

The Corruption Times

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India Becomes Exporter of Corruption

What we were expecting has just happened. Indian Companies have established a dubious record of corrupting even organisations like the World Bank. As per a press report, two of our very prestigious organisations in the IT sector have been found to be involved in paying bribes to officials of the World Bank. This is what the report says.

Satyam Computer Services and now, Wipro Technologies and Megasoftware, join the 300 companies that have been blacklisted by the World Bank since 2000. Information Technology companies came under the World Bank radar as its procurement policy of 2006 included "allotment shares" as ground for imposing bans. The World Bank spokesman said, "In 2000, when the request for proposal (RFP) was given to us by Wipro we categorically asked them if they had awarded any shares to World Bank officials. Wipro had denied it then. World Bank has always asked prospective vendors to disclose any such allotment of shares as we do not favour awarding contracts to those who have given shares to our officials."

Corruption is on the increase in our country and unless some drastic steps are taken, our country will become like some of ASEAN countries where nothing gets done without payment under the table. Somebody suggested that we should catch hold of corrupt politicians and officials and hang them by the nearest lamppost.

To the best of our knowledge, the number of lampposts have increased, corrupt officials and politicians have also multiplied, but nobody has been hanged.

We strongly recommend that until the big fish are "fried" nothing much will change in the area of curbing corruption. This is where China and Taiwan have shown us the way. Here are the reports.

Taiwan's Ex-President Back Behind Bars

A Taiwanese court ordered ex-president Chen Shui-bian to be locked up pending his trial of corruption charges that the former leader has dismissed as a witch hunt by the China-friendly government. The Taipei District Court's decision reversed an earlier ruling after the former pro-independence leader had spent just over two weeks free pending trial. The ruling is the latest twist in a long-running saga involving the former leader, who was arrested in November and charged with embezzlement and money laundering only to be released on December 13. Chen, is the island's first former leader to be detained on criminal charges and faces life in prison if convicted.

Shubhagraha, if not Satyagraha

What is the role of citizens in curbing corruption? The best is not to pay bribe, and be prepared to suffer for the future of your children and grand-children. One establishment recently refused to pay Rs. 500/- as a bribe but paid a fine of Rs. 14,000/- with a smile. We need many more organisations like that. Let us remember what the US President Obama said recently, "If we are not willing to pay a price for our values, if we are not willing to make some sacrifices in order to realise them, then we should ask ourselves whether we truly believe in them at all."

Mahatma Gandhi launched Satyagraha, and got us independence. We have become quite meek over a period of time. Nobody talks openly against corruption. There is hardly any article in newspapers. They are busy in peddling gossips about cricketers and film stars. It is time that each and every citizen starts his fight against Corruption. He doesn't go for Satyagraha but goes for Shubhagraha. Let us take the example for Corruption in Co-operative Societies. Members should be willing to clearly understand what is good (shubh) for the society and make a request (agraha) to powers-that-be, to ensure that only those actions which are good for the co-operative society are taken. Same can be extended to different sectors of our society.

Do you recall the cartoon in the last issue of The Corruption Times? Because of the Shubhagraha, the telco antenna has been removed.



Let Us Slowly Kill This 'Corruption Activist' by Radiation by Placing a Telco's Dish

5,000 officials punished for corruption in China

Beijing: Nearly 5,000 higher-level Chinese government officials were punished for corruption over the past year, state media reported. The officials, all above the county-head level, were involved in corruption, bribery, acting against the public interest and other violations of discipline or the law said Gan Yisheng, deputy head of the Communist Party's central commission for Discipline Inspection, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

We have two complete suggestions to curb corruption in our country.

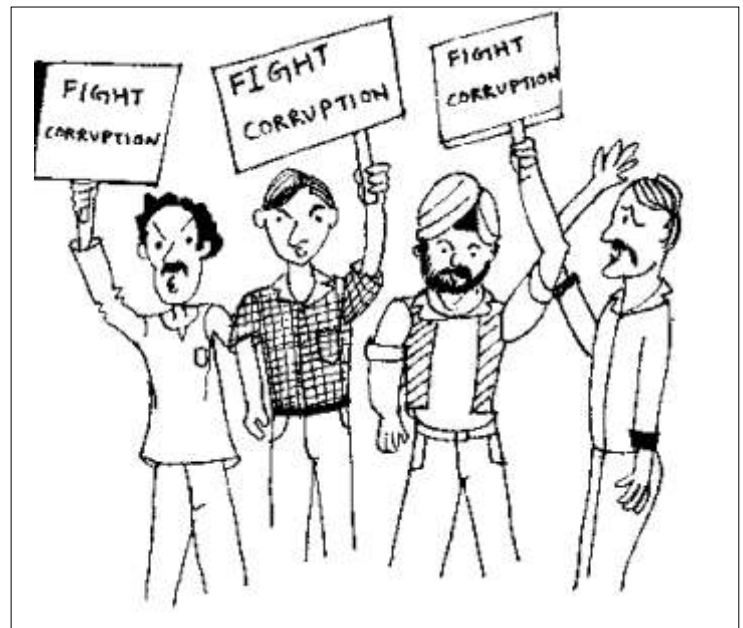
1. There is no point in catching a small official for taking a bribe. We should publicly and quickly punish some big names in the field of politics and bureaucracy. Where did these politicians, many of them without any educational qualification, amass so much of money, which they are declaring at the time of elections? It is high time the Government publishes the Swiss Accounts of Indian citizens.

2. There is a multiplicity of taxes which different authorities dealing with compliance of the payment by individuals and businessmen. More the contact points, more the corruption. Therefore, combine all the taxes in the Income Tax both for individuals and corporates and find out a way in which the revenue could be distributed between the central and state governments. This will also reduce the government employees number by at least 50%, only a strong leader would be able to think of implementing such a politically risky suggestion.

Small efforts by citizens who believe in curbing corruption will make a better India. We have taken a positive step in Leaders of Tomorrow Project for slum children which is running in 50 schools in Bombay and Jalgaon. Each successful participant of the Leaders of Tomorrow Project has to publicly recite the Pledge that he/she will never give a bribe and will fight corruption tooth and nail so that India becomes a corruption free country. Such small efforts which can be multiplied by readers of this bulletin.

Pass on this bulletin to your friends and well-wishers after you have read it.

Our slogan should be
"Fight Corruption, Save our nation."



A Heavy Price to Pay

This media report talks about how a victim had to pay with his life for refusing to cough up money.

Agra: Close on the heels of the murder of a PWD engineer allegedly by a BSP MLA for reportedly failing to pay money for Mayawati's birthday, an LJP activist was also allegedly killed after he failed to cough up money for the same occasion.

The murder occurred on Friday evening, allegedly by associates of BSP MLA Madhusudan Sharma and state minister Ramveer Upadhyaya. The victim was identified as LJP youth president from Agra, Manish Yadav. Following the killing, LJP demanded the dismissal of Mayawati government and an Agra and Mathura bandh on December 29.

LJP has also demanded arrest of the minister and the MLA along with Sonu Pandit, Monu Pandit and Sanjay Pandit - the trio who allegedly shot Yadav.

"We will demonstrate outside Governor's residence in Lucknow and demand arrest of the three accused. We will also seek the arrest of Sharma and Upadhyaya" Paswan said. He added that the three persons had been demanding Rs. Two Lakh from Yadav for UP CM Mayawati's birthday.

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