

qualitatively over the years. To keep up with the rapidly evolving crime scenario it is important for the criminal justice system to take a step ahead. Therefore the apparatus designed for investigation has to be equipped by laws and procedures that are not only functional in the present context but also have the flexibility and feasibility to take care of future needs. The investigators, therefore, need to be trained in information technology, knowledge of the economy, new dynamics of social engineering, efficacy and use of modern forensics etc., he added.

Mr D C Gupta, Former Finance Secretary, Government of India

Mr Gupta pointed out that there is no law to confiscate property of the corrupt. Hence, corrupt feels that he can get away with whatever he does and this is true in almost all cases. He stressed the need for enforcing Lokpal Bill. The effective rate of tax for Corporates works out to be only 22% instead of 34%, he opined. This is due to the various incentives and concessions meted out to them from time to time, he clarified. He also expressed concern on the cynicism and lack of values observed in youth of today, a fall out of consumerism in the rapidly changing society. He also lamented that we all are aware where the shoe pinches, but do not dare to mend it.

SESSION II

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNANCE

Mr Prakash Singh, Former Director General, Border Security Force.

Mr Singh opined that corruption is the single thread that is common to all problems in India viz. Naxalism, Maoist menace, problems in the North East, Jammu & Kashmir. Corruption has crippled into governance thereby creating a feeling of deprivation amongst masses and aggravating participation of the deprived in anti-establishment movements, most recent and prominent among them being the Maoist movement that has threatened internal security of the nation. Government has tried to play its role and has been pumping in huge funds for proper development of the 223 Maoist-affected districts across 20 states of the Indian Union. But the problem is that these funds hardly reach the intended beneficiaries and is absorbed somewhere in between by corrupt intermediaries. Lack of accountability and transparency has added to this problem. It is corruption that saps out the strength of the nation and makes it vulnerable to divisive forces, both internal and external.

Mr JM Garg, Vigilance Commissioner, Central Vigilance Commission

Mr Garg informed that in India corruption is also on rise as economy grows. In fact, India has slipped from 71st position in 2001 to 85th position currently in Corruption Perception Index, he added. He also tried to strike a correlation between corruption and inflation opining that if fiscal deficit can be reduced, inflation can be checked. But since there is no fear for being corrupt, a huge amount is up for grabs. Though lot of initiatives has been taken by the CVC, India has slipped down in the CPI (Corruption Perception Index). This basically means that there has been degradation in moral fiber of the society. He also urged youth to take up the fight against this menace and become responsible citizens of future. With such a young country like India, he observed, there is a need to use technology and automation process. He also informed the audience about Project Vigeye (Vigilance Eye), a citizen-centric initiative of the CVC, wherein citizens can join hands with the Central Vigilance Commission in fighting corruption in India.

Mr Arvind Kejriwal, RTI and Social Activist

1. Mr Kejriwal observed that in spite of several scams that have been duly reported by media, no one gets punished or goes to jail, in fact in most cases FIRs are also not registered. The existing laws have contradiction within themselves. He pointed out that the three anti corruption agencies available with the central government – the Departmental Vigilance, CVC and the CBI have been a mockery in themselves. In many cases of departmental enquiries, field officers double up as vigilance officers and receive complaint against themselves that they need to enquire! Sometimes they are required to start departmental enquiries against their superiors, which is practically impossible. The CVC, on the other hand, with 30-40 officers at its command has to enquire into corruption of more than 1500 government departments some as big as the Income Tax, Railways, Customs – a humanly impossible activity. Hence it functions just like a post office- forwarding documents to the respective departments for initiating departmental enquiry. The recommendations of CVC, an advisory body, are hardly accepted by Government and if at all accepted, the severity is reduced. Also, CBI has lost its independent stature and is reduced to be a mere puppet in the hands of the party in power.

2. He proposed formation of a powerful body in India similar to ICAC, the anti corruption organization of Hong Kong, in order to curb corruption in India. It should be independent of any political influence and should have the power to investigate and prosecute, he opined. He also stressed on the need for implementation of Lokpal Bill. He vehemently opposed the proposed Ordinance to be instituted by the Law Ministry regarding fast tracking of cases against politicians. He felt that the provisions of the Ordinance will dilute the existing provisions recommended in Lokpal Bill and will be highly tilted towards the party in power.

Dr J N Chaubey, Former Advisor, World Bank & UNICEF

Dr Chaubey stressed on the need to develop adequate ex-ante measures to arrest corruption at the earliest stage in all wings of the government, the Executive, the Judiciary and the Legislature so that it does not reoccur. He opined that the Law Ministry can take up the ex-post measures of punishing the guilty. He opined that a capacity pooling of different departments led by the Planning Commission may be instituted so that necessary reforms to arrest corruption may be meted out. He also opined that there should be a systematic accountability of the Law Ministry to present a scheme of reforms that the Ministry wants to undertake during Budget. He also pointed out that there are only four principles of institutional reforms that are required for arresting corruption. They are:

- a.** Competition: allowing choices on the supply side as well as the demand side e.g. multiple places for filing FIRs, drug testing by several certified agencies, open auctions, provide grace period for counter bids etc.
- b.** Participation: an institutional variant of competition; allowing both sides to monitor and evaluate the services.
- c.** Transparency: to the client, before the event, recourse after the event.
- d.** Accountability: to the demand side separating the chain of control.

He stressed on the need for systematic regular upgradation of Institutions so that growth of the nation is not deferred or disturbed. He opined that the Planning Commission must play a pivotal role in this regard.

Mr L V Saptharishi, Co-Chairman, Confederation of NGOs in Rural India

Mr Saptharishi pointed out prevalence of family oriented wealth accumulation by leaders of political parties in India. Widespread concessions have led to dilution of values, he opined, thereby jeopardizing the concept of integrity in public life. He also stressed on the need to introduce a system to reward the honest and courageous so that one and all feel the urge to do away with corruption. He also said that it was for the person at the helm of affairs in any institution to maintain the image of it, and not take advantage of it. The foundation of a great nation like India is laid by the teachings of our great forefathers, we need to go back to those values and try to infuse this value system in the minds of the individuals, he opined.

Mr Salil Bhandari, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce

Integrity is the wholeness of being to be morally sound and stands for a set of values, opined Mr Bhandari. All systems, whether natural or manmade, need to have a coordinated mechanism of checks and balances for them to perform and deliver - one without that will

spin out of control, he added. Such loose end systems are not sustainable and perform momentarily, eventually to fall apart to destroy and disintegrate what was created originally. The very success of India's institutions over the years have created massive forces that are pulling and pushing at many points and are creating cracks and gaps among the various linkages that ensure stable governance. The judiciary, executive and the legislature are all impacted by these colossal forces – even private enterprise and the civil society have been brought into the fold of cracking ethical values. These forces are exposing minor human frailties to massive pressures and what would have become small departures from the norms have become norms themselves, he opined. He stressed on the need for individuals to go on an introspection mode so that they are able to decide on what to choose from a galaxy of options available, many of which are wrong. This would ensure that corruption is nipped in the bud.

SESSION III

ROLE OF MEDIA

Mr B G Verghese, Eminent Journalist

Mr Varghese referred to media as a watchdog of the society as it has a predominant role as trustees of information, to portray to the people, what is happening around us. He opined that it was the most powerful institution in the nation. However, he also expressed the need to draft a regulation for media so that the 'watchdog' does not become a 'lapdog', wherein a cozy relationship is observed and the media is governed by commerce rather than mission.

Mr Vikram Chandra, CEO, NDTV Convergence

The job of media is to shine a torch in the corner where corruption is happening, informed Mr Chandra. He highlighted the proactive role of media in exposing 'big ticket' corruption in India. He then went on to distinguish collusive or 'big ticket' corruption from extortionary corruption and opined that the media has hardly played any role in curbing the second. However, it is extortionary corruption that is more insidious and affect the poorest of the poor in India, he added. It is only in the first case that the media has been focusing till now, because of the urge to increase TRPs. He also opined that with the dramatic transformation of mediums of information exchange, it is likely that in a few years from now,

the media would be able to focus on extortionary corruption too, thereby bringing about a downfall in its rate. This included conversation on the internet in vernacular that is now restricted only to the urban educated few in terms of tweet etc, he opined. He also warned regarding the length to which the media should go - it should never become a jury from a watchdog, as is seen in many cases in television nowadays, which may lead to some innocent guy being turned a villain.

Mr P S Bawa, Chairman, Transparency International India

Mr Bawa emphasized the role of Transparency International in reporting corruption figures to the government. He informed that apart from the five steps that the Government has proposed to tackle corruption, Transparency International has proposed a few more that are needed to be added viz., the Lokpal Bill, Lok Ayuktas for all states with adequate power, enacting the Whistleblower Act, notification of rules under the Benami Transaction Act of 1988 etc. The bureaucracy is also being involved in this regard, he added. The people are being informed about their rights under the RTI Act and Transparency International has also sought for the Citizens Charters from various state instrumentalities. Given the apathy and indifference of the legislature and executive, only media has the power to initiate action, he felt. Media is articulating the voice of people - it seeks truth as well as informs back truth to the authorities, he opined. Media and the civil society are the fourth and fifth pillars of governance nowadays and all these five pillars need to work together to have a corruption free society, he added.

Dr N Bhaskara Rao, Chairman, Centre for Media Studies

Dr Rao pointed out that as per empirical data corruption has come down in India. This is because of the role of a proactive media, technological advance, privatization & competition and prevalence of a transparency regime, he added. He said that corruption gets coverage of more time on air than all other coverage put together; three-fourth of it is devoted to collusive corruption. No significant coverage is given to extortionary corruption that affects the common man. The mother of all corruption is 'note for vote' wherein all sections of the society both rich and poor are paid for exercising their franchise, he observed. He also warned against the 'perception trap' where people feel that they are aware of the problem yet fail to look for a solution. He urged media to take up the cause, as has been done in case of few path-breaking initiatives like the 'Save Tiger' project of NDTV, so that sector wise cleansing of the society can be done.

Mr Sanjaya Baru, Editor, The Business Standard

Mr Baru, in his short speech, opined that extortionary corruption is on the decrease but collusive corruption is increasing day by day. In our day to day lives, corruption has decreased in relation to what were prevalent 10-15 years ago in terms of basic services. He threw light on the corruption that is prevalent within the media itself, wherein the owners

who double up as editors use a particular medium for their own vested interests thereby reducing quality of professional management of media houses. This puts integrity of media to questions as whole - lower down the rung it is the acceptance of various kinds of privileges by correspondents. There is also requirement of an editorial interface that is able to edit the information received from the source before it is actually emancipated to the receiver, he added.

Mr K T S Tulsi, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court

Mr Tulsi identified the most fundamental cause of corruption in the judiciary as unending delay in delivering judgments. The delays have virtually crippled the judicial process and have enlarged judicial discretion to such an extent that people are beginning to lose faith. He also opined that the criminal justice system seems to have been paralyzed. These delays have made corruption a 'low risk-high profit' business. There are more than twenty million cases pending in the courts, more than one and a half million under trials in jail, more than fifty six thousand rape cases pending in the courts and the rate of conviction in corruption cases is close to a mere 2%, he informed. He also informed that India ranked 45th out of 49 countries in terms of honesty of officials by World Economic Survey. World Bank, on the other hand, has ranked Delhi Development Authority (DDA) as the most corrupt organization in India. He reiterated the need to deal with corruption in all aspects of life including food, health, judiciary, education, police etc. He added that there is nothing wrong with the laws but there is a huge problem in its enforcement in terms of delays, which has aggravated the problem of corruption in India.

VALEDICTORY SESSION

Mr P P Rao, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court

Mr Rao, in his speech, pointed out that casteism, corruption and politicization have eroded integrity and efficiency of civil structure. Corruption starts with elections and spreads like wild fire thereafter engulfing every aspect of life that comes in front of it, he opined. He called for a radical amendment in the system so that the corrupt do not engage in plundering public property and turn it into private wealth.

His recommendations included:

- ? Adequate amendments in the law so that the suspected civil servants can be removed from their chairs.
- ? Tightening the provisions governing recruitments in UPSC, PSC and SSC.
- ? Make Ministership and high public offices inaccessible except to the deserving and able persons with impeccable integrity.
- ? Facilitate appointment of few experts from outside politics / political parties and make them Members of Parliament from outside for handling crucial portfolios.
- ? Till the above provision is created and effected, make an Ordinance or Notification for appointment of competent expert advisers to Ministers, whose advice would be followed except in cases where the Minister may refer it to the Prime Minister for his approval.
- ? Strengthen the Election Commission by conferring additional powers including the power to derecognize political parties and cancel their registration
- ? Constitute search committees to assist the Supreme Court and High Courts in selection of befitting candidates to be judges.
- ? Introduce shift system in Courts with second shift exclusively dealing with criminal cases against public servants- MPs, MLAs, civil servants, judges etc.
- ? Build up public opinion against corruption and pressurize law makers to the extent possible with able support from unbiased media.

Mr Harish N Salve, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court

1. Mr Harish N Salve, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court referred to the economic gloom that is prevailing over US, UK and the European Union with only Asia being the silver lining.

However, for India, even with the advantage of a shining economy, the year 2011 has started with an impending sense of despondency - a paradox under the given circumstances. India has emerged as a robust economic entity, but is yet to emerge from the quagmire of bad governance and corruption into which it has sunk and seems to be sinking deeper as the days progress. There are two faces of India- Corporate India that is daring the rest of the world and a 'slum dog' India that reeks of greed, avarice, corruption and criminality. We have the finest institutions in India with maximum degree of structural abrasions that has crept in. We can boast of a Parliament that has been healthily in place for the last 60 years yet it is dysfunctional in nature. As for instance, democracy failed miserably when three supplementary grants are passed without parliamentary scrutiny only over voice votes, as the parliament was paralyzed by the opposition, he added.

2. He went on to say that India has become a nation of 'gestures', the fundamental problems are not dealt with, only a few gestural actions are taken to cover up a deeper rot. The fight we need to take up is not only to weed out corruption, but to deal with the egregious corruption as exists today in India. Any nation consists of a group of people who are honest to the core, they will be so under any circumstances; there are a few who are just the opposite i.e incorrigibly dishonest and will remain so whatsoever happens. But the bulk of Indian society consists of intelligent and hardworking people who, given a fair regime, would prefer to live honestly. We have as of today failed to create such a society, he lamented.

3. Taking the instance of a law that would require people travelling abroad to disclose their bank details, Mr Salve pointed out that the problem lies with the people who have sacks of cash tucked under their carpets and not with someone having a bank account. The nation is happy to live in lie, deceit and dishonesty and we have all chosen to become hypocrites, he opined. Taking an instance he said that all politicians file an affidavit stating that they have spent less than thirty thousand rupees for fighting an election- a fundamental lie to prove him to be honest! One's nationalism is proved by wearing khadi during the day even if he sips imported scotch as evening falls. We publicly criticize corrupt ministers at public platforms only to fraternize with them at the slightest opportunity. Corruption is so deep rooted in India that a common man has to climb a mountain in the true sense of the term to get a simple formality, like a mutation, or a water connection, while policy changes in corporate benefit are done in a matter of minutes. We need to build a society where a corrupt person would not find a friend. What is required today is to bring about a change in the mindset of the people.

4. He added that In terms of structural changes, we need transparent regulations as well as transparent regulators. There should be transparency in appointment in all institutions,

howsoever big it may be. There must be change in criminal justice system which has crumbled over the years. Also important is to revise emoluments of government officials so that they are not compelled to be corrupt. To conclude he showed tremendous faith in the current generation, the students and urged to make all of these an electoral issue- only then will the change take place, he opined.

Hon'ble Justice Shri P V Reddi, Chairman, Law Commission of India

1. Justice Reddy informed the audience that he was present throughout the event to collect necessary inputs from the panelists and the audience for undertaking the much needed law reforms. Corruption has become a stumbling block in attaining the objective of welfare state as envisaged by the Constitution, he lamented. He pointed out that despite existence of vigilant press and cherished freedom as guaranteed by the Constitution, corruption is rampant in India. He took reference of a quote of Benjamin Disraeli "When men are pure, laws are useless; when men are corrupt, laws are broken" and referred that we fall in the second category. He opined that though corruption was prevalent during the ancient days, its degree was much less than what it is now. The steady deterioration of human values in all walks of life has led to prevalence of corruption. He then referred to a quote of Mahatma Gandhi, "There is enough on earth for everybody's need, but not for everybody's greed", and added that the acts born out of greed and selfishness are inhuman and unpardonable as they affect fellow human beings whom the public servants are expected to serve. He also referred to a quote of Martin Luther King, Jr, "Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men." and opined that this statement is of greater relevance in the present day context. The fusion of values dear to human life into the development process is a necessary ingredient of progress in right direction. The exiting new era of development and in technological advances has had its effects on the mindset, attitudes and cultural moorings of the people. Though by and large transformation of economy has contributed to prosperity and growth of the nation, it has promoted materialism and lure to make money by hook or crook, he added. Globalization has had its indirect but definite effect on the socio cultural fabric of the nation, he opined.

2. Justice Reddi added that Corruption persists as a dreaded disease, it has become all pervasive. He expressed concern over siphoning of money from welfare projects by a privileged few middlemen thereby depriving the down trodden millions. It is a matter of grave concern that corruption prevails in our country even in securing routine services. Corruption is distorting allocation of scarce public resources. The worst part is that people have become tolerant to corruption and got reconciled to the fact that corruption has become a part of life of the society. People are disillusioned with the mission to tackle corruption. There is little or no resistance to the malpractices and manipulations resorted to by corrupt public officials. People do not come out openly to report corrupt activities, may be

for fear of reprisal or on account of indifference. He referred to the popular quote of Bess Myerson, "The accomplice to the crime of corruption is frequently our own indifference" and added that it is the main reason for its prevalence in public service. It is more of a social problem emanating from a diseased society.

3. To tackle corruption not only the Government but also the public, the NGOs including the professional associations and eminent personalities must join hands. There must be fear of law as well as respect of law. However, stringency of laws or its mere increase /multiplicity will not be enough, he opined. The administrative systems have to be so harnessed as to reduce the scope of corruption. We need to identify corruption prone areas and the breeding sources of corruption, he added. Preventive action is more important than punitive action, he said. Moreover we need to think of solutions that are practical and practicable. The provisions of the Statute Law must be more functional. He lamented on the snail pace of prosecution of corruption cases and added that there is much to be desired in the manner of conducting prosecutions. The trials also get delayed in spite of special courts being set up. The bottle-necks regarding delays in filing charge sheets and case disposals have to be removed. The political will to check the menace of corruption coupled with the activism on the part of the public are the two key factors that could bring corruption under control. Strengthening anti corruption machinery along with adequate review and mobilizing the resources are the need of the hour.

4. Justice Reddi opined that the Anti-corruption Bureau must be given equal importance as that of the police. The Anti Corruption Bureaus (ACBs) are often infested with inefficient officials and are subjected to pressure from political parties. Coupled with this is the problem of inadequate manpower. The ACBs must have functional independence and should be devoid of political influence. The ACBs may be brought under control of an independent body consisting of high ranking officials, serving or retired, known for their integrity and also retired judges of impeccable repute. The ACBs need to be decentralized and located in every region/state with efficient trained personnel manning them. Also he stated that CBI is overburdened with work and shortage of man power and there is a need to open an exclusive anti-corruption strategy wing in the CBI, he added. According to him at the central level, the government should give more importance to the CVC, he observed. CVC should also have its regional units and should be equipped with personnel specialized in intelligence and investigation related to corruption. CVC must have the arrangement of appointing its officials rather than surviving on ad hoc appointments or appointments on deputation. There is also a need to do an impact assessment of the CVC. He also stressed the need to create village and taluk level committees selected by a cross section of public to fight corruption. There is a need to build public opinion. Social consciousness will act as an antidote against corruption. A colloquium needs to be established with likeminded people who are ready to fight this menace out of the society, he said. He expressed his views that there is a need to introduce a course on corruption as a subject of study in the secondary

level like environment, so that the young generation is made aware of the evils of corruption at an early age. Further, he stated that another important aspect is to control discretion to the extent possible. Political corruption needs to be controlled. The nexus between the political leaders and corrupt officials lead to a chain of illegal activities that affects well being of the state. The civil society at large is therefore affected with substandard delivery of services from the government, he said.

5. Justice Reddi informed that the Law Commission has submitted reports seeking reforms to the existing laws from time to time on corruption issues. The Commission took reference to the Central Vigilance Commission Bill and also two consequential amending Bills concerning Delhi Special Police Establishment Act and Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and has suggested that the CVC should be a multi-member body. As regards improvement in infrastructure and methods of investigation, the Law Commission referred to the organizational set up for investigation of offences by SFO (Serious Fraud Office) as existent in the United Kingdom. In sensitive issues regarding investigation of fiscal fraud, the need to have a multi disciplinary investigative team was stressed in Law Commission's report. The Commission suggested providing CBI and Enforcement Directorate a separate trained police force. The Commission emphasized the need for taking measures to complete trials involving high level public men with utmost expedition. In the 166th Report the Law Commission had drafted a Bill entitled 'The Corrupt Public Servants Forfeiture of Property Bill' and has recommended its implementation. This is because the Commission took the view that the provisions in the existing laws that are prevalent are inadequate since forfeiture follows conviction only. Another important recommendation made by the Law Commission in its 179th Report was in respect of 'Whistle Blower Law'. A draft Bill entitled 'The Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers Bill 2002' was prepared which was meant for people to encourage disclosure of corrupt practices and frauds and protection from any type of victimization. Further it has been recommended that Section 5 of the 'Benami Transactions Prohibition Act 1988' which allows for acquisition of property held under fictitious names need to be implemented. He stated that recommendations regarding CVC have been partially acted upon and some of the other recommendations seem to be under the active consideration of the government, he opined.

Mr D R Kaarthekeyan (Padma Shri), President, FGG

Mr Kaarthekeyan during the valedictory session, painted a pen picture of all the discussions held during the course of the day, which can be summed up as follows:

- ◆ We are all products of our system, and unfortunately many feel compelled to indulge in corruption, how much ever hard we try to be honest. How do we overcome this challenge?
- ◆ Integrity is not restricted to public life alone. It needs to be upheld in private business enterprises as well, and more importantly in our personal life. Only when we have personal integrity, it can get reflected in our professional spheres. Just as charity begins at home, integrity too needs to begin at home. This has been reiterated by most speakers.
- ◆ Our existing laws have not been able to stem corruption and encourage integrity. And, the Law Commissions can only recommend and eventually it is the responsibility of the government to take it forward.
- ◆ There is a crying need to bolster capacity of the investigative agencies and free them from political control. This requires an urgent reforming and updating of outdated laws to facilitate better policing. The agencies also require adequate augmentation of human resources, particularly skilled investigators in middle and lower ranks to help address the huge backlog of cases.
- ◆ There is severity of laws but there is no certainty of punishment. This only encourages corruption. Also, there is a need to address the people who have the capacity to corrupt. There is also an urgent need to develop a positive vigilance culture. The corrupt should not feel that they can get away with anything.
- ◆ To weed out corruption, two elements are important – one, accountability, and two, increased transparency. The biggest enemy for the state is not external threat, rather corruption which is internal and corrosive. Is there a link between corruption and inflation? Technology is one way to address corruption – as it aims to increase transparency and stall ad hoc and arbitrary bureaucratic behaviour.
- ◆ There is also a need to make the vigilance oversight bodies independent. At this moment, vigilance bodies like CVOs are located within the organisational structure of each of the government agency. This hampers a transparent investigation of allegations raised against the officials in the agency. There is therefore an urgent need for an independent, but single body to oversee corruption.

- ◆ India requires a stable government which is held together with adequate checks and balances. Just as an organisation cannot sustain if it is not looped together, the nation cannot progress if it is not looped together with instruments that stem corrupt practices and encourages integrity, accountability and transparency.
- ◆ There is a huge gap between actual levels of corruption and people's perception of corruption. This gap has been created and came about due to the role media has played in highlighting corrupt practices. As the number of media houses has increased, people's perception on corruption has increased correspondingly.
- ◆ The biggest challenge that the media is facing is the corruption from within. This hardly gets focused since no one is aware of it, no measure has come about to address it. Professional management of media has come down. Combination of business and political interests dominate corruption in media. Most in the media houses have learnt to live with the privileges and assume that they are entitled to it.
- ◆ India has the institutional framework. The problem is how to make use of this framework.
- ◆ Some of the laws of India are old and archaic – urgent need to make them contemporary and updated, and to delete some of them.
- ◆ Need for a credible Lokpal bill
- ◆ RTI should become a fundamental right
- ◆ Promulgate a law to regulate functioning of political parties and giving powers to CEC to derecognize / deregister political parties.
- ◆ Reclassify crimes so that minor offences could be addressed through plea bargaining
- ◆ Execute wholesale electoral reforms
- ◆ Execute independent appointment of judges

Mr Arun Kumar Jagatramka, Conference Co-Chairman, Global Steel & CMD, Gujarat NRE Coke Ltd

1. Mr Jagatramka felt that the clarion call for the second struggle for Independence – from deceit and corruption, from mistrust and unethical practice has been sounded during the conference.
2. Referring to a metaphor of the nuclear power that defines the potential of an atom, he invited all to involve themselves in an intense debate as to how to salvage the nation from this malice and take up any role in the fight against corruption. People often ask what could be a potential show stopper for India and the most obvious answer is corruption. India could face a Malthusian nightmare instead of reaping its demographic dividend. Deep rooted corruption and total apathy of common men in the system prevents an inclusive growth and is creating a bigger divide between the haves and the have nots, he added.
3. The last 60 years of corruption in India has created a situation as if all of us are corrupt and we should fight second freedom struggle to come out of this quagmire. It's high time that we stop grave-digging and start a new chapter by empowering Indian citizen to hold his head high in pride and trust and be trusted by the enforcement agencies which is at the core of our subjugated civil society, added Mr Jagatramka.

The proceedings of the National Conference on Integrity, which was attended by nearly 350 elite members of the society were widely covered in the Media, with the Economic Times carrying three full page reports.