

GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON COMBATING CORRUPTION AND PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE - “CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS”

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, DELHI
19- 20 DECEMBER, 2024

Jointly organized by UN GCNI and NLUD in association with
PHDCCI, PSI-India, and the Shikhar Organization.

Background

Corruption erodes governance, public trust, and equitable development. The Global Symposium on Combating Corruption convened stakeholders to promote transparency, accountability, and integrity across sectors. It aimed to foster collaboration and actionable solutions for a corruption-free society.

Corruption remains a significant obstacle to achieving equitable development and fostering public trust in governance systems. Its pervasive impact affects every sector, undermining democratic institutions, economic progress, and social equity. Recognizing the importance of transparency, accountability, and integrity in governance, UN GCNI and NLUD in association with PHDCCI, PSI-India, and the Shikhar Organization, organized a two-day Global Symposium. This initiative sought to address corruption and governance challenges across the public and private sectors, academia, and healthcare. By fostering multi-stakeholder engagement, the symposium emphasized the collective responsibility of governments, industries, and civil society in combating corruption and promoting ethical practices.



Executive Summary

The Global Symposium on Combating Corruption and Promoting Good Governance brought together a distinguished group of leaders from governance, academia, healthcare, and the private sector. Held on December 19–20, 2024, at National Law University, Delhi, the event featured an illustrious lineup of speakers, including Dr. S.Y. Quraishi, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India; Dr. Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI); Ashok Kumar Pavadia, Former Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India; Dr. K. Madan Gupta, Former Director, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD); Dharam Jain, Former Joint Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI); Prof. Hartmut Aden, Professor of Public Law at the Berlin School of Economics and Law, Germany; Aman Hingorani, Advocate and Mediator, Supreme Court of India; Om Vyas, Former Principal Director, Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA); Gen. Anil Verma, Head of the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR); Vipul Mudgal, Director of Common Cause India; Navneet Rajan, Former Chief Information Commissioner of India; Dr. Li Bin Fabian, Visiting Scholar at Harvard Kennedy School; Dr. J.S. Mann, Former President, Indian Society for Legal Philosophy; and Dr. Somnath Singh, Deputy Director, UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI). Together, this distinguished group enriched the event with diverse perspectives on combating corruption and promoting good governance.



The event explored themes such as technology-driven transparency, judicial integrity, and business ethics in regulated industries (Healthcare, Education, Business and Law organizations etc.). Discussions addressed fostering transparency through digital tools, safeguarding whistle-blowers, and building robust public-private partnerships. The event also included the launch of a UN GCNI publication on health governance and featured technical sessions on education's role in integrity, anti-corruption legal frameworks, and ethical practices in healthcare.

The two-day event concluded with a declaration emphasizing the need for collective responsibility, legal and technological reforms, and cross-sector collaboration. It highlighted the importance of ethical leadership, citizen empowerment, and multi-sector partnerships to create a corruption-free, equitable society aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.



Objectives



- **Enhance Governance Frameworks:** Promote robust legal, institutional, and technological measures to build resilient governance systems.
- **Foster Ethical Leadership:** Advocate for integrity and accountability as the core values guiding public and private sector leadership.
- **Empower Education and Advocacy:** Embed ethical principles into education systems and public campaigns to raise awareness and foster a culture of integrity.
- **Leverage Technology:** Utilize digital tools to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in governance.
- **Protect Whistle blowers:** Strengthen laws and mechanisms to safeguard individuals who expose corruption.
- **Encourage Multi-Sector Collaboration:** Build partnerships among government bodies, private enterprises, academia, and civil society to combat corruption collectively.
- **Promote Policy Advocacy:** Recommend actionable policy changes to strengthen anti-corruption laws and ethical practices.
- **Facilitate Dialogue:** Provide a platform for stakeholders to share best practices, case studies, and actionable solutions.
- **Monitor Progress:** Establish mechanisms to track and measure the impact of anti-corruption initiatives.
- **Commit to Sustainable Development:** Align efforts with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 16 and 17, focusing on peace, justice, and strong institutions.

Introduction of Speakers



DR. SOMNATH SINGH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, UN GCNI

Dr. Somnath, Deputy Director at UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI), is a distinguished development leader with over 24 years of expertise in Public Health, Sustainability (ESG), Gender Equality, Youth Development, Business Integrity, and Policy Advocacy. He holds a PhD in Management and multiple Master's degrees, complemented by certifications in Public Policy and ESG. Renowned for advancing governance, transparency, and public-private partnerships, his work spans research, capacity building, resource mobilization, and stakeholder engagement. Dr. Somnath has authored impactful publications on anti-corruption, SDGs, and healthcare systems. Recognized globally, he has significantly contributed to fostering sustainability, ethical business practices, and systemic reform, driving impactful change across sectors.



SHRI SY QURAISHI, FORMER CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER OF INDIA

Dr. S.Y. Quraishi, India's 17th Chief Election Commissioner, transformed voter participation through groundbreaking electoral reforms, earning recognition among The Indian Express's 100 Most Powerful Indians in 2011 and 2012. A global speaker on democracy and elections, he has observed elections in countries like South Africa, Russia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Pakistan. He serves on the Board of Advisors of International IDEA, Stockholm, and was appointed Global Ambassador of Democracy alongside leaders like Kofi Annan. His book, *An Undocumented Wonder: The Making of the Great Indian Election*, has received worldwide acclaim.



MR. ASHOK KUMAR PAVADIA, FOUNDER & DIRECTOR, CRPG

Shri Ashok Pavadia is the Founder and Director of the 'Council for Research on Policy and Governance' and he is on the Board of several other companies either as Director or Advisor. Starting his career as a Lecturer in the University of Delhi, he later joined the bureaucracy and retired as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs. An alumnus of the University of London, Harvard University, University of Delhi, and the Indian Law Institute, Delhi, he has majored in Political Science, Law, Public Policy and Management. His expertise is in Corporate Governance, CSR, Sustainable Development, and other Management related issues. He is the author of the Guidelines on "CSR and Sustainability" for Central Public Sector enterprises issued by DPE in 2014. He has been a member of the Governmental Advisory Group of the Global Reporting Initiative at Amsterdam.



DR. JATINDER SINGH, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, PHDCCI

Dr. Jatinder Singh is the Senior Secretary at PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi. He is heading the committee on CSR, Education, Skill Development, and Innovation. He is a management expert with over 20 years of experience in organizational capacity building, training, and academics. He has published various articles in leading newspapers and research journals. He has presented more than 20 research papers in national and international seminars and conferences.



MR. MUKESH KUMAR SHARMA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PSI INDIA

Mukesh Kumar Sharma, Executive Director at PSI India, is a seasoned professional with over 20 years of experience in program management, urban health, and organizational development. An expert in reproductive, maternal, and child health, he has worked with renowned organizations like FHI360, CARE International, and the Urban Health Resource Centre. An MBA in Rural Development and a gold medalist from IGNOU, Mukesh has presented globally on family planning and MNCH. A recipient of awards like the PSI Global Andrew Boner Award, he has led transformative projects such as the Expand Access and Quality (EAQ) initiative and The Challenge Initiative for Healthy Cities. His people-first leadership style earns him respect from peers and teams alike.



DR. SAIRAM BHAT, PROFESSOR OF LAW AT NLSIU

Dr. Sairam Bhat, Professor of Law at NLSIU, Bengaluru, is a renowned academic and author with expertise in Environmental Law, Contract Law, and Public-Private Partnerships. A Fulbright-Nehru Fellow and former Visiting Researcher at Georgetown University, he coordinates CEERA and the Environmental Law Clinic. He advises leading organizations and has authored several acclaimed books, including Natural Resources Conservation Law and Law Relating to Business Contracts in India. Dr. Bhat is also the Chief Editor of NLSIU journals and a contributor to the Oxford Yearbook on International Environmental Law.

Inaugural Session

On December 19, 2024, Dr. Somnath Singh, Deputy Director of UN GCNI, welcomed participants to the Global Symposium on Combating Corruption and Promoting Good Governance. He emphasized the urgency of addressing corruption, which undermines trust, equity, and development, and called for collective action to foster transparency and accountability across sectors.

Highlighting UN GCNI's efforts, Dr. Singh noted its alignment with the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles and its initiatives like the India CEO Forum on Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Projects. He urged participants to use the symposium as a platform for action, advancing ethical leadership and sustainable development.



Dr. Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General of PHDCCI, emphasized the pivotal role of industries in combating corruption by fostering transparency, ethical leadership, and robust compliance frameworks. Speaking on the need for collaborative efforts between the private sector and government, he highlighted initiatives like public procurement reforms and digital governance as key steps toward sustainable growth. He urged stakeholders to build a culture of accountability, where ethical practices are prioritized, and to work collectively to create a future defined by integrity and inclusive progress.

Mr. Mukesh Kumar Sharma, Executive Director of PSI India, emphasized integrity as the foundation of sustainable business practices. Highlighting the interconnected responsibilities of businesses within social and economic systems, he shared PSI India's commitment to ethical governance and transparent operations, particularly in healthcare. Despite challenges like corruption and regulatory complexities, he stressed the transformative potential of technology and collective action in fostering transparency. He urged business and healthcare leaders to adopt integrity as a core organizational value, shaping a corporate ecosystem that strengthens governance and public trust.



Shri Ashok Pavadia emphasized the importance of collective action in combating corruption, which affects nations worldwide by undermining economies, trust, and institutions. He highlighted the UN Global Compact's advocacy for businesses, governments, and civil society to align with integrity and transparency principles, guided by SDG 16. Pavadia stressed that partnerships, technology, and capacity-building are key to strengthening governance frameworks and ensuring a future where corruption is eradicated, and integrity prevails.



Dr. SY Quraishi, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India, while speaking on the theme 'Combating corruption and Human Rights' mentioned that throughout his services, various instances of both corruption and ethical conduct of public officers were witnessed. The speaker cited some examples from the past, where the current situation has improved by the efforts of both the government and the public by utilizing government resources.

Prof. J.S. Mann expressed gratitude to the esteemed speakers for their insightful contributions and to the organizing partners—the Centre for Transparency and Accountability in Governance, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and National Law University Delhi—for their support. He emphasized that the symposium aims to create solutions and urged participants to carry forward the momentum, fostering collaboration and innovation to ensure integrity guides governance..



The session concluded with the launch of the UN GCNI publication, “The Evaluation of Health Systems in India: Decoding the Impact on Health Governance, Transparency, and Infrastructure,” by Dr. Somnath Singh, Deputy Director, UN GCNI. Dr. Singh delivered the closing remarks, emphasizing the critical need for collective action through collaborative efforts involving the government, industry, and academia to achieve the vision of a corruption-free nation. He underlined the role of transparency, accountability, and ethical practices as fundamental pillars in addressing systemic challenges and building a resilient governance framework. The launch marked a significant step towards fostering integrity and sustainable development in India



Thursday, Day 1: Integrity and Accountability: Paving the Path to Value-Based Governance Across Sectors

19th December 2024

Session 1: The Landscape of Integrity and Governance in India: The Role of Education and Advocacy in Promoting Integrity



DR. ANURADHA PRASAR, DEAN, FACULTY OF POLICY SCIENCE, GALGOTIA UNIVERSITY

Dr. Prasar emphasized the importance of introducing ethics education at an early stage to build a foundation of integrity in society. She highlighted how policy science education equips individuals with value-based governance principles and the tools needed to address ethical dilemmas effectively.

MR. YAMAMOTO KAZUSHI, DIRECTOR & HEAD, YAMAMOTO UNIVERSAL INTEGRAL ACADEMY, JAPAN

Mr. Kazushi underlined the role of family and societal values in fostering integrity and morality. He noted that the erosion of ethical principles has contributed to corruption and stressed that educational institutions, in collaboration with family teachings, can play a significant role in rebuilding these values.



DR. SHYAMALI SATPATHY, DEAN OF ACADEMICS, ARMY INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY (AIMT)

Dr. Satpathy highlighted honesty, accountability, and consistency as key drivers of integrity in governance. She discussed the challenges of embedding these values in leadership programs and called for advocacy and partnerships to create impactful educational curriculums.



MS. JYOTI SHEKAR, ADVOCATE & PARTNER, ETHOSPHERE

Ms. Shekar emphasized the importance of translating theoretical aspirations into practice through effective policies and laws. She advocated for raising awareness about these frameworks and ensuring their proper implementation to strengthen governance and promote transparency.





DR. JATINDER SINGH, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL PHDCCI

Dr. Singh moderated the session, emphasizing the critical role of education and advocacy in fostering integrity and governance reforms. He provided an overview of governance challenges in India and globally, underlining the need for ethical practices and collaborative efforts among stakeholders, including governments, industries, and civil society

WAY FORWARD

The panelists collectively highlighted several actionable steps to advance integrity and governance in India:

1. Reforming Education Systems:

- Embed governance ethics and policy education into school and university curriculums.
- Develop leadership training programs emphasizing accountability, transparency, and ethical decision-making.

2. Strengthening Advocacy Efforts:

- Empower advocacy groups to amplify citizen voices and influence systemic reforms.
- Encourage partnerships between educational institutions, NGOs, and government bodies to promote widespread awareness of governance challenges.

3. Building Institutional Capacity:

- Establish dedicated centers within academic institutions for governance research and policy advocacy.
- Encourage practical learning experiences, such as internships and case studies, to connect students with real-world governance issues.

4. Fostering Collaboration:

- Promote cross-sectoral partnerships to align educational and advocacy efforts with broader governance frameworks.
- Engage stakeholders, including policymakers, civil society, and academia, to ensure inclusivity and adaptability.

The session concluded with a strong call to action to integrate ethical values into governance practices and build a robust framework

Session 2: Promoting Ethical Practices and Government Collaboration in Regulated Industries (Pharmaceuticals, Healthcare Organizations, Healthcare Supply Chain, and MSMEs)

This session highlighted the role of government collaboration and ethical practices in regulated industries such as pharmaceuticals and healthcare. It emphasized transparency, technology, and efficient legal processes to ensure compliance and foster ethical standards.



DR. K. MADAN GOPAL, ADVISOR, NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM RESOURCE CENTRE (NHSRC), MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOI

Dr. Gopal highlighted the critical role of collaboration between government and private entities in combating corruption. He emphasized the need for strict implementation of existing laws to uphold ethical standards in regulated industries.

MR. HITESH SAHNI, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, PSI INDIA

Mr. Sahni advocated for minimizing human interference by integrating technology into systems to achieve a corruption-free environment. He stressed the transformative potential of automation and digital tools in fostering transparency and accountability.



DR. SHIKHA NEHRU SHARMA, FOUNDER & MANAGING DIRECTOR, NUTRIWEL HEALTH

Dr. Sharma reinforced the importance of combining technological solutions with best practices to regulate unethical behavior. She highlighted how technology can streamline processes and reduce opportunities for misconduct.

MR. RAVINDRA JOSHI, FOUNDER CEO, AGIL CONSULTANCY SERVICES & MEMBER ACCA WG, UN GCNI

Mr. Joshi emphasized the need for including industry professionals during the policymaking process to ensure practical and effective regulations. He also underscored the importance of adopting whistleblower protection practices as a means to promote ethical conduct and transparency.





DR. RUCHI SOGARWAL, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS & ADVOCACY, TAKEDA

Dr. Ruchi Sogarwal moderated the session, highlighting the need for ethical practices and government collaboration in regulated industries like pharmaceuticals, healthcare, and MSMEs. She guided discussions on transparency, accountability, and partnerships, focusing on innovative strategies and solutions to strengthen governance and compliance.

SESSION SUMMARY AND WAY FORWARD

The session on promoting ethical practices and government collaboration in regulated industries provided valuable insights and actionable recommendations to address challenges in sectors like pharmaceuticals, healthcare, and MSMEs. As we move forward, it is essential to foster a unified approach that integrates technological advancements, policy innovation, and stakeholder collaboration.

Key steps include:

1. **Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships:** Collaboration between government bodies and industry stakeholders is crucial for creating policies that are practical, inclusive, and effective in combating corruption and unethical practices.
2. **Leveraging Technology:** Automation and digital tools should be utilized to minimize human interference, streamline processes, and enhance transparency across supply chains.
3. **Ethical Leadership and Training:** Institutions should focus on cultivating ethical leadership through robust training programs and advocacy, ensuring professionals are equipped to uphold integrity in decision-making.
4. **Whistleblower Protection:** Implementing and strengthening whistleblower mechanisms can empower individuals to report unethical behavior without fear, fostering accountability at all levels.
5. **Community and Industry Engagement:** Engaging industry experts during policy formulation and fostering community awareness will ensure solutions are grounded in real-world challenges and effectively implemented.

Moving ahead, the collective responsibility of policymakers, businesses, and civil society will be to create a culture where integrity and ethical behavior are non-negotiable. By working together, we can ensure these sectors not only adhere to the highest standards of governance but also contribute meaningfully to public welfare and economic growth.

Session 3: Anti-Corruption Law, Anti-Bribery Law, PMLA, Black Money Control, combating public sector and private sector corruption

This session focused on the role of anti-corruption laws and industry collaboration in combating corruption. It highlighted the need for stronger law enforcement, eliminating loopholes, and increasing awareness. The discussion emphasized accountability, transparency, and ethical decision-making as key to fostering a corruption-free environment.



MR. DHARAM JAIN, FORMER SPECIAL DIRECTOR, CBI, GOI

Mr. Dharam Jain, talked about the history of criminalization of corruption and the relevant legislations that are in practice for the enforcement of good governance.

MR. HARTMUT ADEN, BERLIN SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND LAW, GERMANY

Mr. Aden highlighted the importance of accountability in both government and private sector bodies. He shared lessons from Germany's anti-corruption framework, stressing the need for stronger institutional mechanisms to enforce transparency.



MR. AMAN HINGORANI, SENIOR ADVOCATE, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Mr. Hingorani addressed loopholes in current anti-corruption laws, particularly in the corporate sector, where industries often exploit gaps. He called for robust reforms to make laws more effective in promoting ethical practices and transparency.

MS. SANCHITA GAIROLA, CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR (STRATEGY & OPS), VISION360

Ms. Gairola gave an industry perspective, pointing out the lack of awareness about anti-corruption laws in industries. She emphasized the importance of speeding up legal processes and using technology to prevent corruption, urging businesses to prioritize compliance.





DR. ATMARAM SHELKE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL PUNE

Dr. Shelke stressed the need to eliminate discretionary decision-making in industries to prevent corruption. He suggested that individuals in the industry take oaths to imbibe the values of integrity, and recommended incorporating case studies of ethical and unethical decision-making into training programs.

PROF. JS MANN, DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNANCE, NLUD

Prof. Mann thanked the panelists and guests for their valuable contributions, and emphasized the need for a unified approach to strengthen legal frameworks, ensure judicial reforms, and foster international collaboration to combat corruption effectively.



SESSION SUMMARY AND WAY FORWARD

The session provided crucial insights into the challenges and solutions for combating corruption through legal frameworks like anti-corruption laws, anti-bribery laws, and the PMLA. Moving forward, it is essential to focus on several key areas:

1. **Judicial Reform:** There is a need for swift reforms in the judicial system to expedite corruption-related cases and enhance accountability within the legal framework.
2. **Strengthening Enforcement Mechanisms:** To ensure effective implementation, there must be robust enforcement mechanisms that include both government and private sector participation, supported by technology and efficient legal processes.
3. **Global Collaboration:** The session highlighted the importance of international collaboration in sharing best practices and strengthening the enforcement of anti-corruption laws globally, particularly in transnational corruption cases.
4. **Public Awareness and Education:** Raising awareness about anti-corruption laws and compliance frameworks within industries is vital to ensure that businesses and individuals understand their roles in maintaining integrity.
5. **Training and Value System:** Institutions should focus on training individuals in ethical decision-making and incorporate case studies of both ethical and unethical practices to instill integrity from the ground up.

By addressing these areas, we can create a more accountable, transparent, and corruption-free environment, ensuring that anti-corruption efforts have a lasting impact across sectors.

Friday, Day 2: Theme: Elevating Ethical Standards: A Multisectoral Approach to Governance and Accountability

20th December 2024

Session 1: E-Governance and Right to Services: Enhancing Integrity and Promoting Good Governance

The session focused on the role of e-governance and the Right to Services in enhancing integrity and promoting good governance. Experts discussed the stages of reforms in digital services, the importance of technology in governance, and the ethical issues surrounding data integrity and whistleblower protection.

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Technical Session 4: E-Governance and Right to Services: Enhancing Integrity and Promoting Good Governance



Sairam Bhat
NLS Bangalore



Arun Kumar
Economist, Former Professor, JNU



Deepak Srivastava
Former TII Member, New Delhi



Ashutosh Kumar Mishra
Advocate on Record, Supreme Court of India



Karina Bhatia
Associate Professor, GD Goenka University

DR. SAIRAM BHAT, NLS BANGALORE, KARNATAKA

He emphasized the importance of e-governance, discussing the stages of reform from information delivery to service and goods delivery. Highlighted the need for data integrity and laws like the RTI Act and Public Service Guarantee Act in ensuring good governance.

MR. ARUN KUMAR, ECONOMIST AND FORMER PROFESSOR, JNU

Mr. Kumar cautioned against over-reliance on technology, stating that while it is a boon, human integrity behind technology is essential. He emphasized that societal ethics and individual honesty are key to fostering integrity.

MR. DEEPAK SRIVASTAVA, FORMER TII MEMBER, NEW DELHI

He stressed the need for a robust whistle blower protection ecosystem. He also criticized the judiciary for being part of a system that fosters corruption due to vested interests.

MR. ASHUTOSH KUMAR MISHRA, ADVOCATE ON RECORD, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA; ADVISOR, IIM VISAKHAPATNAM; MEMBER TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

Asserted that corruption is a social issue, not just a legal one. He advocated for social reforms and better awareness through technology to support marginalized individuals.

DR. KARINA BHATIA, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, GD GOENKA UNIVERSITY

Dr. Karina provided insights on government initiatives under the 'Digital India' campaign, discussing the diverse aspects of e-governance and its role in promoting transparency and accountability.

SESSION SUMMARY AND WAY FORWARD

The session highlighted several key strategies for enhancing the integrity of e-governance and promoting good governance:

1. **Enhance Digital Service Delivery:** Focus on the third stage of e-governance, which involves timely delivery of goods and services to stakeholders by the government, ensuring that processes are efficient and transparent.
2. **Strengthen Data Protection:** Emphasize the need for robust governance frameworks around both personal and non-personal data to ensure data integrity and protection, a critical aspect of ethical practices in the digital age.
3. **Create Stronger Whistleblower Protections:** Advocate for the development of systems that protect whistleblowers from retaliation. This will encourage transparency and accountability, preventing vested interests from hindering corruption reforms.
4. **Promote Social Reforms:** Acknowledge that corruption is not just a legal issue but a social one. Encouraging social reforms alongside legal and technological advancements is essential for creating a corruption-free environment.
5. **Raise Awareness through Technology:** Leverage technology to raise awareness about rights and services, particularly for marginalized and disadvantaged groups, empowering them to take informed actions and make use of available resources.
6. **Foster Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Encourage collaboration among various stakeholders, including government, academia, and civil society, to effectively implement and enhance e-governance systems and foster good governance practices that promote integrity.

Session 2: Transparency and accountability in governance- Right To Information, Disclosure of Personal Information, Whistle blower Protection law and ethical dimensions of combating corruption

This session addressed transparency, accountability, and ethical challenges in combating corruption. Speakers discussed issues like political corruption, unethical recruitment, and the need for collective responsibility. They emphasized the importance of RTI, whistleblower protection, and ethical conduct in tackling corruption effectively.

GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON COMBATING CORRUPTION AND PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE: CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

Technical Session 5: Transparency and accountability in governance- Right To Information, Disclosure of Personal Information, Whistleblower Protection law and ethical dimensions of combating corruption



Vipul Mudgal,
Director, Common
Cause, New Delhi



Purvi Pokharia
Campus Director, NFSU
Delhi



Om Vyas
Advocate and Former
Registrar NHRC, New
Delhi



**Maj Gen Anil
Verma (Retd)**
Head - ADR



Vinay Thakur
NICS, GOI

MAJOR GENERAL ANIL VERMA (RETD), HEAD – ADR

Gen. Verma highlighted that muscle and money power are key factors hindering the fight against corruption. He advocated for bringing political parties under the Right to Information (RTI) Act to increase transparency and accountability in political processes. Judicial pronouncements, he noted, have recognized the need to address political and electoral corruption.

DR. OM VYAS, ADVOCATE, AND FORMER REGISTRAR NHRC, NEW DELHI

Dr. Vyas stressed the importance of ethical recruitment practices, calling corruption in the system a “cancer” that requires collective action to eradicate. He emphasized that both citizens and the government have a shared responsibility to combat unethical practices and ensure integrity in public service.

MR. VINAY THAKUR- NICS, GOI

Mr. Thakur spoke about how technology can be harnessed to promote transparency in governance by creating systems for real-time data sharing and tracking. He also highlighted the need for strict data privacy safeguards to ensure personal information is protected in digital governance initiatives.

PURVI POKHARIAL, CAMPUS DIRECTOR, NFSU DELHI

Purvi emphasized the importance of academic institutions in fostering awareness about transparency laws. She highlighted that students play a crucial role in promoting ethical governance practices through education, research, and active participation in public advocacy.

MR. VIPUL MUDGAL, DIRECTOR, COMMON CAUSE, NEW DELHI

Mr. Vipul moderated the session & discussed the procedural challenges in addressing unethical practices within organizations, particularly at the top management level. He pointed out that the integrity of institutions is compromised when corruption is not addressed through effective tools like the RTI Act.

SESSION SUMMARY AND WAY FORWARD

Technical Session 2” focused on the interplay of ethics, governance, and legal frameworks in combating corruption. Discussions covered the Right to Information Act, whistleblower protection laws, disclosure of personal information, and ethical considerations in addressing corruption. Key insights included the challenges posed by political and electoral corruption, the unethical recruitment practices that undermine governance, and the need for collective citizen-government action to address these issues. Ethical and moral dimensions were emphasized as foundational to achieving transparency and accountability.

Way Forward:

1. Bringing Political Parties Under RTI: Amend the Right to Information Act to include political parties, enhancing transparency in their functioning and funding.
2. Addressing Unethical Recruitment: Strengthen recruitment processes across public services to eliminate nepotism and unethical practices that perpetuate systemic corruption.
3. Whistleblower Protection: Implement and enforce robust whistleblower protection laws to encourage reporting of corruption without fear of retaliation.
4. Citizen Engagement: Foster greater citizen awareness and participation in governance processes to build a collective front against unethical practices.
5. Ethical Governance: Develop and promote ethical training for public officials and institutions, integrating moral dimensions into anti-corruption strategies.
6. Simplifying Procedures: Simplify governance processes and address procedural complications to reduce opportunities for corruption at higher management levels.

Session 3: Collective Action for Integrity and Transparency: Contribution and Commitment of Corporates, Government, and UN Organizations in combatting corruption

This session emphasized the importance of collaboration among corporates, governments, and UN organizations to combat corruption. Key discussions included judiciary delays, corporate anti-corruption models, high-risk management, and collective action to implement SDGs 16 and 17. The session concluded with a declaration reinforcing the necessity of integrity and transparency across sectors.

GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON COMBATING CORRUPTION AND PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE: CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

Technical Session 6: Collective Action for Integrity and Transparency: Contribution and Commitment of Corporates, Government, and UN Organizations in combatting corruption



Dr. Somnath Singh
Deputy Director, UN GCNI



Navneet Rajan Wassan
Former Spl Director NIA,
New, Delhi



Li Bin Law
School BNU Beijing,
China



Fabian Espejo
Consultant, Anti-
Corruption, UN Global
Compact, New York



Sunanda Wadhwa
Compliance Head,
Carlsberg India Pvt Ltd.



AP Singh
Director
NCGG, GOI, India

MR. NAVNEET RAJAN WASSAN, FORMER SPECIAL DIRECTOR, NIA, NEW DELHI

Mr. Wassan set the stage by emphasizing the judiciary's crucial role in combating corruption. He highlighted challenges such as the backlog of cases and the resulting delays, which hamper anti-corruption efforts. He called for collaborative approaches among organizations to enhance efficiency and accountability in tackling corruption.

MR. LI BIN, FACULTY MEMBER, LAW SCHOOL, BNU, BEIJING, CHINA

Mr. Bin elaborated on corporate responsibility in addressing corruption and shared insights into China's regulatory framework. He detailed the anti-corruption measures adopted in China, emphasizing the importance of strict regulations and consistent enforcement in mitigating corrupt practices within the corporate sector.

DR. FABIAN ESPEJO, CONSULTANT, ANTI-CORRUPTION, UN GLOBAL COMPACT, NEW YORK

Dr. Espejo spoke about the UNGC's commitment to fighting corruption and the indispensable role of collective action in achieving this goal. He emphasized the participation of civil society, the public sector, and private organizations in implementing SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), stressing that collaboration is essential for long-term success.

MS. SUNANDA WADHWA, COMPLIANCE HEAD, CARLSBERG INDIA PVT. LTD.

Ms. Wadhwa focused on corruption in high-risk management areas, stressing the importance of proactive measures such as training and awareness. She discussed the necessity of regularly assessing third-party investments and ensuring all actions are justified both legally and morally. Her insights highlighted the critical role of compliance in mitigating corruption risks.

DR. SOMNATH SINGH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, UN GCNI

Dr. Singh provided an overview of the Anti-Corruption Collective Action (AC CA) initiatives led by UN GCNI. He explained how these initiatives aim to bring together various stakeholders from different sectors to effectively combat corruption. He emphasized the importance of collective action in fostering integrity and transparency on a larger scale.

The session concluded with a joint declaration by Dr. Somnath Singh and Prof. J.S. Mann, reaffirming the necessity of united efforts in the fight against corruption.

SESSION SUMMARY AND WAY FORWARD

The session brought together distinguished speakers to discuss the collaborative efforts required among corporates, governments, and UN organizations to combat corruption. The session highlighted key challenges, including judiciary delays, corporate responsibilities, and corruption in high-risk management, while emphasizing the role of collective action in achieving SDGs 16 and 17. Discussions underscored the importance of strict regulatory frameworks, stakeholder training, and ethical assessments to foster transparency and accountability.

Way Forward:

1. **Judicial Efficiency:** Implement reforms to address case backlogs and ensure timely investigation and adjudication of corruption cases.
2. **Corporate Accountability:** Encourage organizations to adopt robust anti-corruption frameworks, conduct regular third-party assessments, and promote compliance through training and awareness programs.
3. **Global Collaboration:** Strengthen partnerships among governments, corporates, and civil society to advance collective action initiatives and achieve SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).
4. **Regulatory Enhancements:** Develop and enforce stricter regulatory frameworks to deter corrupt practices, ensuring consistent monitoring and penalties for violations.
5. **Capacity Building:** Focus on stakeholder education and capacity building to create awareness about corruption risks and ethical standards at all organizational levels.
6. **Scaling Collective Action:** Expand and replicate successful collective action initiatives like UN GCNI's Anti-Corruption Collective Action (AC CA) to foster integrity and transparency across sectors.

Paper Presentation



The session commenced with an insightful address by J.S. Mann, Director of the Centre for Transparency and Accountability in Governance at NLUD. The discussion revolved around the pressing issue of combating corruption and the pivotal role that transparency and accountability play in promoting good governance.

Drawing on his extensive experience, Mann outlined the current challenges in ensuring transparency in public administration, including opaque decision-making processes, insufficient access to information, and inadequate public participation. He stressed the need for stronger enforcement of laws such as the Right to Information Act and greater efforts toward creating systems that proactively disclose information to citizens.

Dr. Somnath began by emphasizing the interconnectedness of these three pillars—transparency, accountability, and governance—and their collective significance in mitigating corruption at institutional and systemic levels. He highlighted that corruption erodes public trust, weakens democratic institutions, and hampers socio-economic development, making it a critical concern for policymakers, legal frameworks, and civil society.

The event brought together insightful research addressing critical aspects of governance, accountability, and transparency across various sectors. Presentations explored challenges, innovations, and strategies to enhance public trust and efficiency.

Key highlights included:

1. **Technological Advancements:** Several papers emphasized the role of digital tools, AI, and blockchain in improving governance, such as mitigating financial risks in banking, combating corruption, and enhancing transparency in the criminal justice system.
2. **Addressing Corruption:** From Haryana's education sector to sports administration, corruption was identified as a persistent issue. Solutions ranged from systemic reforms to better communication, public oversight, and technological integration.
3. **Legal and Regulatory Gaps:** Presenters critically analyzed India's frameworks like the PMLA, identifying gaps in addressing financial crimes, tax erosion, and black money. Recommendations included stronger, integrated policies.
4. **Sustainability and Ethics:** Greenwashing in sustainability claims and judicial impartiality were explored, highlighting the need for stricter monitoring and ethical practices to maintain public trust.

The event underscored the importance of innovative, collaborative, and sector-specific approaches to achieving transparency and good governance.

Symposium Declaration

GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON COMBATING CORRUPTION AND PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE: CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

Paper Presentations and Symposium Declaration



Dr. Somnath Singh
Deputy Director, UN GCNI



Li Bin
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China



JS Mann
Director, CTAG

The declaration, adopted at the conclusion of the symposium, underscores a unified vision to tackle corruption and reinforce transparency, accountability, and integrity across India's socio-political and economic systems.

Acknowledgments:

The declaration begins by recognizing critical issues and opportunities:

1. **Corruption's Impact:** Acknowledging that corruption significantly threatens India's democratic institutions, economic growth, and social equity.
2. **The Need for Strong Systems:** Emphasizing the importance of robust, transparent, and accountable systems that prioritize integrity and public trust across all sectors.
3. **Role of Education and Technology:** Highlighting the critical role of education, advocacy, and innovative technologies in fostering ethical governance and active citizen participation.

Proclamations:

The declaration makes the following proclamations:

1. **Governance Principles:** Integrity, accountability, and transparency must form the foundation of governance to ensure equitable development and social justice in India.
2. **Shared Responsibility:** Combating corruption requires collective engagement from governments, industries, academia, and civil society.
3. **Resilient Frameworks:** Establishing a robust framework rooted in legal, institutional, and technological reforms is essential for building public trust and creating systems resistant to corruption.

RESOLUTIONS

The declaration outlines eight resolutions to address corruption and promote good governance:

1. Strengthen legal and institutional frameworks to deter corruption.
2. Promote ethical leadership in governance and professional practices.
3. Safeguard whistleblowers and ensure support for victims of corruption.
4. Leverage technology to enhance transparency and accountability.
5. Empower citizens through education and encourage proactive engagement.
6. Foster collaboration among governments, industries, academia, and civil society.
7. Integrate ethics and integrity into educational curricula and professional training.
8. Promote cultural and social transformation to establish a corruption-resistant society.

The declaration serves as a comprehensive roadmap for combating corruption and reinforcing good governance in India. It reflects a collective determination to create a society where transparency and accountability are central to governance, fostering trust and equity among all citizens.

The adoption of this declaration marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to address corruption. The National Symposium concluded with a shared resolve to implement these resolutions and drive impactful change at every level of governance. Organizers pledged to sustain the momentum through follow-up initiatives, ensuring that the outcomes of this symposium translate into tangible reforms and actions.

This declaration signifies hope and unity in the fight against corruption, paving the way for a brighter and more equitable future for India.

GLIMPSES FROM THE GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON COMBATING CORRUPTION AND PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE

DAY 2 Elevating Ethical Standards: A Multisectoral Approach to Governance and Accountability 20th December 2024



Inaugural Session



Launch of the UN GCNI publication, “The Evaluation of Health Systems in India: Decoding the Impact on Health Governance, Transparency, and Infrastructure”



Session 1: The Landscape of Integrity and Governance in India: The Role of Education and Advocacy in Promoting Integrity



Session 2: Transparency and accountability in governance- Right To Information, Disclosure of Personal Information, Whistle blower Protection law and ethical dimensions of combating corruption



Session 3: Anti-Corruption Law, Anti-Bribery Law, PMLA, Black Money Control, combating public sector and private sector corruption



DAY 2 Elevating Ethical Standards: A Multisectoral Approach to Governance and Accountability

20th December 2024



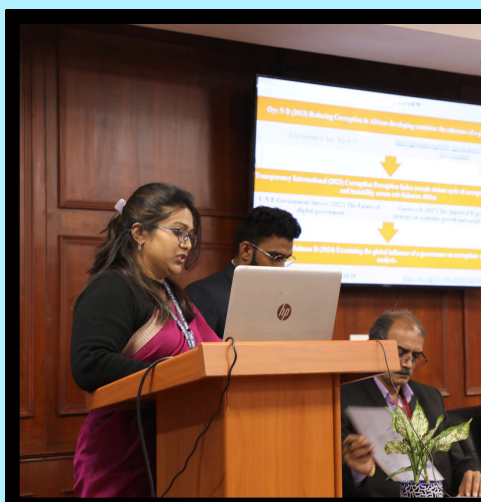
Session 1: E-Governance and Right to Services: Enhancing Integrity and Promoting Good Governance



Session 2: Transparency and accountability in governance- Right To Information, Disclosure of Personal Information, Whistle blower Protection law and ethical dimensions of combating corruption



Session 3: Collective Action for Integrity and Transparency: Contribution and Commitment of Corporates, Government, and UN Organizations in combatting corruption



Paper Presentation & Declaration