

The Corruption Times

Issue No. 1

19th November 2008

Published by Dr. P. N. Singh Foundation

Editorial

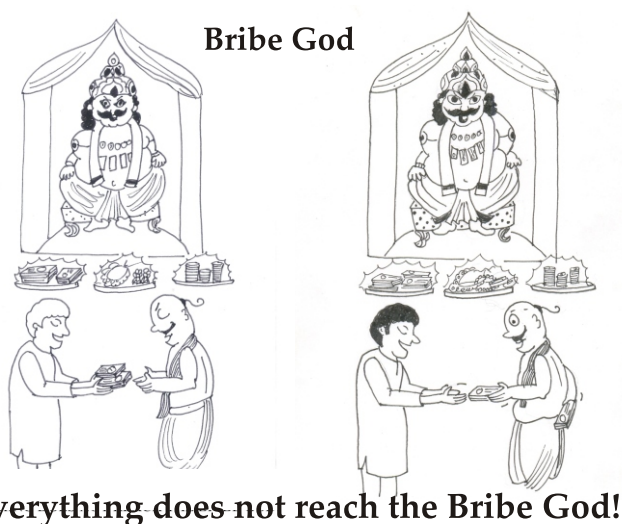
I read six newspapers everyday. Therefore, no news of importance misses my attention. One such big news, which was pushed to inside pages by almost all papers, attracted my immediate attention. It was about our country's ranking in corruption going up drastically in one year. As a nation we are more corrupt this year as compared to the last year. Our rank was 72. It came down to 85, the rank 1 being the least corrupt country. What a shame!

Somebody says corruption is a global phenomenon. Somebody else says it is limited to only lower rung employees in the government. They are wrong. Today, corruption is everywhere. But it should also be admitted that there are honest people in all sections of the society. I will give only two examples from my personal life. Once our computer was stolen by one of our employees, the police inspector took the complaint very seriously. We got back the computer within a day. He neither asked nor received any "incentive money". We can be proud of Mumbai police!

In another case, I had met an Income Tax officer, who was in-charge of the scrutiny of our small company's accounts. He was extremely polite. He asked for documents, we supplied them. He never even hinted for any "monetary incentive". His final orders indicated no additional tax to be paid by us. Long live such officers in the much-maligned department of the government!

The problem in such cases is the role of middlemen. They scare clients and take away a part or even the full offerings for themselves.

(Contd. on Page 2)



Corruption in Co-operatives

I would never imagine that there could be corruption in co-operatives. But, a quick survey indicated that there is rampant corruption in Co-operative Housing Societies. The latest newspaper report that a defeated candidate for secretary in a housing society got the elected secretary murdered alleged by his henchmen is an indicator of the malaise in our society.

Here is an excerpt from the report:

"Society Rivalry Led To Secretary's Murder" Mumbai: The Samata Nagar police claimed to have solved the case of murder of the secretary of a housing society in Kandivli (E) Shantaram Kanade with the arrest of six people late on Monda night. Officials said the men were bodyguards of Vijay Salvi, a marble dealer staying in the same housing complex as Kanade.

Salvi and Kanade had a dispute over heading the society committee.

We were naïve in believing that office-bearers of a housing society wanted to serve the society. Instead they were serving themselves. A quick survey has indicated how some unscrupulous office-bearers make money at the cost of members.

First Phase: They form a coterie. The same people constitute the committee year after year. Members don't question them. Those who question are troubled by them. Who wants "lafda" in Mumbai.



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

Please avoid these "middlemen". How do we curb corruption? We have to catch big fish and "fry them". This is what Taiwan has done.

Excerpt from an article: "Ex-Taiwan Prez Arrested in Graft Case" Taipei: Taiwan's former president Chen Shui-bian was arrested on Tuesday as prosecutor sought to detain him in connection with a long-running corruption probe.

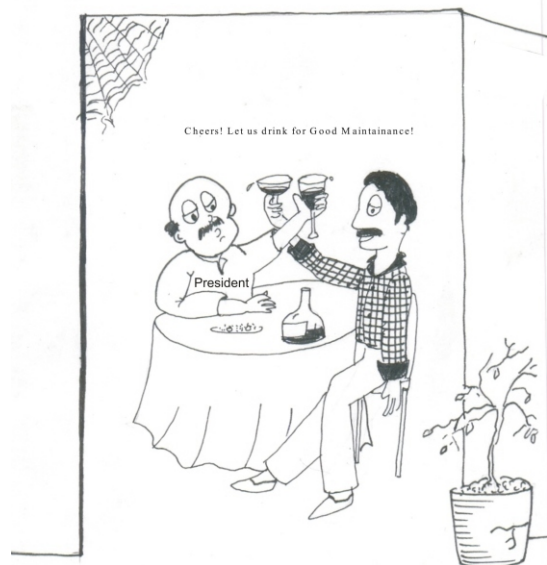
Chen is accused of money laundering, embezzling government funds, taking bribes and forging documents, a spokesman for the investigation said. A defiant Chen put his handcuffed hands in the air as he stepped out of the prosecutor's office and shouted "political persecution" before getting into a waiting car.

- Dr. P. N. Singh

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Second Phase: They siphon money under the maintenance and similar other "flexible" heads.

Y - Non-Co-Operative Housing Society



**Maintenance Bill Goes Up Like a Rocket!
It Does Not Maintain the Building
It Maintains the Pockets!**

Third Phase: They purchase flats and gala by keeping the sale information confidential.

Fourth Phase: They keep the members in good humour by distributing gifts (at society's cost) or free drinks at AGMs



It is time you should pause and ponder. Do you want your nation to be destroyed by corruption? Raise your voice today. Tomorrow will be too late! An example will spur us towards action.

RIP Corruption

These two young men from Bihar will tell you that corruption is dead. After all, they just performed its funeral. In a bid to bury the evil practice once and for all, two men from Gaya-based NGO Jawab recently conducted the last rites for the intangible body. The obvious message behind the activity was not lost on the dozens of locals and pilgrims who witnessed the funeral. Shiv Shankar, one of the youngsters who offered pindadaan (last rites) seeking salvation for the dead from the cycle of rebirth said, "We have decided to send messages to corrupt people by offering pindadaan. We were supported by all the activists of Jawab." The NGO has been working to create awareness about the use of Right to Information for fighting corruption. The activists of Jawab and several locals later raised slogans against corruption and distributed pamphlets among pilgrims to encourage them to take up the cudgels against the deep-rooted evil.

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