

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

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Vigilance Awareness Week

India and Her Corruption Perils

Learnings, Challenges and Prospects

Panel Discussion - Nov 4, 2022(Friday)-3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)

Commemorates

Vigilance Awareness Week (31 Oct- 6
Nov)

JGI JAIN
DEDICATED TO BE UNIVERSITY

India and Her Corruption Perils

Commemorates
Vigilance Awareness Week
(31 October - 6 November 2022)

Presenting
A Panel Discussion on
India and Her Corruption Perils
Learnings, Challenges, & Prospects

04 November 2022 | 03:30 P.M. - 05:00 P.M.

2nd Floor Auditorium, Conference Hall 3, JAIN Knowledge Campus,
JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), Jayanagar, Bengaluru

Chair



Justice Santosh Hegde
Former Judge, Supreme Court of India

Panellists



V. Balasubramanian
IAS (Retd.)



Kathyayini Chamaraj
Executive Trustee at CIVIC, Bangalore



Cynthia Stephen
Independent Journalist
Researcher & Activist

Patrons

Dr. Chenraj Roychand Chancellor JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)	Col (Hony.) Dr. N. Sundarajan Pro Chancellor JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Dr. Eswaran Iyer Pro Vice Chancellor JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)	Professor (Dr.) Raj Singh Vice Chancellor JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)
Dr. N. V. H. Krishnan Registrar JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)	Prof. K. R. Sridhara Murthy Director - Academics and Planning JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)

E-certificates shall be issued for all the attendees

Vigilance Awareness Week, celebrated every year, commemorates the birth week of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Born on October 31st, 1875 he is also hailed as ‘the iron man of India’ for his high moral integrity and dignified conduct. The idea of celebrating the week was first

floated in 2000. This year, Vigilance Week is being observed between October 31 and November 6. The Vigilance Week, observed under the aegis of the Central Vigilance Commission, aims at combating the ills of corruption both at the individual and systemic levels.

In order to establish a healthy democratic space for discussion on corruption, this Vigilance Awareness Week (2022), JAIN sought insights from the stakeholders deliberating upon its various facets. JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), would like to ensure that these young minds are nurtured in a well-informed manner. After all, the bottom line of corruption remains to hamper and hinder public life and people's interests. A panel discussion on the theme of **Corruption Free India for a Developed Nation**, as mandated by the University Grants Commission (UGC), titled *India and Her Corruption Perils: Learning, Challenges & Prospects* was held on November 4 between 3.30 pm and 5 pm at the JAIN Knowledge campus. The event commenced with the emcee, Dr. Debangana Chatterjee from the Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE) formally introducing the distinguished dignitaries.

The discussion was chaired and moderated by **Justice N. Santosh Hegde**, Former Judge at the Supreme Court of India. The expert speakers for the event were Mr. **V. Balasubramanian**, IAS (Retd.), Ms. **Kathyavini Chamaraj**, Executive Trustee at CIVIC, Bangalore, and Ms. **Cynthia Stephen**, Independent Journalist, Researcher & Activist.

Through the course of the discussion, the dignitaries mainly attempted to address the current challenges emanating from India's existing governance mechanisms. Reflecting on their experiences, the speakers reflected largely on Karnataka. While Mr. Balasubramanian provided an administrative perspective, Ms. Chamaraj and Ms. Stephen shared some of their grassroots experiences. Mr. Balasubramanian, known for his report on Greed and Connivance which he went on to publish unequivocally, presented a rather grim picture of the hard reality of corruption in India. It has been to the degree of calling corruption in the country eradicable. He, in fact, drew an Indian parallel with the United Kingdom and discussed the nexus of international corruption, particularly highlighting the specifics of the Panama Paper revelations of recent times. Ms. Chamaraj, on the other hand, highlighted the role of the right to information for people. At the same time, she expressed her concerns about how corruption affects marginalised communities disproportionately. As a result, a nominal bribe though may be affordable for particular social strata, may hinder access to basic services by the marginalised communities. From potholes to the illegal encroachment resulting in the uncalled-for deluge in Bengaluru- were highlighted during the discussion.

Ms. Stephen drew from Ms. Chamaraj as she mentioned how the post-facto demolitions of illegal constructions let the real perpetrators of corruption go scot-free. She discussed how governance at the different state levels may be characterised. In fact, taking a tour of the Indian states, she showed how the various levels of corruption infest the Indian polity- be it

political, economic, or administrative. Having said that, she expressed her optimism going forward as she emphasised the phrase *Vigilance Works*- a pledge characterising the national motto of the country reflected in Vigilance Awareness Week. Justice Hegde drew from all the speakers and further opined on the matter incisively. Though not a pessimist, Justice Hegde highlighted the difficulty in finding the proper way out of the corruption perils in India. He identified greed, innate to human nature, being the driving force behind continued corruption in the country and directed the youth to a path to contentment and humanism. He underlined the importance of nurturing the values instilled by our ancestors. In fact, Dr. Rajani Jayaram, Dean of Students' Welfare, while pledging the formal vote of thanks mentioned how these values may be found even in the various Hindu scriptures.

Indian democracy, despite its rich heritage, magnitude, and opulence, has been facing the question of transparency and accountability since its inception. Thus, vigilance and awareness are key to the functioning of a healthy democracy, to say the least. Yet, Indian democracy time and again has suffered from political decay, especially due to multi-level corruption. Acknowledging this facet of democracy, thus, calls for the willingness to fight against the same. Both at the national and regional levels, the question remains over the modalities of ensuring a corruption-free India.



The lighting of the lamp during the event





Panelist during the event

MAPPA students with Justice Santosh Hegde



Dr. Priyanca Mathur and Dr. Debangana Chatterjee with Justice Santosh Hegde