



Foundation for Restoration of National Values

Newsletter

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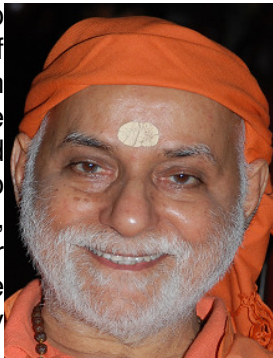
"Understand that cultural cohesion is the spinal chord of our intrinsic unity and strength. Cultural patriotism alone empowers us to transcend customary and linguistic diversities and accomplish national goals. This cultural bond, forged by values, inspiration and nationalism, is what we have to enthrone in our people to reinforce the country and march forward with invincible confidence."
- **Swami Bhoomananda Tirtha**

EDITORIAL

Recent resignation of Ombudsman (Lokayukta) of Karnataka Justice Santosh Hegde should be an eye opener National issue for the citizens of India. It was a regrettable situation when Justice Hegde had to resign. The circumstances under which Justice Hegde had to take this significant decision have threatened the entire nation. It just goes to show how rampant corruption has become. It is also pitiable that in the hands of democracy, well meaning crusaders like Justice Hegde have been put to great trouble and distress. Although, he has withdrawn the resignation but this event should be a turning point in the country's fight against corruption. We urge to citizens and various Governments to wake up and resolve to eliminate corruption with renewed vigour.

SPRITUALITY: THE MISSING DIMENSIONS IN PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Today, I will introduce to you the subject of spirituality and explain to some extent the relevance and application it has to professional life, especially in the matter of achieving the excellence that every professional strives for.



Whenever we use the words 'spirit, spiritual or spirituality' people generally relate them to life after death or life before birth. Some will even relate it to ghosts. But alas, it is entirely different! We have words like matter and

energy. All forms of existence in the universe are traceable to either matter or energy. But, does it explain everything? Look at your own body and personality. Is it merely matter and energy? You may not be a scientist to investigate the universe and its constituents. But so far as you are concerned, you should certainly be able to examine yourself and find out - *'Am I all matter and energy?'*

You are not these two alone. You are thinking, sensing, knowing, remembering, forgetting and so on. Sensation, cognition, thinking, understanding, intellection - none of these emerge from either matter or energy. If you were simply an aggregate of energy-matter combination, you would not have a mind at all. You would have been absent as far as intellect is concerned. You wouldn't have any kind of feeling. You would have been at best a robot.

Do we know of any energy and matter that is capable of thinking, feeling and knowing? Wherefrom do thoughts come? Wherefrom do feelings proceed? How is it that emotions are constantly generated in our personality? Can matter or energy be the source of it? Certainly not. Then what is the source?

That source, my dear souls, my dear managers, is the Spirit. Spirituality is a subject that directly addresses this issue. So, when we say spirituality, we are referring to something very dear and near to ourselves. No, we are referring to something that is *you, yourself*. I ask every one of you - Are you primarily a material person or a spiritual being?

If you are only a material individual, you would have been a dead body. You are a spiritual person. We know that the cornea of a dead body can be grafted into a person and

that biological body begins to see. The cornea was in tact, but the seer was missing. That is why when grafted to a spiritually vibrant body of a 'living' person, that person begins to see. Does the seeing really belong to the body or does it belong to something else?

By 'spirituality', I mean this kind of wonderful source which encompasses all the powers and potentials that you find manifest in the whole creation surrounding you.

Today my purpose is to present before you the relevance of spirituality so far as professional excellence is concerned. Any person in a profession wanting to gain professional excellence, must have fairly good mastery of the branch of knowledge he deals with. And I am sure you professionals are performing well in this level. I compliment all of you for the object knowledge, professional knowledge that you have. Mark my words - *object knowledge*.

But mind you, a professional is primarily a spiritual person. In as much as you are a spiritual person, you must have spiritual knowledge also, i.e., the knowledge of the 'Subject' the 'Knower' in you. Do you know the difference between the object and the subject? Whenever I look at the wall, the wall is the object of perception for me. The perceiver is the subject. In all the interactions that you have, sensorily, mentally, intellectually, personally or professionally, are you the interacting subject or are you the interacted object? Have you ever undertaken an examination of this nature? *If you want to achieve professional excellence you must know the Subject in you.*

[Excerpts from Poojya Swamiji's address to Trichur Management Association]

CORRUPTION AND THE APPOINTMENT OF LOK AYUKTAS

Every citizen knows that corruption is gnawing away at the very vitals of our country's economy and if not stopped in time, it might lead to anarchy and lawlessness, affecting the delicate social and moral fabric of the country. In this

context, any recommendation which aims at preventing corruption or prosecuting corrupt practices should be welcomed with gusto. The 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission had suggested that the definition of corruption under the Prevention of Corruption Act should be enlarged to include gross perversion of the Constitution or its democratic institutions, amounting to willful violation of the Oath of Office, abuse of authority, unduly favouring or harming someone, obstruction of justice and willful squandering of public money. The government has not accepted this recommendation and has not assigned any reason for its decision! The citizens of this country have a right to know why the government has not accepted this wholesome recommendation.

Corruption is not only the taking or giving of bribes, it usually manifests itself in abuse of authority, obstruction of justice and the squandering of public money. Have we not come across huge advertisements in the media extolling the performance of various Ministries of the Government of India or the State Governments, just prior to the announcement of elections? Is this not a corrupt practice? The answer clearly is in the affirmative, since it amounts to a blatant abuse of authority, and is actually the squandering of public money for electoral gains. This is totally unethical.

Another important recommendation made by the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission pertains to the appointment of an Ombudsman called the *Rashtriya Lok Ayukta*. **A Lok Ayukta is to be empowered to enquire all complaints against Ministers (except the Prime Minister), all Chief Ministers and other public persons holding offices equivalent to that of a Minister, and all Members of Parliament.** The government's response to this recommendation is that the Lok Pal Bill is

pending before Parliament and therefore no action is called for at this moment. Even in this case, the public has a right to know why the Lok Pal Bill has not been enacted by Parliament even though it has been pending for more than a decade. Apparently, the government does not want to create any institution which will make Ministers and Members of Parliament accountable for their actions. However, the government have agreed with another recommendation of ARC to amend the Constitution to make it obligatory for States to establish the *Lok Ayuktas* at the State level, and having jurisdiction over Ministers in the State Government, as well as persons holding office equivalent to the rank of Ministers, and Members of Legislatures. Here again, the government has exhibited double standards. Should not the medicine, that is good for the States, be good for the Centre as well? One wonders!

Dr. Gopal Ganesh

NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2nd Annual General Meeting of the Foundation held on 9th July 2010 at the registered office of the Foundation. Dr. E. Sreedharan, Sri Bharat Wakhlu, Sri Prem Arora, Br. Prasanna Swaroopa, Sri M. Ayyappan, Sri Ravi Mehrotra, Sri Arun Kirpal, Sri Ashwani Kumar, Sri Sanjay Chakravarty and Sri Ravi Raj Atrey were present among other Members and Friends of FRNV. Presentation of Annual Report, Accounts for last financial year, appointment of statutory auditors, interaction with participants and Regional Chapter activities were discussed during the meeting. Sage Publications organized a an exhibition and sales counter for the Book "Restoring Values: Keys to Integrity, Ethical Behaviour and Good Governance" at the venue of AGM.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Executive Committee Meeting of FRNV held on 15th July 2010 in New Delhi. Dr. E.

Sreedharan, Sri Bharat Wakhlu, Sri Prem Arora, Smt. Savita Wakhlu, Br. Prasanna Swaroopa, Sri Arun Kirpal and Sri Ravi Raj Atrey were present. A review of ongoing programmes was done during the meeting.

NEWS FROM FRNV PROJECTS

National Value Education

- **Collaboration with Siemens:** The National Value Education Task force is working with the appropriate arm of the Siemens to roll out the Value Education agenda in schools in Delhi/Mumbai and other cities.
- **National Value-based Educational System Document:** On the basis of extensive study done by the Task-force on National Value Education, a National Value Based Educational System Document is being prepared for implementation in the schools, the launch of the document is proposed on 5th September 2010 at the occasion of the 'Teacher's Day'.

Police Reforms

- **Delegation meets Lt. Governor of NCT of Delhi:** Following a meeting with the Union Home Secretary Sri G.K. Pillai, a delegation comprising Sri Bharat Wakhlu, Ms. Maja Daruwala and Sri Sarvesh Sharma met Sri Tejendra Khanna, Lt. Governor of NCT of Delhi. Mr. khanna assured to take every possible steps to push the recommendations for legislating a entirely new Model Delhi Police Act, as submitted by the delegation.

Eliminating Corruption

- We are working with the National Anti Corruption Strategy Team under the Central Vigilance Commission to determine incentives and disincentives to minimize all forms of corruption. .
- After the resignation of Hon'ble

Lokayukta of Karnataka, FRNV President Dr. E. Sreedharan ji wrote a letter to His Excellency Shri H.R. Bhardwaj, Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka, to take all steps necessary to wipe out corruption in the state of Karnataka and restore people's faith in democracy as the constitutional head of the state.

NEWS FROM REGIONAL CHAPTERS

KERALA

- FRNV Kerala Executive Committee Meeting held on 15th July 2010 at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- A meeting with Friends of FRNV held in Trissur on 24th July 2010 in presence of Poojya Swami Bhoomananda Tirtha Ji.

BOOK REVIEW

In-valuable Traits: It's no longer something that haunts us. Rather, it's something we



**RESTORING
VALUES:**
Keys to Integrity,
Ethical Behaviour
and Good
Governance
Edited by E. Sreedharan,
Bharat Wakhlu
Sage
Rs 395, Pp 205

Delhi, aptly infamous for its scores of ghost

employees, has over 4,300 corruption cases pending against it. Alleged or otherwise, corruption has, least said, become a part of our system long after the permit licence raj was abolished. Little wonder that the country manages a dismal rank of 84 in a list of 180 countries surveyed by the Transparency International's 2009 Corruption Perceptions Index. Estimates by management guru CK Prahlad suggest that corruption has cost India Rs 2,50,000 crore! Given the void, integrity, ethical behaviour and good governance were subjects that assumed significance at a two-day conclave by the Foundation for Restoration of National Values. The Foundation deliberated on the causes of decline in values in India and some of its discourses have now been compiled by Dr E Sreedharan and Bharat Wakhlu in Restoring Values: Keys to Integrity, Ethical Behaviour and Good Governance. The authors, stalwarts in their respective fields, need little introduction. The former, a technocrat, is the man behind Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and the latter is the resident director of the Tata Group and the general secretary of the Foundation of Restoration of National Values.

While to most the idea of an ethical, value-based society would seem almost utopian, the authors perceive it to be real and achievable: "We believe that to be ethical and to work with the interest of others at heart is not utopian at all. In fact, it is something that everybody can practice, provided one understands what 'true value' is. In a short human life time, focusing on the well-being of others and committing one's life to selfless service is the best way forward to create a value-based society."

However, the creation of such a society is not an easy task. The book cites several factors such as absence of right kind of leadership, corruption, inefficiency and lack of transparency that obstruct India's progress...

(Courtesy: The Financial Express, June 13, 2010)

If you have any suggestions or feedback, we would be happy to address them.

Email: frnadmin@valuefoundation.in

www.valuefoundation.in