

**Vigilant India, Prosperous India**

The Central Vigilance Commission has decided that this year the Vigilance Awareness Week would be observed from 27th October to 2nd November, 2020 with the theme 'Vigilant India, Prosperous India'. This is observed every year during the week in which the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (31st October) falls. The Commission also aims to raise public awareness Observance of Vigilance Awareness Week every year is a part of multi-pronged approach of the Commission wherein one of the strategies is to encourage all stakeholders to collectively participate in the preventive vigilance measures and fight against corruption, raise public awareness regarding the existence and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption.

Corruption is a malice, which is eating into the very ethos of our society and taking a heavy toll on our economy. People lose trust and belief in the administration due to Corruption. In pursuit of Government's vision to make India a New India by the year 2022, the Central Vigilance Commission, an apex integrity institution of India, endeavours to promote integrity, transparency and accountability in public life.

As quote by Joe Biden US President-elect, 'Corruption is cancer: A cancer that eats away at a citizen's faith in democracy, diminishes the instinct for innovation and creativity.'

It has been 73 years since Independence, and being one of the largest democracies in the world, yet our country is still plagued with corruption. Corruption in daily life is linked to human greediness, an overdrive to achieve and outdo one another going beyond his means. This is ingrained in human mind that complete eradication is not an easy task. There is no ready-made answer for it nor there is any out of the box solution. Still one cannot sit back and let corruption take centre stage in our life both public and private and allow it to engulf and ultimately corrode our very basic ethos of Human existence.

The Anti-corruption drive needed to clean partially if not fully the malaises that plague the society, they should be taken up in a systematic and structured manner. However, no campaign to fight and eradicate corruption can be achieved without community participation. It is therefore necessary to motivate the citizens, as stakeholders in nation building, to collectively combat corruption at all level. It is an effort to raise public awareness against the threat posed by corruption and to make citizens conscious of their right to live in a corruption free society.

As democracy is all about government of the citizens, by the citizen and for the citizen, Vigilance of the citizen accelerates the successful working of a democracy.

- Vigilant citizens are a must for the successful working for a democracy this is because vigilance creates awareness about the rights of people.
- Vigilant citizen also creates awareness about the government that affects people in his or her daily life. By creating this awareness, it leads to discussion and debate on the issues that arise out of the implementation of policies.
- Vigilant citizen protest and organize demonstrations to persuade the government to change the existing outdated laws or to frame or pass a new law and regulations.
- Vigilant citizen has the capability to check wrong policies and the corruption persisting among government leaders and officials.

Vigilant citizen refers to those people who remain aware and alert about the upcoming dangers or difficulties. They are very much important for the success of a democratic country as it

makes aware about the rights of the citizens being affected by the different government policies. Such awareness leads to certain burning discussions regarding the implementation of those policies. Moreover, a democratic government is for the people, by the people and of the people. Thus, the vigilant citizen can force the government to change the policies according to their convenience by building up their own opinion.

Citizens have a great role in protecting the democratic setup in our country and they must remain vigilant as this would go a long way in checking electoral violations and ensuring fair polls. People must realise the power bestowed on them in a democracy. It is people with whom the power rests in a democracy. Social organisations and activists must play a key role in consistently driving home the message to the people, that in democracy, they had the power to usher in change.

As a citizen one need to be vigilant of one self-first. The question that should be asked to self whether the actions of one is in the interest of the country and organization and as per the laid down norms. A vigilant India starts with a vigilant self.

If as a leader, a team member, a subordinate, a peer, a superior, we are vigilant to the concept of adhering to the larger objective of the organization that draws its power from the mission and the vision of the organization and are guided by the policies framed to navigate, prosperity will follow automatically. In nation building each individual need to be vigilant to make the organization prosper and the collective action will deliver a prosperous India.

As Thomas Jefferson says, ‘Eternal Vigilance is the price of democracy’.