliance of DA's order.
10. Seek for pre-qualification certificates of a candidate, in cases where certificates from OPEN schooling are submitted in recruitment related to Sports, Scouts & Guides and CG appointment. In particular the Date of Births to be cross checked.
11. Ensure genuineness of the documents and impersonation aspect in CG cases.
12. Secondary family pension should be stopped immediately after the appointment of wards in CG cases similarly in case of widow/widower upon their re-marriage.
13. The absent period should be taken into consideration while granting the MACP and to defer the period accordingly
14. DAR clearance as on the crucial date of consideration of MACP to be obtained.

15. Periodical joint checks to be conducted in Railway Quarters to avoid subletting/un authorized occupation without permission. Recovery of damage rent for unauthorized occupation/subletting to be done under telescopic methods wherever applicable.
16. The sources declared in immovable/movable properties by the staff/officers should be supported with clear documentary evidences towards the transactions taken place in acquisition/disposal of property.
17. The penalty should be specific, i.e., scale/grade, pay, status, period & with or without effecting future increments(R/NR)/promotion/ seniority to be mentioned clearly w.r.t the penalties specified in Rule 6 of D&AR rules, 1968.
18. Warning letters are being issued against minor penalty charge sheets as a penalty, where as 'Warning' is not a penalty under DAR Rules. Its an administrative action.
19. Major penalty charge sheets are being issued but penalties mentioned under minor are being imposed without passing any reasoned orders. DA can do so, but orders should contain clear reasoned & speaking order justifying the action should be recorded. DA are using common printed format for passing orders in major DA cases.
20. Charge memorandum should be drawn up in clear and with distinct articles of charges, separate for each alleged act of omission/commission. Charge memorandum should not contain words like ifs, buts, seems, appears etc. The list proper documents and witnesses should be brought out in Annexure III & IV.



SAY NO TO CORRUPTION, COMMIT TO THE NATION

- **Shri Vrushank NY**
Sr.AFA/M&P

“A man who has never gone to school may steal a freight car; but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad.”

-Theodore

Roosevelt

The above quote aptly summarizes the dangers of corruption in the public sphere. Corruption has been a persistent problem in India for decades, bearing effect on all levels of society, from the poorest to the richest. Corruption is not just to be limited to its common manifestations like bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, misuse of public resources etc., rather it is to be taken even further to include *deviation from one's conscience*. This in turn has a debilitating effect on the country's democratic institutions, worsens the rule of law, and has severe consequences on the country's social and economic development. As Chanakya had remarked that just as it is impossible to determine how much water a fish drank, similar is the act of stealing Government money by officials. Although this was stated in the 3rd century before Christ, this fact is true in present times showing the ubiquitousness of corruption, and also the serious need for the country to address this challenge.

Should we really say no to corruption in India?

As per the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index released by the Transparency International, India scored 40 points out of 100 which means that India is perceived as a highly corrupt country by its citizens and experts and is ranked 85th out of 180 countries meaning India is amongst the bottom half of the world's countries in terms of corruption perception.

Corruption reduces the government revenue and public expenditure on development sectors like education, health, infrastructure, etc. This leads to lower human capital, lower quality of life, and lower productivity, that further constrain Government revenue through decreased economic growth thereby creating a vicious cycle.

It also distorts the market mechanism and creates inefficiencies in resource allocation which discourages investment, innovation, and competition. This increases cost of doing business and reduces the profitability of enterprises. Further it undermines the rule of law and erodes the trust and confidence of the people in the government and its institutions thereby breeding nepotism, favoritism, and cronyism. It also fuels social unrest, violence, and extremism.

Corruption compromises the quality and safety of public goods and services which leads to substandard construction, poor maintenance, and frequent accidents. The case of Morbee bridge collapse in Gujarat that led to the demise of more than 135 people is an example to substantiate the seriousness of corruption in India. Therefore, corruption is a major obstacle to India's development and needs to be tackled with tenacity and determination.

Can we successfully create a society that says no to corruption?

When we study countries that are rated as least corrupt in the corruption perceptions index, some of the common themes that can be observed are as follows.

These countries are able to remain less corrupt because they have strong democratic institutions, high levels of transparency and accountability, and a culture of trust and civic engagement. They have strong freedom of information laws that allow citizens and journalists to access public documents and data, and expose any wrongdoing or mismanagement by public officials.

Further these countries have independent and effective anti-corruption agencies and watchdogs that monitor and investigate corruption cases, and enforce the rule of law, robust and impartial judicial systems that ensure fair trials and protect the rights of the accused, as well as the whistle blowers and witnesses.

Presence of competitive and transparent electoral systems that prevent fraud, vote-buying, and political interference, and ensure the representation and participation of the people, active and diverse civil society organizations that advocate for anti-corruption reforms, raising awareness, and mobilizing citizens to demand accountability from their leaders.

All these above factors are further strengthened by high standards of ethics and integrity in the public sector, with codes of conduct, asset declarations, conflict of interest regulations, and merit-based recruitment and promotion strictly enforced, complemented by Low levels of inequality and poverty, with universal access to quality education, health care, social security, and other public services that have contributed to the low levels of corruption in these countries. While most of these rules, laws, guidelines and institutions are present in India, yet we fare very poor in terms of corruption perception mainly because of low enforcement mechanisms and regulatory frameworks. To alleviate this anomaly there is a need for holistic redressal.

Short term measures to tackle this could include strengthening the anti-corruption laws and agencies and ensuring their effective implementation and enforcement, enhancing the transparency, accountability, and participation of the public in governance and decision-making processes, educating and empowering the people to raise their voice against corruption and demand their rights and entitlements.

However, to achieve a truly egalitarian and just society, the philosophy of 'Veil of ignorance' as propounded by John Rawls can be used before framing laws or establishing institutions. The principle underlying the above philosophy is very simple. Any law or institution should be designed in such a manner that the person entrusted with that responsibility must be oblivious to his/her position in such a society. This would entail framing policies and establishing institutions that would inevitably benefit all sections of the society since one is unaware of his/ her place in that society. Thus, due care would be given to ensure corruption or nepotism would not prevail in such a society.

A long-term solution to ending corruption can only lie in transforming each individual through promoting a culture of honesty, integrity, and ethics amongst the public officials and citizens. This can only be achieved if people can develop a strong moral conscience and stay true to it, despite adversities. No amount of punitive or preventive measures can ensure a just society if individuals forming that society are of weak moral caliber. Strengthening value-based education at early stages of a child's education can help in developing a strong moral character. Further if individuals can be made to grow more spiritual, the root cause of corruption which is desire can be annihilated as spirituality teaches one that true happiness lies not in the possession and display of material things rather ultimate bliss lies within one's self.

As it is clear that "Saying no to corruption" will have enormous positive implications on the country's development, it will also lead to an egalitarian and a just society in the long run where each individual's dignity and moral worth is both protected and enhanced. Only then we as individual agents justify the tremendous sacrifices of our forefathers who have put in to secure freedom for our country from more than 200 years of depredation of British rule. This can be achieved when all of us eulogize and live up to Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa's famous call that "*Service to man is, service to God*"



Stand against corruption and support the country

- **Shri K.V.S.S.S.Rama Raju
AWSO**

Corruption is a significant and serious obstacle for development and progress of a country and the problem is widespread which erodes trust, degrades institutions and maintains inequity causing delay in growth, limiting development and undermining public confidence in institutions. Citizens must come together to fight corruption and support the country by moral behaviour in the face of this threat duly understanding it's complexity, negative impact on society and the shared obligation of individuals and organizations to promote integrity and advancement of a country.

Understanding Corruption

The foundations of fairness and justice are undermined by corruption in all of its manifestations, including bribery, theft of assets, nepotism, and discrimination. It hinders social development, distorts economic growth and interferes with the efficient delivery of public services. Corrupt behaviour is fundamentally an abuse of authority in which people put their own interests ahead of the general well being of the country.

The Societal Impact of Corruption

A country is impacted by corruption at many levels and it's economical structure is weakened by corruption due to unethical behaviour leading to project delays, cost overruns and general degradation in the standard of public services. Also it causes misallocation of resources, preventing investments in key sectors like infrastructure, healthcare, and education. Socially, it makes inequality worse since people with power and money may influence systems to their benefit, marginalising those who are less fortunate. Additionally, moral degradation and a culture of dishonesty are encouraged by corruption, which corrodes country's moral foundation.

Saying No to Corruption: The Individual's Role

The battle against corruption starts at the personal level. It necessitates having a strong moral compass and a lifelong commitment to moral behaviour. **Saying "no" to corruption** involves declining to engage in unethical behaviour and disclosing any instances of corruption that are observed. It entails encouraging openness and responsibility in all aspects of daily life, including interpersonal and professional interactions. Individuals can set an example for others and make a substantial contribution to the eradication of corruption by establishing a culture of integrity.

Supporting the Nation Through Ethical Citizenship

Supporting the country entails more than just being a patriot; it also involves actively participating in the political process and fighting for laws that encourage openness and justice. Holding public figures responsible for their acts, demanding transparency in governmental processes, and supporting anti-corruption campaigns are all aspects of ethical citizenship. Participating in civic affairs allows one to influence policy, form public opinion, and maintain an atmosphere free from corruption.

Government and Institutional Responsibility

A crucial part of the battle against corruption is played by Governments. They must establish independent oversight organisations, adopt and enforce strict anti-corruption legislation and fund education and awareness efforts. Building public trust requires transparent governance, in which government activities are subject to public review. Institutions must also encourage ethical leadership by putting a strong emphasis on honesty, decency, and fairness in all business operations. Strict anti-corruption laws must be put into place, administrative procedures must be transparent and a culture of honesty must be encouraged. Furthermore, encouraging accountability through consistent audits, impartial oversight and severe penalties for offenders might discourage corrupt behaviour.

Promoting Ethical Leadership “

Any institution that strives to be free of corruption must start with ethical leadership. Leaders must be example and motivate their employees by acting honestly, fairly and responsibly and create an atmosphere where corrupt behaviour is not allowed, by developing a culture of integrity and zero tolerance for it.

Conclusion

In conclusion, every person and institution has a duty to defend the principle of **saying "no" to corruption** and supporting the country via moral behaviour. People help to build a just and equitable society by opposing corrupt behaviour and encouraging integrity. Governments and organisations must also do their share by promoting ethics in leadership, ensuring transparency, and passing strong anti-corruption laws.

Nations can only eradicate corruption via joint efforts, ensuring that the benefits of progress and development reach to each and every corner of the country. **Saying "no" to corruption** collectively will help our country move towards a future marked by justice, fairness and honesty which will lead to prosperity and over all development for all.

Together, let's stand against corruption and help our country to create a brighter future with no trace of corruption.

Mobile Security : Threats & Measures for Safe Web Browsing

- **Shri G Sreenivasa Babu**
SO/IT/Vigilance

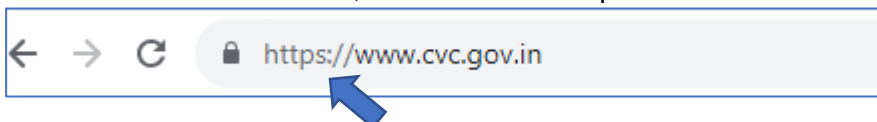
Mobile devices have become an integral part of our daily lives, allowing us to access the internet from virtually anywhere. However, this convenience comes with its own set of security concerns. Mobile users are increasingly vulnerable to various threats while browsing the web, including phishing attacks, malware, and data breaches. In this article, we will explore common mobile security threats and provide essential safety measures to help protect your mobile browsing experience.

Common Mobile Security Threats:

- ◆ **Malicious Apps:** Downloading apps from unofficial/ unreliable sources can lead to the installation of malicious applications that can compromise your device's security and privacy.
- ◆ **Wi-Fi Threats:** Public Wi-Fi networks, often found in hotels, airports, stations and public places can be vulnerable to spying and man-in-the-middle attacks, putting your data at risk. 
- ◆ **Malware and Spyware:** Mobile devices are susceptible to malware and spyware, which can infect your device, steal data, and compromise your privacy.
- ◆ **Phishing Attacks:** Phishing attacks are attempts by cybercriminals to trick users into revealing personal information, such as login credentials and financial details. Phishing can occur through fake websites or deceptive emails that appear legitimate.

Safety Measures for Secure Web Browsing :

- ◆ **Use Trusted Browsers :**
Choose well-known, reputable browsers like Google Chrome, Firefox, and Safari (receive regular security updates) for web surfing on your mobile device, and ensure they are regularly updated.   
- ◆ **Verify Website Authenticity :**
Before entering sensitive information on a website, verify its authenticity. Look for HTTPS in the website URL, and check for suspicious domains.



❖ **Install Antivirus and Anti-Malware Apps :**

Consider installing antivirus and anti-malware apps on your mobile device. These apps can detect and remove malicious software and provide real-time protection against threats.

Free Bot Removal Tool :



Scan QR code

Free Mobile Security App:



Scan QR code

Can also be downloaded from <https://www.csk.gov.in/security-tools.html>

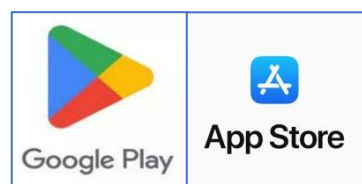
❖ **Be Cautious with Links and Emails :**

Be cautious when clicking on links in emails/text messages, especially if they are from unknown sources. Verify the sender's legitimacy and check for red flags, such as poor grammar or strange requests.



❖ **Download Apps from Official Stores :**

Stick to official app stores, such as the Google PlayStore and Apple App Store, to download apps to avoid loading apps which likely to contain malware.



❖ **Review App Permissions :**

When installing new apps, carefully review the permissions they request. Only grant permissions that are necessary for the app's intended functionality. Commonly, most of the apps can be installed only when we allow all the permissions. But, we can disallow certain permissions after installing the apps to safeguard from continuous monitoring by the app developers.

❖ **Use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) :**

Consider using a VPN when connecting to public Wi-Fi networks. A VPN encrypts your internet traffic, making it difficult for attackers to intercept your data. (A VPN hides your IP address by letting the network redirect it through a specially configured remote server run by a VPN host.)



❖ **Regularly Update Your Operating System :**

Keep your mobile operating system up to date to ensure you have the latest security patches and bug fixes. Always, Enable automatic updates.

❖ **Enable Biometric or Strong PIN Locks :**

Protect your device with a strong PIN, password, or Biometric authentication method, such as fingerprint or facial recognition.



❖ **Backup Your Data :**

Frequently back up your mobile device to ensure you can recover your data in case of a security breach or device loss.



Mobile web browsing has become an integral part of our lives, but it also poses security risks. By staying vigilant and following these safety measures, you can significantly safeguard from becoming victim to common mobile security threats. Remember that mobile security is an ongoing process, so stay informed about emerging threats and regularly update your security practices to keep your digital life safe and secure while browsing the web on your mobile device.

Tip: To **Disable Ads** while browsing in Mobile,

go to Settings-> Network & Internet → Private DNS → Select Private DNS provider Hostname → Type “dns.adguard.com” and save.



A Corrupt Free Nation; A Commitment by All Towards The Path of Development

▪ **B.Phani Vinayak Rao**
CVI/ACCOUNTS

“**Klesha**” (Sanskrit: क्लेश, IAST: Kleśa) is a Sanskrit word meaning "impurity", "corruption" or "poison". In Hinduism, a klesha is a mental state, such as fear or ignorance, that clouds the mind and leads to unhealthy actions. Also, the word lobha is used in religious literature “Manusmriti” refers to material greed.

“**Corruption**” – (Latin) — **com**, meaning "with, together," and **rumpere**, meaning "to break." Engaging in corruption can "break" or destroy someone's trustworthiness and good reputation with others. Corruption is utilizing or misusing of the authority by the person/persons who are bestowed upon as part of their duty in an organisation to influence certain actions which benefit the few at the cost of the organisation. Corruption can be in the form of bribery, lobbying, extortion, exploitation, cronyism, nepotism, parochialism, patronage, influence peddling, graft, and fraud/embezzlement.

The types of corruption are 1) supply vs demand corruption. 2) grand vs petty corruption 3) conventional vs unconventional corruption 4) public vs private corruption. The effects of corruption on any organisation are -1) damages employee morale. 2) damages organisations reputation. 3) focus and resources are diverted from delivering core business and services.

Corruption includes a significant number of illegal and immoral activities from different arenas of governance and administration. Corruption is not only limited to the government and its agencies, also includes private businesses and organizations. Corruption severely hampers the growth and development of a nation as a whole. A corrupt system makes people lose trust in the government, resulting in an environment of fear and chaos. Corruption acting as poison spreading in the minds of wrong people of the society, community and country. It is concerned with the unnecessary and wrong use of both power and position by anyone whether in the government or non-government organization. It affects the nation as the government income is corned by a few individuals for their lavish lifestyles, which was originally meant through various welfare schemes for the general wellbeing, development of the citizens. Corruption is a big reason of social, economical and political inequalities in the society.

Corruption could be a costly gift or a sponsored Foreign tour or a flat in a Gated community and with the advent of Internet and digital transactions in India, corruption is carried out innovatively through online wallet transfer to the third party. Corruption has taken root in fields like education, sports, games, politics. Poor illiterate common people are the ultimate suffers, as money to be spent by the government for the general good is corned by a few unscrupulous individuals.

Corruption in India

Though, the ranking of India in Global Corruption Index 2022 at a global rank of 85 it's still far from becoming a corruption free nation. The Corruption Perceptions Index ranks countries and territories based on how corrupt their public sector is perceived to be. A country or territory's rank indicates its position relative to the other countries and territories in the index. corruption has grown in dimension and it seriously hampers the economical, social and infrastructural progress of the nation. Corruption in political and administrative system of the country, is curtailing its progress and it devoid the people of India of their basic rights of equality, freedom, right to equal opportunity and right to compulsory education and health among others. The corruption is rooted into several social, political and economical factors. – “Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

When the electorate decides and elects honest and trustworthy leaders, then the country would be on the path of Corruption Free Nation.

Corruption can be reduced both by the measures of the government and efforts of the citizens.

The Measures to Control Corruption in India by Government of India –

Transparency & Accountability –

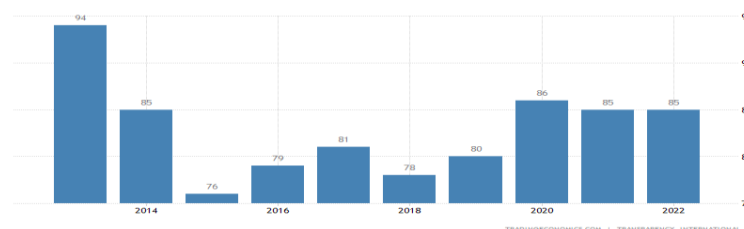
Corruption in any area could be effectively controlled by working on improving transparency and accountability. Transparency ensures that each and every functioning, decision and its outcome is known to the people, so that the fairness of the agreement could be judged. The responsibility of the outcome on an individual is ensured by transparency. Implementation of E-tendering in public procurements. Introduction of e-Governance and simplification of procedure and systems go on to reduce corruption to a certain extent.



This has been done by the government of India under RTI Act 2005 which gives the power of questioning to the common citizen of India. Using the RTI Act anyone could now question any department by simply submitting a RTI application. The RTI law mandates the appointment of a Public Information Officer (PIO) in all the central and state runs departments and ministries. The provision of responding to the queries is binding on the PIO, who has to do so in a stipulated time, failing which s/he would attract departmental action or a hefty fine. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) established in 1964 to look into the matters of governmental corruption. The CVC functions as an autonomous body, free from the influence of any executive authority. The Government has amended Prevention of Corruption Act 1988, to criminalize the party which pays bribe for undue advantages. . The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 official act or to influence public servants is liable to minimum punishment of six months and maximum punishment of five years and fine. Government Officials in India can be

penalized for corruption under the Indian Penal Code of 1860 and the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1988. The amendments have a provision to impose penalty on the organization of the person convicted for giving or taking bribery, if latter couldn't be traced or has deliberately left the country to escape law. Benami transactions are forbidden by the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act of 1988. Government Officials who engage in money laundering are subject to punishment under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act of 2002. Since 2005, India has been a signatory to the UN Convention against Corruption. The Convention addresses a wide variety of corrupt practices and from time to time suggests certain preventive measures. In India, there are laws in place enacted by the Central Government to tackle Corruption. To ensure proper implementation of these anti-corruption laws, the central government has also constituted commissions such as the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and others.

India is the 85 least corrupt nation out of 180 countries, according to the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International.



Initiatives of GOI to promote transparency and reduce corruption:
 1) Implementation of the Right to Information Act (RTI) b) Digitization of Government Services c) Introduction of Aadhaar Card d) Introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) e) Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Specific Initiatives -

1) JAM trinity – JAM Trinity- (Jan Dhan, Aadhar, and Mobile) is a tool used by the government to transfer welfare cash benefits directly to the bank account of the intended beneficiary citizens under various schemes of the Government in a transparent manner. JAM Trinity is the key enabler of India's transformed and well-developed digital landscape. 2) Digital initiatives. taken by the Government of India are as follows: National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) National Academic Depository- e-Vidwan, e-Yantra, Granthalaya, e-KALPA. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India launched the 'Digital India' programme with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge-based economy by ensuring digital access, digital inclusion, digital empowerment and bridging the digital divide. 3) New Anti-corruption initiatives to tackle corruption in India. 1) Right to Information Act. 2) Right to Public Services laws (legislation). 3) Anti-corruption laws in India. 4) Anti-corruption police and courts. 5) Civic anti-corruption organisations. 6) Electoral reforms.

Initiatives by CVC - PIDPI - Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers- Whistle Blower Complaints: Only complaints pertaining to employees of the Central

Government or of any corporation established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies or local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government fall under the jurisdiction of the by Central vigilance commission. In order to protect identity of the person, the Commission will not issue any acknowledgement and the whistle-blowers are advised not to enter into any further correspondence with the Commission in their own interest. The Commission assures that, subject to the facts of the case being verifiable; it will take the necessary action, as provided under the Government of India Resolution mentioned above.

A Country is measured by the Character of the Citizens. All great changes in the history of humankind, had happened when the collective thought of the citizens ensured a revolutionary change in any country's history. Talking of the Independence Struggle against British Rule, the success was due to all round effort, courage against great odds and vision for achieving Independence by the Indians from all walks of the Society. Corruption is indirectly proportional to level of trust, faith and honesty in the citizens of a country. Integrity, Sincerity towards the nation, would ensure an all round development of the Nation. Commitment by the people towards the nation against Corruption and Corrupt practices can only ensure a total transparent nation, where the general development of the Country is seen over and above the selfish development of a few individuals. Each Citizen should be oath bound to work for the development of the country, irrespective of Religion, Region or Caste, then only a Proud Bharat with all round development, corrupt free society and progressive nation can be ensured.

Conclusion -

Though corruption is an evil seen in India, it is also true that a large number of the common men and women of India are honest and have an evident dislike for corruption as it hampers growth and development. Integrity, transparency and fight against corruption as fundamental ethos should be taught in schools for early inculcation of moral values in children in the fight for elimination of corruption. There is a common impression that elimination of corruption is the job of Vigilance departments existing in organisations, investigating agencies like CBI, ED and Statutory bodies like CVC, but elimination of deep rooted corruption should be considered as the job of every citizen, then only it can be eliminated with strong political will and public commitment to build a corrupt free, developed nation.



Tricksters humbled

- Sudhakar
CVI/Stores

Four travellers once asked an old woman to keep a little bundle for them and told her to give it back only when all four were present.

One of them, however, returned alone and tricked an old woman into giving him the bundle. Later the other three came to collect the bundle. She explained she had given it to the man who had come earlier. They were very angry and took her to court.

Maryada Raman, the judge listened to their complaint. "So, you see, Sir, she has to pay us compensation now!" the three cried. "But she will give you the bundle itself," said Maryada Raman, and pausing a little, he added, "provided all four of you are present."

There was laughter in the court and the three men realised that they had lost the case.

Moral of the Story – Contract conditions are binding on the parties concerned and acts as a key for settlement of disputes in Arbitration/Legal proceedings.

Bribe is Blood Money

▪ **Z Rajini**
OS/Vig/SC

A bribe is money, favor, or other consideration given in exchange for one's influence against what is true, right, or just. It is clear that giving or receiving a bribe is evil.

God's Law, given to the people to forbade the taking of a bribe, "for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous". "You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous." The negative effects of taking a bribe are clearly outlined in these two passages. Bribery perverts justice. It is a blinding influence upon wisdom and discernment. It clouds the truth and perverts or twists the words of those who would be righteous in the sight of God.

The Law went even further in the case of a bribe involving the killing of an innocent person. A judge who takes a bribe to condemn to death an innocent person was as guilty as a paid assassin—he was to be "cursed". There were incidents where this law against bribery was broken, to disastrous effect. There was king named Ahab he wanted a Vineyard of a common man named Naboth so he conspires to kill Naboth he arranges for two men to give false witnesses against Naboth ,they were probably bribed; in both instances, an innocent man was killed. When high officials give and receive bribes, it causes evil in a society. "The king establishes the land by justice, but he who receives bribes overthrows it". Bribery is one characteristic of a corrupt society.

The most heinous example of a bribe in the Bible is the thirty pieces of silver that Judas received to betray the Lord Jesus. A direct result of Judas's treachery was that Jesus was arrested and crucified. Eventually, even Judas realized that his acceptance of a bribe was evil. But when he tried to return the money to the chief priests and elders, they refused it, calling it what it was— "blood money.

Those who receive the bribes care nothing for truth or justice.

Freedom of Mind

- **Shri Arnab Ghosal**
SSE/Drawing/PCE/OL/SC)

The freedom of our mind for refraining ourselves to take revenge.

The freedom of our mind from disrespect & devalue others.

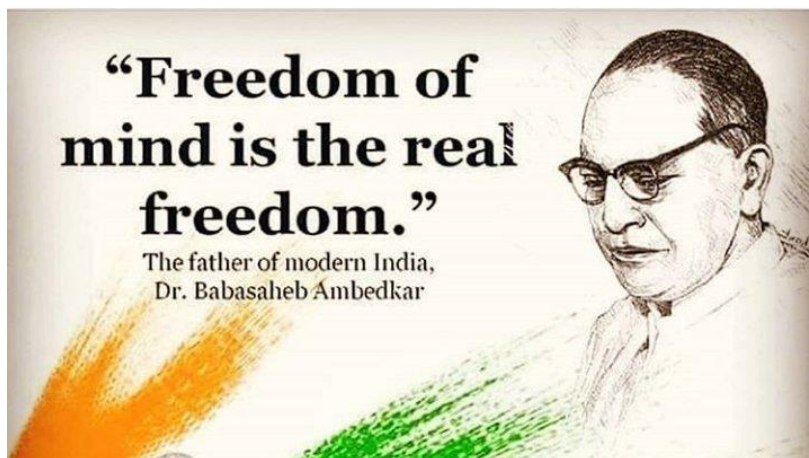
The freedom of our mind for cascading sympathy & empathy in society.

The freedom of our mind for enlightening the importance of responsibility & accountability.

The freedom of our mind for creating rainbow in others mind.

The freedom of our mind to comprehend the sanctity of every human life.

The ultimate freedom for decolonizing our mind from every darkness of corrupted thoughts & activities.



Case Studies & System Improvements

Accounts

Case Study – I

Internal Check Of Expenditure Bills

- A Preventive Check was conducted at one of the Contractor's Bill section on this Railway.
- As per Clause 10 of the Special Conditions of Contract, balance Security Deposit has to be recovered from the progressive bills @ 6% of the bill amount till it reaches 5% of the Contract Value i.e. Rs.1.49 Cr.
- An amount of Rs.1.12 Cr. was only recovered in CC-I to CC-VII Bills and the remaining amount of Rs.37 Lakhs was not recovered from CC-VIII to CC-X bills as per the contract condition.
- It was also observed that the Performance Guarantee (in the form of BG) was not extended, even though currency extended for contract.
- Concerned divisional authorities have recovered the amount on Vigilance advice.

Case Study - 2

Sanitization Of Party Masters In Ipas

- In Internal Check of Contractor/Supplier's Bills, it was observed that the Bank Account Number of the beneficiary forwarded by executive in IPAS was not verified with Bank Account Number furnished on the Bill/invoice
- Wrong Bank Account Number forwarded by the executive was simply carried forward and Payment was made to wrong Bank Account Number
- Internal Check at Accounts should be strengthened.
- More than one party master was created in the name of one agency with same Bank Account Number
- Sanitization of Party Masters is to be done to eliminate such multiple Party Masters.
- Selection of Beneficiary Account (by bill drawing office) should be on Bank Account Number furnished in the Bill/Invoice instead of only on Party Name.
- CRIS may be advised accordingly for improvement in IPAS modules.

Engineering

Case Study – 1

Inflated Measurements in Concrete Flooring Works

- A preventive check was conducted over the work of –Construction of RBG rooms, Platforms & circulating areas at various stations in a part of Gauge conversion works.
- During the vigilance check it was found that VDC flooring was done in circulating areas & PF surfaces. VDC on platforms is not required as per the class of stations in terms of RB Ltr Dt:22.09.2009, but the same was proposed in variation and executed at site. Concrete quantities were exponentially increased in variation.
- Expansion joints & reinforcement is not provided in VDC flooring on platforms, which has resulted into sinking of flooring & development of cracks in flooring. PF surfaces has developed cracks even before the section is opened to traffic.
- Concrete flooring & WBM measurements were found to be inflated. Excess quantities was recorded to a tune of Rs. 95 lakhs
- VDC flooring was executed without any approved/sanctioned drawing. No proper drainage arrangements.
- None of deficiencies were pointed out in joint inspection done by open line officials while handing over of section.
- Based on the Vigilance advice, Rs.95 lakhs has been recovered from agency.
- Vigilance case is registered on SSE/Works/Con. & XEN/Con.

Case Study - 2

Fictitious Payments in Zonal Contract

- A vigilance check was conducted based on a complaint forwarded by Railway board on buildings maintenance zonal works.
- During Vigilance investigation, it was established that mosquito mesh doors provided to staff quarters are not as per specifications.
- The quality of teak wood used for making of doors is of poor quality.
- CC flooring laid in court yards of staff quarters is of sub-standard (i.e 20mm thickness against 40mm).
- Roof leakage treatment works done to staff quarters are as not per specifications.
- BT roads laid at a station is poor quality & inflated measurements were recorded.
- Payments for brightening of staff quarters, brightening of boundary walls & laying of BT roads is done to agency without actual execution of work.
- Work orders for brightening of staff quarters are placed in next zonal work to cover up the payments made against fictitious measurements recorded in previous zonal works (within 4 months).
- More than 50% of the agreement value of zonal work is paid to agency for sub-standard works & fictitious measurements.
- Vigilance has advised to recover an amount of Rs. 54.49 lakhs from agency.
- Action taken: Major penalty chargesheets issued to SSE/Works (two staff) and Minor penalty charge sheets issued to ADEN & SSE/Drawings.

System improvement -1

Accountal of released Class-II track machine spares in UDM

- a) **Brief Description:** Lot of Class-II materials are being released in every POH. These materials are being issued to the concerned SSE/TM (of that particular machine) through manuscript. These materials are not being accounted in UDM.

On the advice of Vigilance, PCE has issued a System improvement for Accountal of released spares/materials during POH in UDM and the same will be transferred through UDM immediately to the concerned SSE/STMD or SSE/TM/In-charge of the division.

- b) **Background of the existing system:** It is noticed during preventive check it was observed that lot of Class-II materials are being released in every POH. These materials are being issued to the concerned SSE/TM through manuscript. These materials are not being accounted in UDM. Even though, some of the SSE/TMs have mentioned that the same are being accounted in field register being maintained for that machine, it was found that the practice is not being followed in some units.
- c) **How the Vigilance risk has been reduced as a result of system improvement:** Due to this system improvement the released class-II track machine spares/ materials will be accounted in UDM properly which will reduce fraudulent practices of misusing the machine spares.
- d) **Implementation:** System improvement suggested is accepted by PCE & implemented all over this Railway & other railway zones such as S. Rly, E.Co.Rly, S.W.Rly & KRCL (POH of track machines from other zones being done at RYP) vide PCE's No. 501/1/21/Vigilance Dt: 13.04.2023.
- e) **Impact and Benefits:** Prevents misuse / fraudulent usage of costly class-II spares of track machines released from POH.
- f) **Suggestion about other areas where the improvement can be utilized:** This can be replicated in all other Zonal railways where POH activities are being carried out.

System improvement - 2

Guidelines for deduction in COE (Contractors own earth) quantity for used cut spoils obtained from cuttings/foundations

- a) **Brief Description:** System improvement is issued by CAO on the advice of Vigilance, in form of instructions for implementation throughout construction organisation of this Railway.
- i. Dy.CEs shall ensure classification of the cut spoils from cuttings/foundations etc. for suitability towards reuse in embankment. A proper record shall be maintained.
 - ii. It shall be ensured that deductions are made for cut spoils in the same running bill of contract to avoid excess payments.
- b) **Background of the existing system:** It is noticed during preventive check that deductions of cut spoils from cutting & foundations, when used in embankment as COE/SQ2, are not being done, resulting in excess payment to the agencies. It was also noticed that certain quantity of excavated earth from cuttings & foundations is not being utilised in embankment fill on the pretext of unusable soil without the approval of competent authority.
- c) **How the Vigilance risk has been reduced as a result of system improvement:** Due to this system improvement wherever cut spoils of cuttings/foundations is used for formation of embankment, deductions are made for cut spoils in the same running bill of contract which avoids excess payments to agency.
- d) **Implementation:** System improvement suggested is accepted by CAO & implemented all over construction units this Railway vide CAO's No. W.Con.496/PL/C/T&C/XIX/COE & Cut Spoils Dt: 03.04.2023.
- e) **Impact and Benefits:** By deducting cut spoils in the running bill of contract which avoids excess payments to agency.
- f) **Suggestion about other areas where the improvement can be utilized:** This can be replicated in the work where earthwork is being executed.

System improvement - 3

Non-inclusion of lab tests in contract agreement

- a) **Brief Description:** System improvement is issued by CAO on the advice of Vigilance, regarding quality assurance tests, which are to be carried out by agency at their own cost which are part of main NS/USSR item. The following instructions are issued as system improvement.
- i. It shall be ensured that no separate items, either in the original schedule or in the variations for those tests, which are supposed to be carried out by the agency at their own cost as per contract conditions/IRUSS.
 - ii. It is to be seen that these items are not operated, even if included in the ongoing agreements.
 - iii. It shall be ensured that payments are deducted, if made for such tests, in all the ongoing agreements.
- b) **Background of the existing system:** Quality assurance tests for earthwork, blanketing etc has to be carried out agency at their own cost but as the part of main NS/USSR item. It was noticed during preventive check that items for quality assurance tests are being incorporated in the original schedule or variations of contracts.
- c) **How the Vigilance risk has been reduced as a result of system improvement:** Additional payments for quality assurance tests to agencies have been controlled.
- d) **Implementation:** System improvement suggested is accepted by CAO & implemented vide CAO's No. W.Con.496/PL/C/T&C/XIX/paid QA tests Dt: 03.04.2023
- e) **Impact and Benefits:** Quality assurance tests for contractor supplied materials will be done agency at their own costs, which could in-turn avoid undue/fictitious payments to contractors.
- g) **Suggestion about other areas where the improvement can be utilized:** This can be replicated in the work where earthwork, blanketing etc. is being executed.

System improvement – 4

System improvement for method of measurements for pitching

- a) **Brief Description:** Specifications of pitching has been modified by Railway Board on the advice of Vigilance, regarding non- uniform practice for measurements of pitching. Based on Vigilance advise the specification for pitching (measurements for payments) has been changed as following:
 - i. Volume of pitching, involving supply of stones, laying and filling of voids with spoils etc., shall be measured in Cubic meters without any deduction for voids.
- b) **Background of the existing system:** It is noticed during preventive check that that no stacking is being done before pitching in most of the field units even though as per specification it is mentioned as “*stones shall be stacked properly, measured and recorded in the MB before utilisation in pitching or any other protection works*”. Direct measurement of pitching in volume basis is being recorded in MB in maximum cases and in few cases fictitious stack measurements are being recorded in MB. Deduction towards voids is also not being made uniformly across various divisions / construction units, in spite of clear mention in the specifications.
- c) **How the Vigilance risk has been reduced as a result of system improvement:** Due to this system improvement by change of method of measurements, pitching measurements can be directly recorded without any stack measurements & there is no ambiguity regarding deduction of voids in pitching.
- d) **Implementation:** System improvement suggested is accepted by Railway board & implemented by changing specifications of pitching vide para no. 5.8.2 of IRUSS-2021.
- e) **Impact and Benefits:** As suggested by zonal vigilance, the system improvement was incorporated in USSR, which helps field executives in recording measurements for the pitching item avoiding ambiguity.

System improvement – 5

Penalty for Non - establishment of Site Laboratory by Agency

- a) **Background:** As per the special conditions of works contracts being followed uniformly in SCR, site laboratory has to be provided by the agency to facilitate testing of materials at site. During vigilance checks it has been noticed that, full-fledged site labs are not being set up in some worksites. At present there is no penalty clause, for non-establishment of site lab. As a result, required QC tests on materials & on CC cubes are being done at outside laboratories. It is difficult to Dept. Engineers to witness testing at outside laboratories.
- b) **Brief description:** CAO/SC office has issued system improvement on advice of Vigilance in the form of a special condition to be incorporated in all works contracts (Non-EPC tenders) on establishment of Site Laboratory by contractor. The condition has been implemented across all civil Engineering construction units of SCR with effect from January 2023. The summary of System improvement is as under:
- The Agency should set up site laboratory within 45 days from the date of issue of letter of acceptance (LOA). If agency does not setup site laboratory, the following penalty should be imposed.

Catg	Value of work	Penalty per month in
a	Works costing upto Rs. 2.0Cr	No penalty
b	Works costing > Rs.2.0Cr & upto Rs.5.0Cr.	Rs.25, 000
c	Works costing above Rs. 5.0Cr	Rs.50,000

- c) **How the vigilance risk has been reduced as a result of system improvement:** With the establishment of site labs, Dept Engineers can witness the tests & chances of accepting poor quality works based on fake test certificates by Private labs is avoided. The penalty clause encourages establishment of site lab.
- d) **Implementation:** System improvement suggested by vigilance is accepted by CAO & implemented vide letter No.W.Con.496/PL/C/T&C/XIX/Vol.IX dated 12.01.2023.
- e) **Impacts & Benefits:** As a result of guidelines, quality tests on materials & on field tests can be done at site labs and it helps in monitoring the quality of works by field executives during their inspections.
- f) **Suggestion about other areas where the improvement can be utilized:** This can be replicated in other open line works also.

Dos and Don'ts

Dos

- Do ensure prior sanction of estimate, approval of plans, availability of site etc.
- Check for duplicacy/un-realistic assessment of work in estimates and tender schedules.
- Do propose calling for fresh tenders if items are to be revised or their value is to be enhanced.
- Incorporate list of approved brands /makes of items in tender document.
Brands not in the approved list (other reputed brands/makes having better aesthetic & life) with approval of Sr.DEN/Co/ Project in-charge.
(Ref: PCE office Lr. SCR(HQ)ENGG/SOR/1/2020 Dt: 24.05.22.)
- Incorporate penalty clause in tender documents for not setting up site lab by agency wherever required.
(Ref: PCE office Lr. W.496/Policy/Vol. IX Dt: 28.12.21)
- Ensure provision of setting up of site lab as per contract conditions(For works costing above 2 Crs and upto 5 Crs, above 5 Crs). Penalty clause to be included in the tender document for not setting up within 45 days from LOA.
(Ref: PCE Lr. W.496/Policy/Vol.IX Dt:28.12.21)
- Ensure approved eligibility criteria from the competent authority while calling tenders. Special conditions restrictive in nature should be avoided.
- Ensure availability of complete contract agreement along with approved plans before actual start of work. Ensure supply of all drawings to the agency.
- Ensure execution of work on the basis of approved plans by competent authority.
- To ensure uniformity in execution of the works of platform walls/flooring, follow standard drawings issued by S.C. Rly/RDSO. Divisions should ensure for the works executed by RVNL & RITES.
(Ref:PCE Lr. W.351/Platforms/system improvement Dt:06.01.22).
- Uniform procedure is to be followed on CONCRETE DESIGN MIX. Special tender conditions along with proforma is to be included in the tender document.
(Ref: PCE office Lr. W.416/Unifies/SS/SSR/Vol.IV Dt:23.03.22.)
- Increase in cement quantity more than require may have adverse effect on durability of concrete and also will increase cost of work. Efforts should be made to use minimum amount of cement (Kg/Cum) at the time of approval of design mix for different grades of concrete as per guide lines. If cement quantity is more than the average cement content needs approval of design mix by ADRM/Infra / CE/Con.
(Ref: PCE office vide Lr.W.496/unified/SS/SSR/Vol.IV Dt:09.02.22.)

- Ensure issuance of work order by competent authority before start of work (zonal works).
- Ensure availability of sufficient details about locations where the work is to be carried out in individual work orders (zonal works).
- Ensure maintenance of standard measurement book as per para no. 227 of IRWM for detailed measurements of repetitive works like white washing etc.
- Track related safety works : Ensure all those track works which are covered under relevant USSOR/NS items should not be executed under manpower item of USSOR. Yardsticks on the expected minimum output for contractors' workers to execute under manpower item to be included in the tender document.

(Ref: PCE office Lr.W.NG.9.3.GS./GL/Vol.IV(Pilot) Dt:18.08.2022).

- Ensure joint foot by foot survey with SSE/PW or SSE/W and ISA/Stock verifier before dismantling of assets such as Track and steel water tank etc. for proper accountal & classification of material from released scrap.
- Issue materials to Contractor if any, in commensurate with the progress of work and keep proper accountal of material.
- Ensuring good quality of work is prime responsibility of engineer-in-charge in conformity with IS codes/contract conditions/field/laboratory tests.

List of registers to be maintained- 18 registers (buildings & bridges), exclusively for bridge works (9 registers).

Registers to be signed by both parties- Submitted during passing of bills.

(Ref: PCE office Lr.W.55/I/1/Vol. X Dt:26.05.2022)

- Ensure proper passing of material after testing etc. before use at site as per BIS/RDSO codes/Contract conditions. Ensure for Manufacturer Test Certificates. Check embossing of correct IS code on supply. Ensure to collect invoices of structural steel in bridges including RUBs/ROBs etc.
- Ensure recording of initial ground levels jointly with dates with the contractor before commencement of Earth work on machine numbered level books.
- Ensure deputation of qualified engineer at site by the agency as per contract conditions.
- Ensure up to date calibration of all testing machines/measuring equipment's through authorized agency.
- Ensure recording of measurements by authorized, competent officials only who has supervised the work.
- Ensure shrinkage/void deductions in earth work / boulders supply / loading contracts, etc if any as per specifications.
- Ensure deduction of usable cut spoils obtained from Cuttings & bridge foundations from relevant items if used in embankment.

Dy.CEs shall ensure classification of the cut spoils from cuttings/ foundations etc. for suitability towards reuse in embankment & a proper record shall be maintained.

(ref: CAO Lr No. W.496./PL/C/T&C/XIX/ COE & Cut Spoils Dt: 03.04.23)

- Ensure recovery of cost of material supplied by Railways, hire charges for tools & plants, etc. from the contractors running bills immediately after their use.
- Do check the stages of payment stipulated in the special conditions of contract.
- Carryout meaning full and adequate test check of measurements- hidden items, Item/location and date of test check.

Prescribed test checks to be carried out by DENs/Sr.DENs/Dy.CEs(con)

(Ref: PCE office Lr.W.55/I/1/test check Dt: 20.03.2018.)

- Do initiate & ensure prior sanction of competent authority before executing for quantities beyond 125% in each item.

Variation of quantities excess to agreement quantities in 'exceptional and unavoidable' circumstances should be brought on record before processing for variation.

- Ensure prior administrative approval of competent authority and sanction of addendum/corrigendum before executing additional quantities in each item so that the contracts are not vitiated.

Don'ts

- Don't include stores portions in works tender unnecessarily.
- Don't complicate/ambiguity with alternate items in schedule.
- Don't include unwanted items to boost up cash value in estimates.
- Don't allow execution on partly left over work by another agency before taking measurements of earlier contract and getting them accepted both by the old and new contractors.
- Don't permit use of substandard material. Ensure that materials used should be in conformity with specifications.
- Don't permit use of material without testing & passing by competent authority.
- Don't allow two or more agencies to do similar works at one site. Departmental works and works being executed through contracts should not be allowed to mix up.
- Don't allow the contractor to first execute only those items considered more profitable by him at his discretion.
- Don't pay long leads without physical verification and prepare a lead diagram for this purpose.
- Don't accept the materials or brands/make, which are not stipulated in the Contract.

- Don't operate non-schedule items when it is possible to do work as per scheduled items or a combination thereof.

Don't operate non-schedule items without sanction of the competent authority.

(Ref: PCE office Lr.W.416/Unified/SS/SSR/Vol.IV Dt: 17.01.2022.)

- Don't make payment of a "finished item of work" on mere arrival of the material at site unless it is fixed in position as per description of the item of work.
- Don't make separate payments for lab tests, where site labs were established by agency & tests are done at their own cost.

(ref: CAO Lr No. W.496./PL/C/T&C/XIX/ paid QA tests Dt: 03.04.23)

- Don't delay recoveries on account of use of departmental machinery by contractors to be accumulated up to the final bill.

Electrical

Case study - 1

IRREGULARITIES OBSERVED IN THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT

Back ground: Railways has awarded a contract for outsourcing the maintenance of 25kv OHE and PSI activities, including sidings, for a period of 24 months. The concerned SSE is responsible for monitoring the execution of work being executed by Agency and recording the actual measurements taken at site.

Details of the Preventive Check: A Preventive Vigilance inspection was carried out at a TRD unit in one of the divisions. Following this, an extensive examination of the corresponding Tender records and the Measurement Book (MB) was conducted at the divisional office.

1. SSE recorded a schedule item "supply and operation of a temporary depot" in the Daily Progress Report (DPR) and the Measurement Book (MB). However, when SSE was asked, he couldn't show the depot as required by the contract terms. Surprisingly, even though there was no physical depot set up at the site, the contract agency still claimed payment for the schedule item.
2. According to the contract terms, the scheduled item "checking and Maintenance of Turnout in OHE" involves the maintenance of Turnout in addition to checking all types of Jumpers. However, the SSE, in violation of the contract conditions, recorded measurements for the Jumper activity, which is a separate schedule item, alongside the Turnout activity. This has resulted in an overpayment to the agency.
3. Likewise, in adherence to the contract terms, the maintenance activities for both Cross Over and Overlaps should encompass the maintenance of cross overs and overlaps, including the checking of all types of Jumpers. However, the SSE deviated from these conditions by recording measurements for the Jumper activity, which is listed separately in the schedule. This inclusion of measurements for the Jumper activity, alongside the respective maintenance activities, resulted in an inflated measurement, leading to an excessive payment to the Agency.
4. In accordance with the contract terms, the scheduled task "checking and Maintenance of Anticreep arrangement" should involve the maintenance of anticreep wire, anticreep center, and anticreep anchors, along with their respective terminal fittings on both ends. However, the SSE recorded three sets for each anticreep arrangement instead of the single set, resulting in inflated measurements.

5. A quantity of 6 nos. was recorded for the schedule item "checking and maintenance of Cross Overs," even though this particular item was not carried out at the site.

Action taken:

- a) Following advice from the vigilance department, an amount of Rs. 16 lakhs has been successfully recovered from the contracted agency.
 - b) Concerned SSE has been taken up under DAR with Major Penalty Charge sheet for recording inflated measurements.
6. The maintenance of TRD assets in sidings are part of this contract, and maintenance charges are collected from the siding authorities in accordance with the siding agreement. However, there are a few sidings that have not yet remitted the maintenance charges to the Railways as required.

Action taken:

- 1. On vigilance advice, an amount of **Rs.11Lakhs** has been collected from siding authorities.
- 2. An amount of **Rs.26Lakhs** is to be collected for the period from 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023.

Case Study - 2

Irregularities in Energy meters provided to vendors/firms

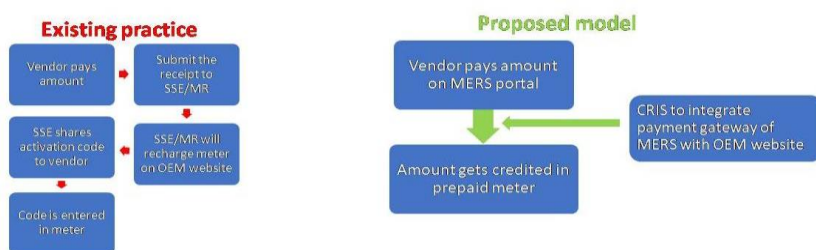
During a PC conducted in a division on energy meters provided to firms, the following are the observations

- It is observed that soft copies of the Money Receipts (i.e., through whatsapp instead of original MR) are being accepted and recharge of the prepaid meters is done.
- The prepaid meters were recharged at a higher amount than the amount paid in the UTS counter.
- The same Money Receipt was used to recharge prepaid meters of other vendors/firms
- Without any valid Money Receipt, recharge of prepaid meters is being done.

➤ Amount paid in Money Receipts under different allocation was used for recharge of prepaid meters.

Action taken:

- ✓ On advice of vigilance, detailed investigation was done by the executive and recovered Rs.73,000/- from various vendors.
- ✓ Concerned Technician was taken up under DAR and issued with a Major penalty. And SSE/MR was issued with a Minor penalty.
- ✓ A System improvement is suggested by vigilance for developing integrated web portal for payment and recharge of energy meters, in co ordination with CRIS.



Action taken by executive:

- ✓ 3 step verification of submission of bills for prepaid meters was implemented in which SSE In charge, SSE/MR and Ch.Os will cross check recharge process.
- ✓ To ensure foolproof mechanism, every fortnight one officer of GS will certify duly conducting random check.

System Improvement - 1

Earthing arrangement in TRD installation

- 1) Earth electrode of 4.0m length should be used at all Power System Installations such as TSS, SSP, SP and AT duly following RDSO Tech. Spec. (TI/SPC/PSI/ERTHNG/0210, dt. 25.08.21) or latest.
- 2) Earth electrode of 3.1m length should be used at all OHE installations such as COP/ FOB/ PTFE/Steel Girder/single line track circuit area/Isolators duly following RDSO drawing ETI/OHE/P/7020 (Mod-B) and specification no. ETI/OHE/71 (11/90) - Rev-1 or latest.
- 3) Modified Explanatory notes for the schedule item Nos 17(a), 17(b) & 17(f) shall be incorporated in all Tr.D works - tender as suggested below :-
 - i. **ITEM No. 17(a):** Supply and erection of single earth electrode at COP/FOB/PTFE/Steel Girder etc. The price shall cover supply and erection of an earth electrode assembly as per RDSO Drawing No. ETI/OHE/P/7020 (Mod-B) or latest, without charcoal & salt, for COP/FOB/CLS/ PTFE/Steel Girder/ Single line track circuit area/earthing for Isolators/ buried rail etc. The price also includes 3.1m long mild steel galvanized single perforated pipe of not less than 40mm nominal bore and 48.4mm dia., embedded into the ground by driving or otherwise complete with fasteners, protective concrete box with lids and lugs suitable for directly connecting mild steel flats of size 40 mm x6mm / 50 mm x 6 mm as per RDSO specification No. ETI/OHE/71 (11/90)-REV 1 or latest. Stencilling of earth values shall be done as per SCR Guidelines. Price of MS flat will be paid separately under relevant item. Price of charcoal & salt is payable under item no.17(b).
 - ii. **ITEM No. 17(b):** Supply and filling of charcoal & salt for earthing arrangement. no price shall be payable as extra on item 17 (a) for supply and filling with charcoal and salt where an earth electrode is embedded by driving or otherwise. Salt and river Sand to be mixed on the surface as one laver. Alternate layers of charcoal & salt shall be Provided 200 mm around the earth pipe for embedded portion and each layer shall be 30 cm.
 - iii. **ITEM No. 17(f):** Supply and erection of single earth electrode at TSS/SSP/SP/AT. The price shall cover supply and erection of an earth electrode assembly as per RDSO Drawing No. ETI/PSI/222-1 or latest, with charcoal & salt, all accessories & fasteners for 40 m length earth electrode at TSS/SSP/SP/AT's. The price also includes 4.0 m long mild steel galvanised single perforated pipe of not less than 40mm nominal bore and 48.4mm dia., embedded into the ground by driving or otherwise complete with protective concrete box with lids and lugs suitable for directly connecting two mild steel flats of size 50 mm x 6 mm / 75mm x8 mm as per RDSO specification no. TI/SPC/PSI/ERTHNG/0210. Stencilling of earth values shall be done as per SCR Guidelines. Salt and river sand to be mixed on the surface as one layer. Alternate layers of charcoal & salt shall be provided 150 mm around the earth pipe for embedded potion and each layer shall be 30 cm. Price of MS flat will be paid separately under relevant item.

System Improvement - 2

GeM procurement against Non-stock/Stock demands

CRIS has recently added disclaimer that the description in iMMS regularizing POs in all cases should only mention the words “Description as per GeM PO No.”, instead of copying description from the indent.

- i. All consignees on iMMS should be provided consignee user IDs on GeM and should map each GeM user account with consignee powers to a valid consignee code on iMMS, and vice versa. This mapping should be maintained at all times in future, particularly in the event of transfers. However, the consignee code of iMMS may be included at the beginning of the designation field of corresponding GeM user account for easy reference.
- ii. The staff processing the indent / bills in the executive office and the staff processing tender or bid / generating the PO in stores department should not be same.
- iii. Digital signatures used on iMMS are a means of non-refutable authentication. Hence, officers should be made accountable for any wrongful use of their digital signatures. Stores Officers and Executive dept., officers should ensure the correctness of the documents before digitally signing the same.
- iv. Consignee/receiving official should ensure the conformance of received material with GeM contract order. Controlling officer should conduct the checks as per existing guidelines.
- v. A consignee may take the help of any other unit / official that is technically competent to carry out the acceptance tests, if required. In such cases, such other unit / official shall be responsible for checking the suitability of materials as per the GeM contract order.

System Improvement – 3

Technical Evaluation of Tenders

In one Direct Acceptance tender case on procurement of PG Clamps with fasteners against a Non-Stock indent, firm offered Technical Deviation (without fasteners) in the offer against the RDSO drawing specified in the indent. In spite of the Technical Deviation submitted by the firm, acceptance was recorded by concerned Purchase Officer as per tender description and Purchase Order was issued in favour of the same firm, without confirming Technical suitability from the concerned executive department towards suitability of the Technical Deviation. This ultimately lead to non-supply of material by firm and cancellation of PO.

In order to avoid such lapses, following system improvement is issued:

- 1) All Purchase Officers should send cases for technical scrutiny, where deviations to specification have been indicated by the bidder.
- 2) All Purchase Officers will get the description, specification and drawings checked within the shortest possible time by the technical department before issue of tenders, wherever considered necessary.

Mechanical

System Improvement

Irregularities in recording the fuel consumption and reporting the actual consumption of HSD oil in diesel loco sheds

Observations:

- ❖ During Vigilance investigation, variations were observed in certified Shed consumption and actual consumption :

Shed	Certified Shed consumption Ltrs	Actual Shed consumption Ltrs	Excess consumption in Ltrs	Excess Shed consumption %
X	39675	74075	34400	87%
Y	42650	76500	33850	79.3
Z	79205	97250	18045	22.7%

- ❖ During Loco tank repairs it was observed that, no laid down system for accountal of de-fuelled HSD oil is available.
- ❖ Some sheds are considering de-fuelled HSD oil as receipts into RCDs where as some sheds are not maintaining proper records.
- ❖ The flow meter totalizer reading is not being recorded on every shift for maintaining book balance and cross checked with the ground balance as measured by dip.

Irregularities:

- ❖ The shed consumption is calculated based on number of schedules attended and average consumption specified by RB, without considering actual consumption.
- ❖ No efforts were made to reduce the Shed Consumption at par with RB instructions.
- ❖ Some sheds are considering de-fuelled HSD oil as receipts into RCDs where as some sheds are not maintaining proper records.

- ❖ No uniformity amongst various Sheds for accountal of defueled HSD oil from Locos during tank repairs.
- ❖ Flowmeter readings are either not being recorded or if readings are recorded, then same are not being utilised in cross-verifying with ground balance as measured by dip in line with provisions of JPO/2010 for RCDs.

Keeping in view of the Vigilance observations and irregularities noticed System Improvement was issued by PCEE/SCR vide Lr Dt. 17.11.2022

- ❖ Standard Register in prescribed format to be maintained in Shed Control Room with details of fuel balance/addition in the incoming/outgoing Locos.
- ❖ Shed consumption to be worked out based on the actual consumption of HSD oil as per the data in prescribed format.
- ❖ Excess shed consumption over and above RB targets to be analysed in detail and corrective action to be taken by sheds.
- ❖ Quantity of De-fuelled HSD oil from the Locomotives during loco tank repairs should be decanted into storage tanks and accounted in RCD records as fuel receipts. It should be ensured that defueled oil is not contaminated.
- ❖ Suitable remarks to be made in shed-in/shed-out register against de-fuelled locos.
- ❖ Shift wise recording of flow meter totalizer reading should be cross-verified with ground balance by RCD in-charge.
- ❖ In case of variation between flow meter totalizer reading, total issues as per F-12 vouchers and ground balance, RCD in-charge should analyse and corrective action should be taken.

Format:

Annexure-A

Locomotive Shed-in and Shed-out Dairy														
Date:		Control room shift in-charge Name:												
Shed-in details					Shed-out details					Shed consumption Analysis				
Loco No	Shed-in time	Fuel oil balance while shed-in	I/C LP Name & signature	Control room shift in-charge sign	Shed-out date	Shed out Time	Type of Schedule attended	Fuel oil balance while leaving shed	O/G LP Name & sign	Control room shift in-charge sign	Fuel added in Shed	Shed consumption	Remarks if any	Control room in-charge sign
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M=C+L-I	M	N

Signature of the Control Room overall in-charge

Annexure-B

Shift wise statement of RCD in-charge																	
RCD:		Shift:		Date:		Shift in-charge:				Fuel issuer Name							
Flow meter cumulative reading			HSD-10 record		Quantity as per Dip readings						Variation of issues between			Reasons and course of action taken for any variation	Shift in-charge signature (HOC of this shift)	Shift in-charge signature (TOC of the next shift)	
Initial* (TOC)	Final* (HOC)	Total issues	Total issues (F-12 Voucher)	No of Locos	Tank-1		Tank-2		Receipts	Total issues	HSD-10 and Flow meter	Dip readings and HSD-10	Dip readings and Flow meter				
A	B	C=B-A	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K=(H+F)-(I+G)+J	L=D-C	M=K-D	N=K-C	O	P	Q	

* Initial (TOC) – Final Flow meter reading of previous Shift. # Final (HOC) – Final Flow meter reading of this shift.

Signature of the RCD in-charge

Medical

Case study

Irregularities In Initial Medical Examination

- During a Check on the aspect of IME/PME in one of the divisions of this Railway, it is observed that an ALP has been medically de-categorised in less than 5 years of service.
- As per Para 523 (i) (a) of IRMM 2000, the standards at re-examination would apply **only** for employees with **not less than Six years of service**.
- The candidate was declared Passed in Colour vision test by the Initial Medical examiner who happens to be an Ophthalmologist himself.
- In PME, Divisional Hospital has recorded the finding of colour vision as **failed** in both tests i.e. Ishihara and EGL and referred to Central Hospital, who further referred the ALP to Apollo Hospital.
- Apollo Hospitals had also concluded that it is a case of both eyes congenital colour vision defect.
- Medical Board in their findings concluded that there is no evidence suggestive of acquired colour vision deficiency.
- PCMD/SCR agreed with the Medical Board's findings and concluded that the Initial Medical Examiner had not done the examination in proper and methodical manner.
- Thus, the Initial Medical Examiner declared an ineligible candidate fit for employment and extended undue benefit to him in securing a Rly job.
- Medical de-categorisation of the said employee and posting him to a non-safety category post involves 30% fitment benefit and financial implication on the Railways to the extent of Rs.30 lakhs (approx.).
- A system improvement has also been issued.

System Improvement on De-categorisation

- Preventive Checks were conducted on IME/PME across the zone and it was detected that in many cases, employees are being de-categorized with less than 6 years of service in contravention to provisions of IRMM-2000.
- The following system improvement was issued to PCMD which was approved and implemented -

- All such cases shall be treated as cases of “Special Medical Examination” under provisions of Para 556 of IRMM, 2000 i.e. with the specific approval of PCMD who will nominate the Medical Board.
- All such cases should be examined under admission to Railway Hospital duly monitoring various health parameters, if required, to ensure genuineness.
- If the Medical Board findings indicate that the medical condition is of congenital in nature, PCMD would examine as to why it could not be detected at the stage of Initial Medical Examination itself? And in case of failure, responsibility to be fixed.
- The Medical Board findings should invariably indicate –
 - Whether the disease is progressive/non-progressive
 - Whether malingering is ruled out etc.

Personnel

Case Study - 1

Irregularities In Implementation Of Penalties

It was noticed in a preventive check that in a promotion order names of 18 employees were available whereas, in the office order Pay fixation was done in favour of 17 employees only.

The left over employee is Mr.Y – ALP who was removed from service. On Appeal penalty was modified and reduced to the post of Tech-III at the minimum of the pay for a period of 5 years recurring.

On completion of the penalty he was not repatriated back to the post of ALP. Further it was noticed that, other three more penalties of withholding increments were also imposed on Mr. Y which were not implemented instead increments were allowed.

Mr. Y was considered and promoted for the post of Technician-II and after found mistake his name was deleted from the office order by way of a corrigendum & He was directed for medical examination in order to repatriate him to the post of ALP after gap of three years of completion of penalty. Later Employee was repatriated after gap of another 3 months on completion of medical fitness.

Another irregularity noticed in the same promotion order wherein one Mr. Z was considered for promotion while he was undergoing penalty of withholding of increment for a period of 02 years. In spite of having punishment entry in service record and in the DAR clearance it was clearly mentioned about undergoing penalty. Both records were ignored and memorandum was issued.

After vigilance intervention corrective measures were taken by division concern in favour of Mr. Z

Irregularities :-

Staff failed to cross check the DAR clearance & Service record.

Staff failed to repatriate the employee to his former post of ALP on completion of the penalty.

Staff of Running Cadre failed to issue an office order for 3 months even after employee found fit on re-medical examination.

Bill Clerk failed to implement - withholding of increments.

Action taken:

DAR action was initiated against the responsible Cadre and Bill Clerks due to above irregularities.

Advised to recover overpayment from employee concern.

Case Study - 2

Un-Authorized Occupation Of Railway Quarters

Observations:

It was noticed in a preventive check that one SSE was in occupation of a railway quarter at a particular station and he has not informed his controlling authority as well as to the bill drawing officer about such occupation, which resulted in continuous drawl of HRA by him. It is found that recovery of rent, electricity charges & water charges for the period he stayed in the railway quarter was also not done.

On inquiry it was revealed that SSE/Works & JEE/Maintenance of concerned station were unaware about the above mentioned occupation, drawl of HRA, non-recovery of rent, electricity charges & water charges etc., for a long period.

The said employee was transferred to new station after certain period and retained the same quarter but without obtaining permission from the administration. Such irregular retention is to be treated as un-authorized occupation and concern SSE/JE also failed to notice.

Action Taken:

Employee was taken up under DAR for his malafide intention being a supervisor suppressed the facts and in addition recovery to the tune of Rs.7,95,538/- towards Penal rent for un-authorized occupation and other recoveries like rent, electrical, water charges etc were effected.

The SSE/Works & JEE/Maintenance of concerned stations were also taken up under DAR rules for their negligence.

A System improvement suggested by vigilance, was issued by PCPO/SC vide letter No.P[R]554/VIII, dated.13.07.2023 to all Divisions/Workshops/Units in order to avoid re-occurrence of such cases.

PCPO Letter attached in next page



दक्षिण मध्य रेलवे / South Central Railway

प्रधान कार्यालय/Headquarters Office,
कार्मिक शाखा/Personnel Branch,
सिकंदराबाद/Secunderabad.

No.P[R] 554/VIII

दिनांक/Date : 13.07.2023

Sr.DPOs/SC, HYB, NED, GNT, GTL & BZA
WPOs/GTPL, LGDS & TPTY
Extra Divisional Officers

Sub: Allotment of Railway Quarters – System Improvement thereof.

In terms of Para 1702 of Indian Railway Establishment Manual, Vol.II, liability to pay rent rests with the railway employee in whose favour railway quarters has been allotted. During the preventive check conducted in one of the Divisions of the Zonal Railway by the Vigilance department revealed that one employee was in occupation of railway quarters at a particular station and he has not conveyed this information either to the Controlling Officer or to the Bill drawing Officer, resulted into drawal of HRA and non-recovery of Rent, Water and Electrical charges from the employee.

In order to avoid to re-occurrence of such cases, it is advised to follow a proper/foolproof system duly taking note of the following observations:

- (1) Once a Railway quarter is occupied or vacated by an employee, copy of the occupation/vacation memo should be marked to the concerned Supervisor in-charge. Occupation & vacation particulars along with copies of memos (rent roll) to be sent to Sr.DPO/WPO's office (Bill Drawing Officer) as the case may be, every month by SSE/Works [Quarters in-charge] without fail under clear acknowledgement.
- (2) Similarly, after receipt of the copy of occupation memo, the concerned Supervisor or Time Keeper of the Unit to ensure recovery of rent, water & electricity charges from the employee in consultation with concerned staff of Personnel department.
- (3) The office of Sr.DEE/Maintenance after generating the electricity bill of each unit, a copy to be sent to the concerned SSE/JE/Maintenance to cross check with meter reading & ensure the recovery of electrical charges.
- (4) At the time of relieving the employees from one station to another on transfer, the concerned Supervisor (in-charge) has to endorse a copy of relieving letter to SSE/Works of the concerned station under clear acknowledgement to avoid unauthorised occupation of railway quarters. SSE/Works should ensure vacation of quarter by the employee in time on transfer or after completion of the permissible time period, if any.
- (5) DEN/ADEN concerned should conduct random checks of the railway quarters under their jurisdiction to prevent unauthorised occupation, if any.

Please acknowledge receipt.


(K. Yettaiah) 13/7/2023
SPO/HQ

for Principal Chief Personnel Officer

Copy to Secy. to PCPO/HQ for information and necessary action.

Case Study - 3

Receiving of Family Pension fraudently

Observations:

Consequent upon demise of Railway employee (Lady employee) in 2002, her husband use to draw family pension regularly through bank by submitting Life certificate to the Bank authorities duly declaring as unemployed, unmarried.

An investigation was conducted by the Vigilance and found that he is a Municipal Councillor and also got re-married after the demise of his 1st wife (date not known) and had two sons whose D.O.B.s are 10.12.2010 & 22.01.2012.

In terms of Railway Services (Pension)-Rules 1993, family pension is payable to the widow or widower up to the date of death or re-marriage, whichever is earlier.

During the investigation, nomination papers/affidavit submitted by him while contesting in the elections were obtained from Government authorities, wherein he has declared that he has two sons and their date of births as 10.12.2010 and 22.01.2012. Since the date of births of the two children are after the demise of the first wife (26.07.2002) and having a gap of 8 years and 10 years, it was clear evident that he got re-married after the death of his first wife.

Action Taken:

Advised concern authorities to stop the family pension which was adhered. Avoided future loss to the Railways.

S&T

Case study

AMC related issues

During PC Conducted on AMCs of Electronic Interlocking signalling systems and Data loggers at various units, following observations are made:

1. Spares were not maintained as per the contract conditions. And penalty clause not mentioned for not maintaining the spares.
2. Only one qualified technical person deployed for attending regular preventive maintenance visits against deputing 02 qualified technical persons on regular basis. Penalty clause not mentioned for not deputing the qualified technical persons.
3. Periodicity of the preventive maintenance between successive AMC visits is not maintained as per the contract conditions.
4. Failures entered in the log book and attended beyond the stipulated time, but penalties not imposed in the on-account bills.
5. Penalty not mentioned in the contract conditions for delayed/missing AMC visits.
6. Performa of detailed check list covering various technical parameters to be checked on equipment during AMC visits not given in the contract conditions.

Action taken:

- 1) Advised Executives to impose penalties as per the contract conditions.
- 2) Requested PCSTE/SC to issue suitable instructions regarding incorporation of standard penalty clause/quantum of penalty as mentioned below in AMC/ARC works to have uniformity across all the Divisions.
 - a) Penalty for delay in attending failures within time limit – (a) Minor & (b) Major
 - b) Penalty for non-maintenance of spares. The location for supply of spares also to be mentioned.
 - c) Penalty for missing/delayed AMC visits.
 - d) Penalty for non-deployment of requisite Service Engineers.

System Improvement

Unambiguous description of items in the Schedule of Works

Based on certain irregularities observed in a tender document with regard to ambiguity in language of the description of items in the Schedule of Works, following system improvement is advised for strict compliance:

1.(a) As per Para 1.01 of Part-1 of the GCC 2022, the following order of precedence of documents essential for S&T works tenders have been defined:-

- (i) Letter of Award (LoA).
- (ii) Bill(s) of quantities*.
- (iii) Special Conditions of Contract.
- (iv) Technical Specification as given in tender documents.
- (v) Drawings.
- (vi) Indian Railway's Standard General Conditions of Contract updated with Correction Slips issued up to date of inviting tender or as otherwise specified in the tender documents.
- (vii) IRS specifications/Guidelines updated, with Correction Slips issued up to date of inviting tender or as otherwise specified in the tender documents.
- (viii) Relevant BIS code, updated with Correction Slips issued up to date of inviting tender or as otherwise specified in the tender documents.

As per Para-1(1)(s) of Part II Standard General Conditions of Contract, "Bill of Quantities**" shall mean **Schedule of Item(s)** included in the tender document along with respective quantities and rates accepted by the Railway.*

1(b) In view of above, it is very important that the description of items in the Schedule of Works of the tender document is unambiguous and without any contradictions with respect to the documents mentioned above, as any contradictory notes or explanation in the description of item supersedes the Special Conditions of Contract and Technical Specification etc. and defeat the very purpose of Special Conditions of Contract and Technical Specification.

1(c) All tender inviting authorities are advised to keep the above order of precedence in mind and ensure the description of items in the Schedule of Work in unambiguous terms without contradicting the special conditions of contract and technical specification.

2. Additionally, All tender inviting authorities are also advised to ensure that the detailed technical specifications of the items in tender are generic in nature, so as to provide equitable opportunities to prospective bidders in open tenders.

Stores

System Improvement - 1

Sample approval Clause in Stores Procurement

During Vigilance investigation it was noticed that Non-Stock demand was not properly scrutinized before initiating procurement action and incorporated tender sample clause (as per the request of the consignees) which is not as per policy directions on tender sample clause circulated by CVC vide Ref Letter No. 2EE-1-CTE-3 dtd. 15/10/2003. Which has resulted in placement of contract at higher rates and passing over the offers based on the ground of non-submission/ unsuitability of tender samples at the time of decision making. This is in deviation to the CVC guidelines i.e. system of approving/rejecting the tender samples at the time of decision making is too subjective and not considered suitable.

Keeping in view of the above, the following system improvements is issued by PCMM/SCR office vide OFFICE PROCEDURE ORDER No. 06/2023 dated 20.03.2023:

- 1) All purchase officers should consider the procurement of the items on the basis of detailed specifications, rates.
- 2) If needed, provision for submission of advance sample by successful bidders may be stipulated for indeterminable parameters such as, Shade/tone, size, make-up, feel, finish and workmanship, after placement of order but before giving clearance for bulk production of the supply.
- 3) As per the GeM terms and Conditions, any clause such as demanding tender sample, even if incorporated shall be null and void.

System Improvement - 2

Maintaining of Weighing Machines in Stores Depot

During Vigilance investigation in a Stores Depot for disposal of scrap material, it was found that the actual weight of sold lot displayed on the weighing machine

used for weighing/accountal of non-ferrous scrap was not matching with previously recorded weight of the same lot.

Keeping in view of the above, the following system improvements are issued by PCMM/SCR office vide OFFICE PROCEDURE ORDER No.09/2023 dated 29.05.2023:

In order to ensure correctness of all Weighing Machines, the following instructions are issued for compliance by Depot/Divisional Officers: -

1. The Weighing Machines used in the Stores Depots/Divisions for weighing/accountal of material, shall be routinely inspected, checked for maintenance at appropriate intervals and calibrated periodically from the nominated agencies, as per the prevailing law, to prevent malfunctioning at any moment. Wherever necessary the periodical maintenance activity at appropriate intervals shall be covered with suitable AMC as per extant instructions.
2. The routine inspection register for Weighing Machines shall be maintained in the concerned Receiving Section, Stocking Ward, Scrap Ward etc. and shall be counterchecked by Depot/Divisional officer on quarterly basis.
3. The calibration status of Weighing Machines, the date of calibration and the next calibration date due, shall be documented on the machine for conducting calibration within the stipulated validity period, to achieve accuracy and authenticity of weightment.

System Improvement – 3

Instructions for Inspection of materials by consignee

During Vigilance investigation regarding inspection of materials in Stores Depots, following irregularities were noticed:

1. Only a few samples are subjected to test by CMT/LAB as against the requirement of 01 sample for every 200 Nos. as per relevant specification.
2. The Lab reports by CMT/LAB neither mentions any details of Sr. No. affixed on holograms of RITES/RDSO nor the manufacturers marking/labelling details about the samples tested.
3. The specification for testing the material content was not mentioned while making a reference to the third party Labs against the supplies to two different consignees. As a result, the testing has been done at the third-party Labs

through different methods, although as per the specification it should have been tested as per relevant specification. This has resulted in failure of material in One Lab for one consignee and passing/acceptance of material in another Lab for another consignee.

Keeping in view of the above, the following system improvements are issued by PCMM/SCR office vide OFFICE PROCEDURE ORDER No.13/2023 dated 26.07.2023:

- (i) Samples for testing shall be drawn as per sampling plan as indicated in the relevant specification.
- (ii) Samples for testing shall be drawn from all the lots on random basis.
- (iii) The lab reports shall indicate details of Sr. No affixed on holograms of pre-inspection agency manufactures marking/labelling details etc about the samples tested.
- (iv) The testing in the third party labs shall be recommended as per the relevant specification only.
- (v) The inspecting authorities in the concerned Laboratory/Institute/Agency shall be advised to incorporate the serial numbers and manufacturers marking/stamping details on the samples tested while submitting the test reports.

System Improvement - 4

Jurisdiction of Auction conducting officers and Scrap Disposal

During Vigilance investigation regarding routine delivery of scrap materials at one of the C&W Depot, it was noticed that same items were offered for disposal through various Stores Depots/Divisional Officers since no specific instructions are available regarding disposal of scrap by various field units through nominated Stores Depots/Divisions. This was leading to infructuous expenditure on transportation and disposal of scrap material.

Keeping in view of the above, the following system improvements are issued by PCMM/SCR office vide Letter No.S.289/Scrap Mgmt/2023-24 dated 24.08.2023.

1. Jurisdiction of various auction conducting officers of scrap depot and divisional will be as tabulated in Letter No.S.289/Scrap Mgmt/2023-24 dated 24.08.2023 for sale of scrap arisings of “as is where is basis”.
2. All the released scrap generated in the field units either in workshops/Sheds/Divisions/Track lines etc., shall be sold on “as is where is”

- basis by forming sizeable lots at the place of generation itself. Transportation of such scrap materials from the place of generation to any of the scrap depots should be discontinued to avoid wastage of manpower and transportation costs.
3. Transportation of scrap Ferrous/Non-ferrous materials scrap to nominated scrap depots shall be permitted only when it is not feasible to form the lot at the point of generation due to less accrual or no bid is forthcoming during the auctions or any other valid reasons like security of materials, with the certification of concerned Auction conducting officer along with the approval of CMM/Hqrs (In charge of Sales).

System Improvement - 5

Non-stock indent submission/registration for procurement of machinery/materials involving installation/commissioning

During investigation, Vigilance has observed that Non-stock indent for procurement of machinery/materials involving installation/commissioning was submitted to stores department before readiness of the site for installation/commissioning of such machinery/materials. Even after receipt of supplies against stores purchase Order, adequate efforts were not made by consignee for timely readiness of the site facility. This has resulted in abnormal delay for inspection/acceptance/rejection of machinery/materials.

Keeping in view of the above, the following system improvements is issued by PCMM/SCR office vide OFFICE PROCEDURE ORDER No.17/2023 dated 18.10.23.

- i. Non-stock indent for procurement of machinery/materials which involves installation/commissioning shall be submitted to Stores Department after ensuring necessary arrangement for keeping site readiness for installation/commissioning of such machinery/materials within the expected delivery period (or as indicated in NS indent) to the possible extent.
- ii. To reduce the time mismatch between delivery of goods and site preparedness, all Purchase Officers may have to take one separate undertaking from Indentor (Minimum JAG level) at the time of the NS demand registration for such items, that they will take all possible steps for ensuring readiness of site for installation/commissioning of machinery/ materials within the expected delivery period (or as indicated in NS indent).

Traffic

Case study –1

Irregularities observed in the Sale of Unreserved / Platform Tickets through UTS on MobileApp

Background: A pilot project was launched for the issuance of unreserved tickets through mobile phones in the suburban sections over Mumbai and Chennai on 27.12.14 and 14.01.15. Subsequently, unreserved ticketing through mobile phones was launched in all the Zones of Indian Railways from 29.09.2015.

The sale of unreserved tickets/platform tickets through mobile phones is available in two modes. One is the paperless ticket and the second one is the paper ticket.

(1) Paperless Ticket: The passenger can book a paperless ticket through the mobile application and the ticket will be delivered and stored in the mobile application itself. The passenger can travel without taking a hard copy of the ticket. To use this paperless ticket mode option the Smartphone should be GPS enabled.

(2) Paper ticket: The passenger can book a paper ticket through the Smartphone mobile app for non-GPS routes or the USSD app. After booking the ticket, he/she will get a booking ID along with other ticket details. After booking the paper ticket, the passenger can go to the journey (source) station to take a ticket printout from any of the ATVM available; by entering his/her registered mobile number and booking ID. The journey is valid only with a printed ticket.

Details of the Case:

Based on source information that railway revenue is getting leaked by booking clerks using Mobile, a detailed study was conducted on all railway ticketing applications through mobile phones. Looking into the features, it was concluded that there may be a possibility of misuse of the UTS Mobile Ticketing APP.

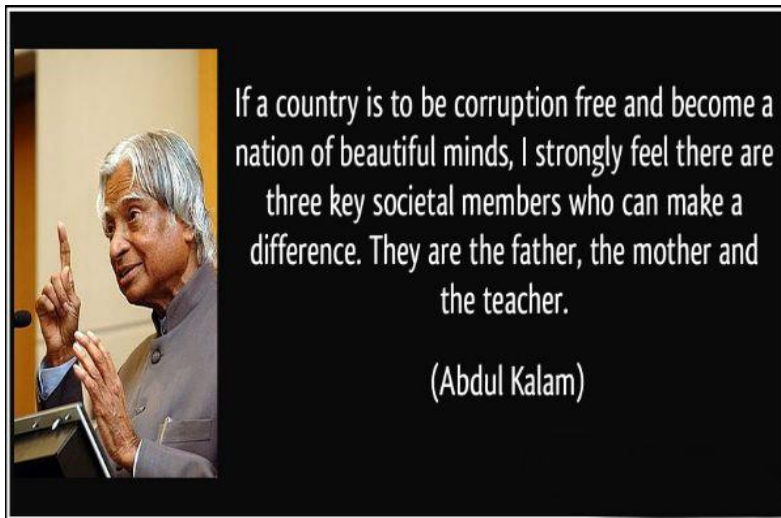
Further data was obtained from the CRIS regarding the sale of paperless tickets and paper tickets “through UTS on Mobile APP” in the South Central Railway. On analysis of the data, it was noticed that there was a Sharp increase in the sale of paper tickets from the month of MAY-2022 to AUG-2022 in five stations in South Central railway.

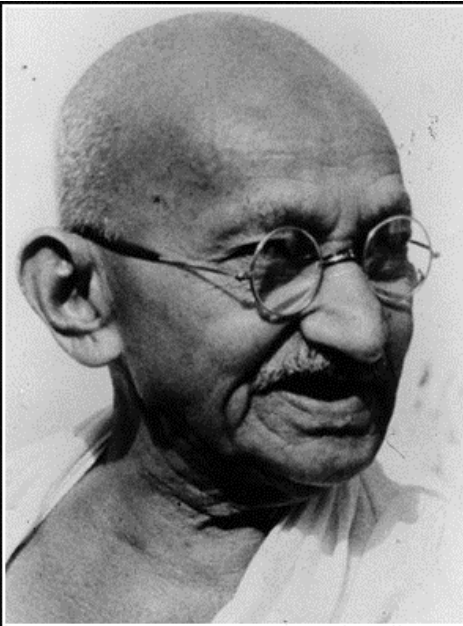
A preventive check was conducted in those five stations in South Central Railway by the vigilance inspectors at a particular day. During the check, the following irregularities were detected:

- In all five stations, it was found that booking clerks/ATVM facilitators were booking UTS paper tickets on their Mobile Phones, and the same tickets were printed from the booking counter/ATVM and selling the tickets to passengers who were approaching booking counters/ ATVM for the unreserved ticket.
- ATVM facilitators were issuing paper tickets for more than 150km. As per the extant policy of ATVM, they get a proportionate commission for tickets involving a distance of more than 150 km. However, if they book the tickets in the mobile app they get full benefit of 3% commission for the tickets which are covering the distance of more than 150 km.
- Booking clerks/ATVM facilitators were recharging their mobile R-wallet at the booking counter and getting a bonus of 3% in the R-wallet and the bonus amount was pocketed by the booking clerk/ATVM facilitator.
- One CMS agent while attending periodical maintenance of ATVM machines was found unauthorizedly selling paper tickets to the passengers at the ATVM.
- It was noticed that, at the booking counter R- Wallet recharge was being done by using railway cash, and the same was recouped at the end of the shift and the bonus of 3% was pocketed by the staff misusing this App.
- As a result of the preventive check, the Railway Staff involved were taken up under DAR, and ATVM facilitators & CMS staff were penalized.

System Improvement:

- To prevent the misuse of the paper ticket feature of the UTS on the Mobile App, a system improvement by the Vigilance Branch was recommended to the Railway Board.
- It was proposed to restrict the generation of paper tickets to a maximum of four(4) journey and platform tickets on “UTS on Mobile App” per day per mobile number/user.
- The proposed changes in the “UTSonMobile App” were implemented by the Railway Board vide letter no..2014/TG-I/10/P/UTSONMOBILE/Pt.II dated 03.02.2023.





7 deadly sins of modern times by Mahatma Gandhi

Wealth without work
Pleasure without conscience
Science without humanity
Knowledge without character
Politics without principle
Commerce without morality
Worship without sacrifice

"A person cannot do right in one department whilst attempting to do wrong in another department. Life is one indivisible whole."

*Remember that the greatest crime is to
compromise with injustice and wrong*



*Honesty with oneself is the condition
of spiritual integrity*

*It takes less time to do a thing right,
then to explain why you did it wrong*



*Unselfishness is more paying, Only people
do not have the patience to practice it*



Published by

Vigilance Department, South Central Railway