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केन्द्रीय सतर्कता आयोग
CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION



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Circular No. 08/08/17

Subject:- Observance of Vigilance Awareness Week, 2017.

Central Vigilance Commission, as the apex integrity institution of the country, endeavours to promote integrity, transparency and accountability in public life. Observance of Vigilance Awareness Week every year is part of a multi-pronged approach of the Commission wherein one of the strategies is to encourage all stakeholders to collectively participate in the prevention of and the fight against corruption and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption. The Commission has decided that this year the Vigilance Awareness Week would be observed from 30th October to 4th November, 2017 with the theme "My Vision-Corruption Free India" ("मेरा लक्ष्य - भ्रष्टाचार मुक्त भारत").

2. Corruption can be defined as a dishonest or unethical conduct by a person entrusted with a position of authority, either to obtain benefits to one self or to some other person. It is a global phenomenon, affecting all strata of society in some way or the other. Corruption undermines political development, democracy, economic development, the environment, people's health and much more. It is, therefore, imperative that the public must be sensitised and motivated in the Commission's anti-corruption efforts.

3. E-governance combined with systemic changes in procedures, minimal discretion, reduced public interface, technology based procurements and automation will go a long way in tackling corruption. The Commission has, therefore, been advising all organizations/departments to have in place effective preventive measures to fight corruption and also to enhance transparency and accountability in their functioning. All organizations should strive to eradicate corruption in their respective sphere of activities. The Commission has accordingly chosen "My Vision-Corruption Free India" as the central theme for Vigilance Awareness Week, 2017.

4. The observance of the Vigilance Awareness Week would commence with the Integrity Pledge (copy enclosed at Annexure 'A') by public servants in the Ministries/Departments/Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)/Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and all other Organisations on 30th October, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. It may be noted that the earlier pledge being taken by public servants has now been replaced by the Integrity Pledge.

5. All these Organisations are also advised to conduct activities relevant to the theme both within their organization, and outreach activities for public/citizens as below:-

A. Activities to be conducted within the organization:

- A1. Taking of Integrity Pledge by all employees. Employees may be encouraged to take e-pledge by visiting the website. Those who take the pledge verbally may be advised to record it through the website.
- A2. Distribute pamphlets/handouts on preventive vigilance activities, whistle blower mechanism and other anti-corruption measures.
- A3. Conduct workshops/sensitization programmes for employees and other stake holders on policies/procedures of the organization and preventive vigilance measures.
- A4. Bring out special issue of journals/newsletters on vigilance issues, systemic improvements and good practices adopted for wider dissemination and awareness.
- A5. Conduct various competitions such as debates, quiz etc. for the employees and their families on issues relating to anti-corruption;
- A6. Use organizational website for dissemination of employees/customer oriented information and to make available avenues for grievance redressal.
- A7. Promote the concept of e-Integrity Pledge by persons with whom the organization deals with.

B. Outreach activities for public/citizens:

- B1. Display of hoardings, banners, posters and distribution of handouts etc. at prominent locations/places in offices/field units and also at places with public interface (eg. branches of Banks, petrol pumps, Railway Stations, Airports etc.).
- B2. Organize grievance redressal camps for citizens/customers by organisations having customer oriented services/activities. Similarly, vendor meets may be organised wherever necessary. It is expected that such camps/meets are held by the organisations not only at headquarters but also at all appropriate field units.
- B3. The Commission had envisaged a concept of "Integrity Pledge" last year. As such two Integrity Pledges are available one for enlisting support and commitment of the citizens and the other for corporates/entities/firms etc. (Annexure 'A' & 'B'). All Ministries/Departments/Organisations need to make renewed and concerted efforts towards disseminating and publicising the 'Integrity Pledge' amongst all employees, their families, vendors/ suppliers/ contractors/ stakeholders/students/citizens etc. so as to elicit wider participation to the initiative of Integrity Pledge of the Commission.

The online "Integrity Pledge" is available on the CVC's website <http://www.cvc.nic.in> and can also be accessed through the hyperlink provided by the Ministries/Organisations.

- B4. Laying stress for creation of awareness on the ill-effects of corruption amongst school and college students, the Commission desires that special efforts may be made by each field unit/branch of every CPSE/ to reach out to students in at least 2 schools and 3 colleges.

In this regard, various activities such as lectures, panel discussions, debates, quiz, essay writing, slogans/elocution/cartoon/poster competitions on moral values, ethics, good governance practices etc. can be organized so as to generate healthy debate on corruption and for ensuring active participation of students of schools/colleges/professional colleges. In order to ensure that there is wide coverage of cities/towns across the country, it is proposed all the various organizations alongwith field units/branches, conduct the outreach activities in schools and colleges in the cities/towns as indicated at Annexures 'C' and 'D'.

- B5. Activities conducted in schools and colleges need to be sustained over a period of time to ensure that ethical values are ingrained permanently in the minds of young generations. All organizations may, therefore, encourage establishment of 'Integrity Club' in schools and colleges as children are the future assets of the country and it is important to cultivate moral values in them.

- B6. Organise "Awareness Gram Sabhas" for dissemination of awareness in Gram Panchayats (in rural and semi-urban areas) to sensitise citizens on the ill-effects of corruption. As was the case last year, this year too the various Public Sector Banks need to request each of their branches to conduct "Awareness Gram Sabhas" in atleast two Gram Panchayats. In addition to Public Sector Banks, other organizations may also organise "Awareness Gram Sabhas" wherever possible.

In this regard, the CVOs of PSBs along with the CMD or his nominee may hold a meeting / video conference with the Heads of their Circle and Regional Offices, Branch Managers, Vigilance Managers and Vigilance Officers to finalise action plan for conducting "Awareness Gram Sabhas" and to monitor the same. The Head of the Regional Office (or of the Circle if there are no Regional Offices) may function as the Nodal Officer for successful implementation of this activity by the branches under their jurisdiction. Indicative list of activities which can be conducted as part of "Awareness Gram Sabhas" is at Annexure 'E'.

- B7. While in the rural and semi-urban areas "Awareness Gram Sabhas" would suffice, in the urban areas, public can be engaged in discussion about corruption by organising "Seminars/Workshops". Hence, all Organizations are requested to hold at least one such seminar at their headquarters/regional offices.

Similarly, PSBs may also ensure that their branches located at block headquarters and district headquarters organize such seminars at each block and at each district headquarters. For this purpose the various bank branches at block and district level may like to coordinate with each other.

- B8. Organizations may also undertake activities such as walkathon /marathon /cyclathon etc., or organise human chain which have a wider appeal across all strata of society in at least one place in the country.

B9. While organising Gram Sabhas and seminars the participation of non-government organisations, corporates in private sector, other institutions, service organisations and public in the local area may be ensured.

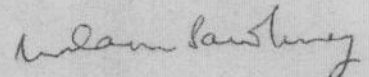
B10. Use extensively social media, bulk sms/E-mail, Whatsapp, electronic and print media etc. for spreading awareness.

B11. **Vigilance Study Circles** may also participate actively in the VAW by conducting any or all of the outreach activities.

6. The Commission expects all the organizations to conduct the various activities with zeal and enthusiasm to achieve the Commission's objective to eliminate corruption in public life. Although all activities need to be conducted during the Vigilance Awareness Week, however, in case of exigencies/school holidays etc., the same can be conducted before or after the Vigilance Awareness Week.

7. A report on the observance of the Week may be sent by all Ministries/Departments/Organisations to Central Vigilance Commission as per the format enclosed at Annexure 'F' by 30th November, 2017.

8. This notification is also available on the Commission's website at <http://www.cvc.nic.in>.


(Nilam Sawhney)
Secretary

Encl: As stated.

To

- (i) The Secretaries of all Ministries/Departments of Government of India.
- (ii) The Chief Secretaries of all States/Union Territories
- (iii) The Comptroller & Auditor General of India
- (iv) The Chairman, Union Public Service Commission
- (v) The Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commission
- (vi) Chief Executives of all CPSEs/Public Sector Banks/ Public Sector Insurance Companies/Financial Institutions/Autonomous Organisations/Societies.
- (vii) All Chief Vigilance Officers in Ministries/Departments/CPSEs/Public Sector Banks/Public Sector Insurance Companies/Financial Institutions/Autonomous Organisations/Societies.



Integrity Pledge

I believe that corruption has been one of the major obstacles to economic, political and social progress of our country. I believe that all stakeholders such as Government, citizens and private sector need to work together to eradicate corruption.

I realise that every citizen should be vigilant and commit to highest standards of honesty and integrity at all times and support the fight against corruption.

I, therefore, pledge:

- To follow probity and rule of law in all walks of life;
- To neither take nor offer bribe;
- To perform all tasks in an honest and transparent manner;
- To act in public interest;
- To lead by example exhibiting integrity in personal behaviour;
- To report any incident of corruption to the appropriate agency.



Integrity Pledge for Organisations

We believe that corruption has been one of the major obstacles to economic, political and social progress of our country. We believe that all stakeholders such as Government, citizens and private sector need to work together to eradicate corruption.

We acknowledge our responsibility to lead by example and the need to put in place safeguards, integrity frameworks and code of ethics to ensure that we are not part of any corrupt practice and we tackle instances of corruption with utmost strictness.

We realize that as an Organisation, we need to lead from the front in eradicating corruption and in maintaining highest standards of integrity, transparency and good governance in all aspects of our operations.

We, therefore, pledge that:

- We shall promote ethical business practices and foster a culture of honesty and integrity;
- We shall not offer or accept bribes;
- We commit to good corporate governance based on transparency, accountability and fairness;
- We shall adhere to relevant laws, rules and compliance mechanisms in the conduct of business;
- We shall adopt a code of ethics for all our employees;
- We shall sensitise our employees of laws, regulations, etc. relevant to their work for honest discharge of their duties;
- We shall provide grievance redressal and Whistle Blower mechanism for reporting grievances and fraudulent activities;
- We shall protect the rights and interests of stakeholders and the society at large.