



PRESS RELEASE

International Anti-Corruption Day

December 9, 2010

Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi

Seminar on ‘Empowering Citizens to Combat Corruption’

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), an apex anti-corruption Statutory Body of India, with its mandate to fight corruption and ensuring probity in public life has been taking various preventive and proactive initiatives from time to time.

The United Nations General Assembly designated 9th December as the International Anti-Corruption Day and the same is being observed across the world since 2003. Considering the enormity and complexity of the problem of corruption and the need for involving a wide set of stakeholders that include Government institutions, Private sector, Civil Society, Media, International agencies and Academic institutions, the Central Vigilance Commission organised a one-day Seminar on the theme **“Empowering Citizens to Combat Corruption”** on 9th December 2010 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The seminar is aimed at deliberating and recommending proactive and participative measures to combat corruption. The United Nations Organisation on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) partnered with CVC in conducting the event.

The event started with the Inaugural Session followed by panel discussion by eminent personalities, who hail from all walks of life, on the following sub-theme:

- (i) Engagement of Civil Society in addressing Corruption
- (ii) Addressing corruption from the Supply Side
- (iii) Modernizing the Vigilance Framework details of the program with Annotated Agenda are enclosed.

The Seminar commenced with the inaugural address by Shri P.J. Thomas, Central Vigilance Commissioner, touching upon various issues relating to corruption and the necessity to empower citizens to combat corruption. While elucidating the commitment and mandate of CVC in combating corruption, the CVC has also highlighted various step taken by CVC in this direction.

Ms. Cristina Albertin, South Asia Regional Representative, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) urged all the stakeholders in the fight against corruption to lend support to the UNODC’s campaign on “Your No Counts”. She emphasised the need to sensitise and educate the public on the direct and indirect manifestations of corruption. The need for balancing efforts on demand and supply side of corruption was also stressed.

On this occasion, the Commission launched Project ‘VIGEYE’. Shri N. Vittal, former Central Vigilance Commissioner, launched Project ‘VIGEYE’ by symbolically registering himself as a VIGEYE

with his mobile number and instantly received a user id and password which enable the user to lodge complaint, upload photos and videos. The Project VIGEYE can be accessed through the Commission's website cvc.nic.in.

Addressing the gathering after the launch of Project VIGEYE, Mr. Vittal emphasised the need for strengthening the organisation of CVC so that the VIGEYE becomes an effective tool in combating corruption and becomes a real EYE for the citizens.

The Commission had chosen the Seminar theme 'Empowering Citizens to combat corruption' by recognising the need to involve all the stakeholders in the fight against corruption and delineated the structure of the Seminar accordingly.

The first Session on 'Engagement of Civil Society in addressing corruption' was Chaired by Shri N. Vittal, for CVC with S/Shri T R Raghunandan, Janaagraha (ipaidabribe.com), Puneet Anand, Fifth Pillar, P.S.Bawa, Chairman, Transparency International and Shekhar Gupta, Editor-in-Chief, Indian Express Group, as Panelist. The issues for the discussion in the first session included the present status of engagement of civil society institutions against corruption and lessons from the previous experiences and the reasons for the significant disconnect between the government and civil society efforts for combating corruption.

The second Session on "Corruption from the Supply Side" was Chaired by Shri J.M. Garg, Vigilance Commissioner with S/Shri Rolland Lommer, Governance Advisor, World Bank of India, Bharat Wakhlu, Resident Director, Tata Services and Sushanta Sen, Principal Advisor, CII. During this Session, issues like identification of the factors which are responsible for the inadequate commitment of the corporate sector in ensuring integrity and ethical conduct were discussed.

The third Session "Modernizing the Vigilance Framework" was Chaired by Shri R. Sri Kumar, Vigilance Commissioner, CVC with S/Shri K.S. Ramasubban, Secretary, CVC, Dr. S.K. Sarkar, Additional Secretary, DOPT, C.S. Verma, Chairman, SAIL, Dr. A.K. Balyan, MD, Petronet LNG Ltd. During this Session, issues like drawbacks in the current vigilance framework and the conduct of vigilance and need for shifting to proactive, preventive and predictive vigilance etc were discussed.

The Concluding Session was Chaired by Shri Pratyush Sinha, former Central Vigilance Commissioner. During this Session, the Rapporteurs S/Shri R. Balakrishnan, Chief Vigilance Officer, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL), Arun Singhal, Chief Vigilance Officer, Gas Authority of India Ltd(GAIL) and T. Venkatesh, Chief Vigilance Officer, National Thermal Power Corporation(NTPC) made presentation on the issues came up during each Sessions, to the Chair. The Chair made deliberations on the issues and recommendations evolved from each Sessions and outlined the priorities for the future action which broadly included:

- Measures to be taken by the government in order to create an environment conducive to the development and participation of civil society organizations engaged in the fight against corruption;
- Measures to convince and empower the entities who act as the source of bribes i.e. citizens and the business entities to resist and desist paying of bribes
- Modalities for moving over from a punitive and reactive vigilance regime towards a more proactive, preventive and predictive vigilance.

The complete details of the deliberations and recommendations will be made available in the CVC's website (cvc.nic.in) shortly.

