



FOUNDATION

for

RESTORATION of NATIONAL VALUES

Newsletter
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Corruption in India

By Anupama Jha, CEO, FRNV

One in two Indians had to pay bribes when dealing with public authorities, according to a global Transparency International (TI) [survey](#) released in 2013. State borders which see most of the commercial traffic in India are another frontiers of corruption; TI estimates that truckers pay annually \$5 billion in bribes to policemen and excise officials. This makes India a very corrupt nation. India ranks 85th out of 175 countries, with an integrity score of 38, according to Transparency International 's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) which measures perceived levels of public sector corruption worldwide.



Police, Land Records & Registration and Housing are considered to be the most corrupt Government Departments in the country, although corruption is also recorded in Health services, Electricity and water supply, Transport and School education. People have to pay bribe in order to avail these services. The opportunity for public employees to demand bribes comes from their discretion and from contact with users, although the extraction of bribes varies according to sector and specific local conditions.

Politics is often seen as a big part of the problem, not the solution. People mistrust political parties: 86 per cent of Indians believe

that their political parties are corrupt. Public servants also add to the problem of corruption, and stories of their corrupt behaviour comes to the fore every now and then.

Very few role models exist in India for probity in public life. Corruption can only be checked if the tone is set at the top. It is important to bring corrupt politicians to justice by giving exemplary punishment to those who have abused their power.

Ordinary people need the power to fight back. The government should help educate citizens on how to use [India's 2005 Right to Information Law](#), one of the best in the world, to hold politicians and civil servants to account. Requests for information about public decisions can [unlock applications](#) for licences and entitlements, and even speed up public works. But the government should also be proactive in publishing more information too, something that the act also mandates.

Making service providers accountable by way of civic engagement is another way of reducing bribes in public service delivery. Public officials are called on to inform stakeholders and to justify their behaviour, actions and result. Current social accountability initiatives include a range of activities to strengthen transparency, accountability and citizen engagement. They include participatory budgeting, and budget monitoring and analysis, such as public expenditure tracking surveys and social audits. They comprise : citizen report cards, community

scorecards and citizens' charters; public hearings and citizens juries; community development plans and integrity pacts; e-governance and interactive community radio. The appropriate social accountability tool will depend on the level of citizen capacity and governance in a particular context.

A well resourced judiciary is also important to fight corruption as is the Whistleblowers Protection Act. The new [Whistleblower Protection Act](#) must be amended to apply to both the private and public sectors, and it must do more to safeguard those who speak up.

If India has to improve its image and not be seen as a very corrupt nation, public voices have to be heard loud and clear. Also, the leaders of the Nation as well as organisations must understand that at the core of Good Governance is the Building of an Integrity Culture. Leaders must be seen as ethical role models; they cannot cut corners, engage in malfeasance, exploit people and laws and take advantage of their positions . Unless they behave ethically in the society and take a proactive stance, backed by superb ethics directed communications and ensure that ethical culture is built and sustained , it is not possible to improve India's image in the Corruption Perception Index Ranking.

CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION - HOW DMRC HAS SHOWN THE LIGHT

By S K Sinha, MC Member, FRNV

Seventeen years ago, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) came into being, and since has been achieving phenomenal successes in terms of meeting stiff targets of project execution, opening section after section of Metro lines, easing the lives of Delhiites choking by the crippling traffic. This has been possible because Integrity and Efficiency are the Hallmarks of this very prestigious Organisation.

In the midst of corruption and mediocrities, DMRC stands out tall and demonstrated that an “island of Excellence and Integrity” can exist, and genuinely prosper, with all the values and ethics intact, the reason is not very far to seek – it’s the emphasis on Integrity and Excellence in the work culture, as propounded by Dr. E. Sreedharan. The charismatic, fearless and strong leadership of Dr Sreedharan, which DMRC was fortunate to have right from beginning, provided the launching pad for the formation of an ethical organisation. He inculcated the required values in his team very assiduously, and always reposed immense confidence in them. The tolerance for genuine mistakes of the employees, Accountability towards the society at large, and Transparency in all vital works, added strength to the morale of the employees in the organisation. The same officers who were not so successful in the Indian Railways, delivered with flying colours, when they were picked up by Dr Sreedharan in his “Team DMRC”.

Integrity has been the hallmark of DMRC culture. Any infraction or deviation from integrity when learnt is dealt with strictly, to make a deterrent and demonstrative effect for Zero tolerance for Corruption. In addition, other four pillars of the work culture include - **Punctuality**(treated as –religion in Delhi Metro and reflected not only in office timings but also a very strict / regimented threshold of punctuality of trains i.e. 59 Seconds), **Professional competence** (Learning & continuous development) **and Health** (emphasis on Yoga , meditation, good amount of sleep and wholesome food habits among all employees). The four pillars of work culture has boosted the confidence and given freedom **to** the employees to take decisions in their sphere of work and helped them address the necessary challenges in the field.

In matters of Bidding and Awarding of contracts, which is exposed to huge corruption, total Transparency is followed. Issues such as Conflicts of Interests, bid rigging, bribery and kickbacks, are unheard of, at DMRC. Care is taken to ensure that conflicts of interests do not stifle open competition among bidders, or undue influence is not exercised over the needs assessment or bidding

documentation stages. The tone is set at the top, so it percolates down to the last employee in the organisation.

Instructions to the Executives and the Finance for strict watch over timely payments, and extending a helping hand to the contractors, when they fumbled, also led to strengthening of the ethical fabric of the organisation. At the same time, quality of work and safety process is never compromised. The tender Process, quality of work or dealing with contractors has never been a subject of criticism by the Central Vigilance Commission or the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Apart from tenders, another very sensitive area which gives many Government organisations a bad name is - Recruitment. DMRC, being a fast growing organisation, was hiring in a big way since 2002, when Operations were to commence, as the sections were opening in quick succession. A very robust and transparent way of open market recruitment has been an example in DMRC, as not a single scam or any serious vigilance case has ever cropped up to find any irregularity, though more than 14000 employees have been hired from all over the country over 13 years, from amongst millions of candidates who applied in DMRC system.

To sum up, DMRC has dealt with about one lac Crores of public money, including deposit works undertaken for other states metro over the last one and half decade, but the strong fundamentals of Ethical practices, Visionary Leadership, Best Practices and a Vibrant Work Culture have made the difference, and the image of DMRC as Corruption free Organisation is still intact.

Brief on FRNV activities

- CEO, Anupama Jha, participated in a T.V debate on “Kya Bhrashtachar par Kejriwal ka Dohra Maapdund Hai” on Aaj Tak channel , on December 19, 2015.
- Continuing our efforts to stop frequent disruptions to the Parliamentary proceedings, letters have been written to the Speaker of Lok Sabha and Vice Chairman of Rajya Sabha , urging them to frame appropriate guidelines and rules under the Constitution , to regulate the conduct of the Parliamentarians and prevent obstruction in the running of the Parliament.

Earlier, a PIL was filed by us in the Supreme Court in this regard which was not entertained by the Court, but the judges observed that the Presiding officers of both houses of the Parliament be approached for appropriate relief under the Constitution.

YET ANOTHER NEW YEAR

Dear Readers:

Welcome to 2016! If the last year was challenging to some of us, a new one has arrived, bringing with it one chance for a new beginning.

Today is the day we have an opportunity to discard destructive old habits for healthy new ones, and with that in mind, I will share often - requested list of New Year's Resolutions.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will live through this day only. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all of my problems at once. I know that I can do something for 24 hours that world overwhelms me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things that I can correct and accept those I cannot.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path and I'll not speak ill

of others. I will improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I'll not be a mental loafer.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will refrain from improving anybody but myself. I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

The Holy Vedas say:

“Man has subjected himself to thousands of self inflicted bondages. Wisdom comes to a man who lives according to the true eternal laws of nature.”

**“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
“Where there is hatred, let me sow love;**

“Where there is injury, pardon;

“Where there is doubt, faith;

“Where there is despair, hope;

“Where there is darkness, light;

“Any where there is sadness, joy;

**“O Divine Master,
“Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;**

“To be understood, as to understand;

“To be loved, as to love;

“For it is in giving that we receive;

“It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.

“And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life”.

**And so, Dear Readers, may this New Year bring with it good health,
peace and joy to all of you!**

Sri Aurobindo

On DEMOCRACY

“Her (India’s) mission to point back humanity to the true source of human liberty, human equality and human brotherhood. When man is free in spirit, all other freedom is at his command; for the Free is the Lord who cannot be bound. When he is liberated from delusion, he perceives the divine equality of the world which fulfils itself through love and justice, and this perception transfuses itself into the law of government and society. When he has perceived this divine equality, he is brother to the whole world, and in whatever position he is placed he serves all men as his brothers by the law of love, by the law of justice. When this perception becomes the basis of religion, of philosophy, of social speculation and political aspiration, then will liberty, equality and fraternity take their place in the structure of society and the *satyayuga* returns. This is the Asiatic reading of democracy which India must rediscover for herself before she can give it to the world. It is the *dharma* of every man to be free in soul, bound to service not by compulsion but by love; to be equal in spirit, apportioned his place in society by his capacity to serve society, not by the interested selfishness of others; to be in harmonious relations with his brother men, linked to them by mutual love and service, not by shackles of servitude, or the relations of the exploiter and the exploited, the eater and the eaten. It has been said that democracy is based on the rights of man; it has been replied that it should rather take its stand on the duties of man; but both rights and duties are European ideas. *Dharma* is the Indian conception in which rights and duties lose the artificial antagonism created by a view of the world which makes selfishness the root of action, and regain their deep and eternal unity. *Dharma* is the basis of democracy which Asia must recognize, for in this lies the distinction between the soul of Asia and the soul of Europe. Through *Dharma* the Asiatic evolution fulfils; this is her secret”.

Another Year of success and happiness
has passed.

With every new year, comes greater
challenges and obstacles in life.

Foundation *for*
Restoration *of* National Values
wishes you a great year and a
wonderful time ahead!