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# WHY HONESTY IS A PRICELESS ASSET FOR A CIVIL SERVANT

Relevant for: Ethics | Topic: Foundational values for Civil Service - Integrity, Objectivity, Impartiality & non-partisanship

Occasional musings on honesty, truthfulness, or professional ethics by some former bureaucrats appear to be a favoured time-pass, which to many may be entertaining. The age-old dictum — honesty is the best policy — was underscored recently by a former bureaucrat now holding a constitutional post in a news article a few days back. Curiously, he concluded that in the larger societal interest, bureaucrats need to remain honest though it has a direct or collateral cost to them. Illustrations were presented on forms of honesty along with dos and don'ts in various situations, leaving a feeling as if logic and virtue of honesty was being turned on its head. There is no point in guessing what prompted such outpourings.

Honesty or absolute integrity, truthfulness and hard work without indulgences form an inherent part of the life a civil servant whose sole objective is to efficiently deliver services to the public. These attributes cannot be viewed through prisms of additional qualifiers and costs. Pontifications by some leading lights who are also seen to be opposing policies and statutes they had promoted while in service appear opportunistic. After enjoying nearly four decades of public life holding key positions in the Republic of India, whose motto is “Satyameva Jayate”, when we are cautioned that honesty has a cost, the only logical albeit harsh conclusion that can be drawn is that of self-deception or an arrogance that led to failure to differentiate between appearance and reality.

**Also Read | [A society that creates hurdles to exhaust the honest, paves the path for its own perdition](#)**

It is a travesty of truth to conclude that honesty has a huge cost. Honest decisions and truthful implementation of law do entail risks and difficulties in a society which fails to respect the rule of law in letter and spirit. Indeed, a society infected by various forms of perversions and delusions does not deserve to find absolute virtues in the instruments of State, be that legislature, executive or judiciary, which are mandated to serve without discrimination and to deliver justice efficiently without fear or favour. It thus follows that in the rat-race to grab key posts, competing claims are not necessarily based on merit; desired prerequisites at times are superseded by undesirable additional attributes of incumbents. Such carefully hidden distortions do get manifest ultimately. When the so-called ‘go-getters’ fail to fulfill their master’s expectations, the going get tough for them — and a ‘fishing and roving’ shining career sometimes suffers ‘fishing and roving’ enquiries’. Arm-twisting or blackmail is a crude expression to describe this syndrome.

By citing some examples it is sometimes alleged that otherwise ‘upright’ bureaucrats get victimized for decisions taken at the behest of their political masters. This is nothing more than a ploy to muddy the waters. Perhaps there is no country that provides the type of job security to civil servants as does India, particularly to those belonging to All India Services. Getting out of the service seems more difficult than getting in! The physician does not prescribe sugar-coated medicines to a diabetic simply because the patient does not want to have taste of a bitter pill. Likewise, the bureaucrat is responsible for examining each proposal on merit keeping public interest supreme for decision by the political establishment. He is within his power to convey his inability to implement illegal orders or resubmit the proposal if the executive decisions are devoid of merit.

How many public servants have actually suffered for discharging duties in accordance with the statutory provisions? Suffering cannot be reckoned in terms of transfers and being shunted to peripheral posts for some time. These are simply tools deployed by the polity to subjugate bureaucracy. To my assessment and experience, every post howsoever peripheral in bureaucratic parlance has potential to improve the delivery of public service. It is neither the post nor tenure that define the contributions of a bureaucrat; what counts is quality and quantity of work done with systemic improvements. Indeed, identification with specific political dispensation affects decision-making ability. Those with expertise in 'wheeling-dealing' forget that some day someone else will write their obituary.

We hold mismanagement of public sector responsible for its sickness ignoring that the net-worth of those at the helm of affairs has multiplied manifold. So-called discretionary powers exercised routinely invariably shower benefits to those deserving the least. Why should the Railway Board Chairman or Civil Aviation Secretary enjoy life-long privileges from Indian Railways or Air India? I remember a former Deputy PM-cum-Home Minister advising a Delhi Police Commissioner, in vain, to withdraw services of over 400 sergeants/constables who were servicing retired police officers! It is easy to blame politicians for everything. In reality, some bureaucrats found extolling the virtues of honesty and truth, hardly consider misuse of posts held in promoting their family or in availing of a variety of benefits which do not have an overt under or over-the-table monetary transaction as something that should prick their conscience. Honesty is priceless, with no trade-offs. An honest person may face occasional scrutiny, but in the long run he can't lose. Also, what is the point in crying over spilt milk?

***(Dr Taradatt is a former civil servant)***

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## SIX YEARS ON, LOKPAL IS A NON-STARTER

Relevant for: Ethics | Topic: Challenges of corruption

The massive public campaign in 2011 demanding an independent anti-corruption ombudsman resulted in the passage of the Lokpal law. The political dividend of the agitation was reaped at the national level by the BJP, which vociferously supported the demand for an effective Lokpal and rode to power in 2014 on the plank of anti-corruption.

More than six years after the Lokpal law received the President's assent, the institution of the Lokpal is yet to play any significant role in tackling corruption in the country. The manner in which the Lokpal has been emasculated by the current regime closely mirrors the undermining of other institutions of oversight and accountability.

The preambular statement of The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 notes that the law has been enacted to ensure prompt and fair investigation and prosecution in cases of corruption against public servants. The Lokpal was envisioned to be independent. It was accorded a high stature and given extensive powers including the power to inquire, investigate and prosecute acts of corruption.

For more than five years, the chairperson and members of the Lokpal were not appointed. The government claimed that since no one could be recognised as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) after the 2014 general election, the committee responsible for selecting members of the Lokpal could not be constituted. This malady could have been easily remedied by either recognising the leader of the single largest party in Opposition in the Lok Sabha as the LoP, or by amending the Lokpal law to allow the leader of the largest Opposition party to be a member of the committee in the absence of a recognised LoP (this was done for the selection committee of the CBI Director). However, neither recourse was taken.

The chairperson and members of the Lokpal were appointed only in March 2019 after a contempt petition was filed in the Supreme Court following the failure of the government to comply with the 2017 ruling of the court to initiate the process of making appointments.

A truncated selection committee, without the LoP, was set up. The Prime Minister, Speaker, and the then Chief Justice of India appointed Mukul Rohatgi, who had earlier served as Attorney General of India during the BJP regime, as the eminent jurist on the selection panel. The leader of the largest Opposition party in the Lok Sabha was invited for meetings of the selection committee as a 'special invitee', which he declined on grounds that it was mere tokenism.

The four-member selection committee, having a preponderance of representatives of the ruling party with an inherent bias towards recommending candidates favoured by the government, selected the Chair and members of the Lokpal. The manner in which the appointments were made raised doubts about the independence of the Lokpal even before it became operational.

Despite the fracas over appointments, many had hoped that once constituted, the Lokpal would nevertheless be a significant oversight body to check corruption and the arbitrary use of power by the government. More than 10 months later, however, evidence suggests that the Lokpal is a non-starter. Till date, the government has not made rules prescribing the form for filing complaints to the Lokpal. The Central government has also failed to formulate rules regarding asset disclosure by public servants.

In order to ensure independent and credible action on allegations of corruption, the Lokpal was

empowered under the law to set up its own inquiry wing headed by a Director of Inquiry and its own prosecution wing headed by a Director of Prosecution. However, information accessed under the Right to Information Act has confirmed that the inquiry and prosecution wings of the anti-corruption ombudsman are yet to be set up. The Lokpal has also not appointed the Director of Inquiry or Prosecution. Further, regulations which the Lokpal was obligated to make under the law are yet to be made, including those specifying the manner and procedure of conducting preliminary inquiry and investigation.

The website of the Lokpal states that it scrutinised 1,065 complaints received till September 30, 2019 and disposed of 1,000. Since necessary procedures to operationalise the law are yet to be put in place, the legal veracity of the decisions of the Lokpal could potentially be challenged in a court of law.

Without the requisite rules, regulations and machinery in place, it is not surprising that the Lokpal has failed to meet expectations. In recent times, the only reason for the Lokpal being in the news has been the resignation of its judicial member, Justice Dilip B. Bhosale, for undisclosed reasons.

The failure to operationalise the Lokpal in an effective manner lays bare the lack of political will of the BJP government. It took nearly half a century for the Lokpal law to be enacted from the time the need for the oversight institution was first articulated. It is anybody's guess how much longer it will take before India has an effective, independent and empowered Lokpal.

*Anjali Bhardwaj and Amrita Johri are transparency and anti-corruption activists associated with the National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information*

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To reassure Indian Muslims, the PM needs to state that the govt. will not conduct an exercise like NRC

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## **VICE PRESIDENT EMPHASIZES THE NEED FOR ETHICAL CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN INDUSTRY**

Relevant for: Ethics | Topic: Corporate governance

Vice President's Secretariat

### **Vice President emphasizes the need for ethical corporate governance in Industry**

**Some people took undue advantage of the system; industry has a duty to eschew such elements – Vice President**

**Calls for prioritizing skilling in new and emergent technologies**

**Industry and agriculture are two eyes of the nation – VP**

**Calls upon everyone to come out of the evil influence of violence**

**World community should come together to combat twin challenges of climate change and terrorism**

**Calls for incentivization of wealth creation**

**Says distribution without production will lead to ruin**

**Releases commemorative Postal Stamp and Coffee Table Book on completion of 100 years of Jamshedpur city**

Posted On: 17 FEB 2020 3:30PM by PIB Delhi

The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu today emphasizes the need for ethical corporate governance in Indian Industry.

Speaking at the centenary year celebrations of the Jamshedpur city, the Vice President said that some people took undue advantage of the system, and industry has a duty to eschew such elements.

Observing that a company's ethics, values, and social responsibility play an important role in building its reputation, Shri Naidu said that conducting business in an ethical manner builds confidence among customers and investors.

He appreciated the Tata Group for being synonymous with high ethical standards and the pioneering spirit of entrepreneurship.

Shri Naidu also called upon the industry to shed its hesitation to make investments to facilitate economic growth.

Calling industry and agriculture as two eyes of nations, he opined that industry must compliment the efforts of government to achieve desired economic progress.

Describing Public-Private Partnership (PPPs) as one of the best models for development in a developing economy like India, the Vice President said that PPP models would lead to improved efficiency and faster delivery of services.

"In my view, it is the best way forward to develop infrastructure and other projects that give a fillip to economic growth", he said.

Referring to the recent policy interventions of the Reserve Bank of India, Shri Naidu said the measures were aimed at lowering the cost of funds for banks and providing funds to the industry.

He said that loans to the automobile sector, residential housing and micro, small and medium enterprises have been kept outside the purview of the cash reserve ratio, which at present stands at four percent of banks' deposits.

Pointing out that the Reserve Bank of India had projected a GDP growth rate of six percent for the financial year 2020-21 he said that investment outlook in the Indian economy has begun to show signs of improvement and the inflation pressure was likely to ease in the financial year 2020-21.

Calling for incentivization of the wealth creation and increasing the ease of business, Shri Naidu cautioned against freebies. "Distribution without production will lead to ruin", he said.

Stating that automation was expected to play a major role in the coming years and the workers of the future would have to be highly adaptable, the Vice President urged all business enterprises and manufacturing units to train and re-train their employees to face future challenges.

Shri Naidu opined that there was no dearth of talent in India, we only need to identify the talent and nurture it. Maintaining that this was not the responsibility for the governments alone, he called upon the industry to supplement the government's efforts in skilling.

"Bridging the skills gap among the workforce must become an essential component of every organization's activities," he said.

Observing that a large part of our economic activity was dependent on agriculture and sectors allied with it, the Vice President opined that there was an urgent need for collective efforts to make agriculture profitable and sustainable.

While appreciating the government for its efforts to increase farmer's income, Shri Naidu urged

the private sector to contribute by constructing cold storage facilities, providing transport facilities from villages to the nearby market yards as part of their CSR activity.

Stating that ensuring a viable, sustainable livelihood for those living in rural areas should be the priority for all, the Vice President said that it would reduce the forced migration from rural areas.

Describing the climate change and terrorism as twin global challenges, Shri Naidu urged the world community should come together to tackle these challenges.

Insisting on making the development sustainable, the Vice President said that the time has arrived for the private sector to increase its investments in new and renewable energy. "It will not only reduce the cost per unit considerably but would also reduce India's dependence on fossil fuels," he added.

Stating that there was no place for violence in a democracy, the Vice President called upon everyone to come out of the evil influence of violence. Ballot is always better than bullet, he highlighted.

Shri Naidu recalled the contributions and the legendary role of JRD Tata, in setting up India's first steel plant at Jamshedpur and said that he was not only a doyen of the Indian industry, but also was a visionary leader who foresaw a rising India.

Appreciating various sports facilities created in Jamshedpur, the Vice President called for greater focus on sports and fitness. He said Fit India, Swachh Bharat Mission, Yoga should become people's movement.

Shri Naidu complimented all the citizens of Jamshedpur on the completion of 100 years of their city and wished that the city continues to be a role model for sustainable urban development.

On this occasion, the Vice President also visited the Center for Excellence and Tata Steel Archives in Jamshedpur wherein he was briefed upon the journey of hundred years Tata Steel.

After the event at Tata Steel, the Vice President also visited the hundred year old Andhra Bhakta Sri Rama Mandiram, in Jamshedpur city and performed puja and interacted with devotees.

Governor of Jharkhand, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Jharkhand Minister, Shri Champai Soren, Postmaster General of Jharkhand, Shri Anil Kumar, senior officials of Tata Steel and functionaries Workers' Union were present on the occasion.

#### **Following is the full text of the speech –**

"It gives me a great pleasure to be amongst you in Jamshedpur today, which is India's first planned industrial city that was set up on the confluence of the rivers Subarnarekha and Kharkai by the visionary industrialist Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

It is befitting that the Government of India is releasing a postage stamp to commemorate the renaming of what was Sakchi to Jamshedpur in the year 1919 by the then Viceroy of India, Lord Chelmsford.

I am delighted to release the stamp formally on the occasion of the celebration of 100 years of this model city.

The seeds of industrialization in India was sown here, when Jamsetji, along with geologist

Charles Page Perin, chose this site to set up India's first steel plant. Since then industrialization in India has come a long way and industry has been a significant contributor to the nation's GDP.

Dear sisters and brothers,

It will be apt to recall the legendary role of JRD Tata, who was not only a doyen of the Indian industry, but also a visionary leader who foresaw a rising India. He guided the destiny of the Tata group for over half a century and led the empire by example. The Tata Group has been synonymous with high ethical standards and the pioneering spirit of entrepreneurship.

The great revolutionary leader, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was the President of Jamshedpur Labour Association from 1928 to 1937. He took over as President of the Labour Association at the behest of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi and when the company was facing unrest by laborers.

The unrest happened just at the start of the worldwide depression which was also a very difficult time for the company.

Netaji worked towards an immediate settlement that was honorable and the harbinger of a long-term relationship between the labor and the management.

Mahatma Gandhi Ji had visited Jamshedpur in 1925 with the twin objectives of seeing India's first steel city and resolving some labor problems that had arisen at that time.

He had said, "I wish this great Indian firm all the prosperity it deserves and to this great enterprise every success. And, may I hope that the relations between this great house and laborers who work under their care will be of the friendliest character".

Dear sisters and brothers,

As you all are aware, the Government of India is focused on policy interventions that aim to ignite the spirit of entrepreneurship and enterprise in the country and provide a fillip to industrialization and economic growth. The 'Make in India' program is just one such initiative in this regard.

Estimates suggest that the global population is expected to expand to 9.8 billion by 2050 and the industry requirements would be totally different from what we are seeing today. Automation is expected to play a major role in the coming years and the workers of the future would have to be highly adaptable. They would be probably required to do multiple roles instead of doing a single job in a mechanical fashion.

Given such a scenario, the industry, the government, and the civil society should join hands to train the future workforce.

In this technologically-driven era, it is important for all business enterprises and manufacturing units to train and retrain their employees to face future challenges.

We must remember that workforce development is directly linked to economic growth and that is why I urge all industry associations, firms and factories to lay special emphasis on training. Bridging the skills gap among the workforce must become an essential component of every organization's activities.

I am aware of the training and services are undertaken by the TATA group in various states. I compliment them for imparting students with adequate skills and for preparing them to join the workforce of tomorrow.

Over the past few years, as well as in the recent budget, the Government of India has taken several proactive measures to facilitate ease of doing business. They include financial sector restructuring, reduction in corporate taxes, removing alternate tax in the new structure and scrapping the dividend distribution tax on corporate, among others.

I am sure that the new personal tax regime will ensure more money in the hands of the people, and this is expected to revive consumer demand.

Dear sisters and brothers, a large part of our economic activity is dependent on farmers and sectors allied with it. There is a need for collective efforts to double the farmers' income and ensure that agriculture becomes profitable and sustainable.

While the government is doing its bit, the private sector too must chip in areas like constructing cold storage facilities and providing transport facilities from villages to the nearby market yards as part of their CSR activity.

As you are aware, Government spending alone cannot push the economic growth rate to levels that we wish to achieve. The industry which is one of the main drivers of the economy should shed its hesitation to make investments and facilitate economic growth.

The recent policy interventions of the Reserve Bank of India are aimed at lowering the cost of funds for banks and providing funds to the industry. Loans to the automobile sector, residential housing and micro, small and medium enterprises have been kept outside the purview of the cash reserve ratio, which at present stands at four percent of banks' deposits.

The Reserve Bank of India has projected a GDP growth rate of six percent for the financial year 2020-21. It is said that the investment outlook in the Indian economy has begun to show signs of improvement and the inflation pressure is likely to ease in the financial year 2020-21. The three arms of India's growth engine – private investment, private consumption, and exports – are expected to pave the way for the long-term economic growth of the country.

I am also happy to note that an amount of Rs.1.7 lakh crore has been allocated for creation transport and infrastructure in the Union Budget for 2020-21. Besides generating demand in core sectors of the economy, this will go a long way in the creation of jobs, especially in the rural sector.

I feel that Public-Private Partnership (PPPs) is one of the best models for development in a developing economy like India. In my view, it is the best way forward to develop infrastructure and other projects that give a fillip to economic growth. I am sure that PPP models would lead to improved efficiency and faster delivery of services.

My dear sisters and brothers,

It should be remembered that ethical corporate governance is the need of the hour.

A strong foundation in ethical values should be the basis for exemplary corporate governance.

A company's ethics, values, and social responsibility play an important role in building its reputation. Conducting business in an ethical manner builds confidence among customers and

investors.

India with its inherent spiritual strength, rich traditions, and strong value systems-- which form the core of many family-run businesses—can emerge as a role model for other countries in corporate governance.

The practitioners of corporate governance should play a leading role in making India a global leader in their field. Therefore, it is important to adhere to values of honesty, integrity, truthfulness and adopt the best practices. Corporate ethics should not be violated. Here, I would like you to always remember the seven sins mentioned by Mahatma Gandhi—wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, religion without sacrifice and politics without principle.

In our quest for industrialization and economic development, we should not overlook the all-important issue of sustainability. The development of a sustainable strategy is increasingly becoming imperative for companies' survival and longevity.

The industry must focus on energy efficiency and resource conservation to meet the needs of future generations. The industry must pay attention to safe and skill-enhancing working conditions, low waste production processes and the use of safe and environmentally-compatible materials.

All this becomes all the more important in the wake of climate change, which has become one of the most pressing global challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Developing countries, with low adaptive capacities and high dependence on climate variables, are highly susceptible to climate-induced calamities. Among other things, we must focus on renewable energy sources to cut down on Carbon-dioxide emissions.

The Indian government has been taking several measures to achieve cleaner air.

In September 2019, the Prime Minister had launched the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) with its Secretariat in Delhi. This global partnership is the second such international initiative after the launch of the International Solar Alliance in 2015.

This global partnership will help in addressing several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as also the aims of the Sendai Framework and Paris Climate Agreement. Perhaps it would be apt to recall what the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi had stated while announcing the global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), at the UN Climate Action Summit 2019 held in New York City in September 2019.

He had said : *“What is needed today is a comprehensive approach that covers everything including education, values to lifestyle and development philosophies. What we need is a global people’s movement to bring about behavioral change; need, not greed is our guiding principal. So, therefore India is here today to present a practical approach and roadmap...In order to make our infrastructure resilient in the face of disasters, India is launching a Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. I invite all member states to join this Coalition.”*

A recent report by a [renewable](#) energy consultancy stated that India’s [solar](#) and wind generation is expected to touch 135 Giga Watts (GW) by the end of 2024, up from the 77 GW in 2019.

To reduce the number of thermal power plants that are old and have high carbon emission levels, the government has proposed that utilities running them would be advised to close them

if they fail to meet new emission norms.

I was informed that the government wants to encourage States that are formulating and implementing plans for ensuring cleaner air in cities above one million.

We all are aware, that the poor and people having low income bear the maximum brunt of the problems caused by the changing climate and global warming.

Keeping this hard fact in mind, we all must explore ways to ensure a development that is both sustainable and resilient to climate change. The time has come for the private sector to increase its investments in new and renewable energy. It will not only reduce the cost per unit considerably but would also reduce India's dependence on fossil fuels.

With rapid industrialization, we have another problem to grapple with, and that is the problem of rapid urbanization.

The scope of employment in cities, coupled with declining profitability from agricultural activity, is leading to migration from rural areas to the cities. Problems like housing, transportation, pollution, water shortage, and waste disposal will get accentuated in years to come. According to the World Bank, urban dwellers in India comprised 34 percent of the nation's population in 2017. This is expected to go up to 40 percent by the year 2030.

To address the issue, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs of the Government of India launched the Smart Cities Mission in June 2015. The objective of the Smart Cities Mission is to promote sustainable and inclusive cities that provide core infrastructure and offer a decent quality of life to all its citizens.

The idea is to provide a clean and sustainable environment and facilitate the application of smart solutions.

We also need to focus on smart villages and enable the rural population to secure employment, education opportunities and healthcare facilities at the local level. We need to provide urban facilities in rural areas to prevent migration and strengthen rural economy.

Ensuring a viable, sustainable livelihood for those living in rural areas should become a priority. India Inc. must think of contributing to rural prosperity by taking up projects that generate economic activities and employment.

h. insurance is an important aspect that workers tend to ignore. A proper insurance mechanism must be made available for them and at the same time, they should be encouraged to make good use of schemes such as Ayushman Bharat.

Before I conclude, I would like to compliment the citizens of Jamshedpur on the completion of 100 years of their city. And, as in the years gone by, I hope this city continues to be a role model for sustainable urban development.

JAI HIND!"

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## **VICE PRESIDENT CALLS CORRUPTION AS THE BIGGEST HURDLE TO INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

Relevant for: Ethics | Topic: Challenges of corruption

Vice President's Secretariat

**Vice President calls corruption as the biggest hurdle to inclusive growth**

**Asks youth to support those who are fighting to eradicate corruption from the country**

**Reforms like GST will lead to long term gain for economy– Vice President**

**Dissent is welcome in democracy but not the disintegration of country – Vice President**

**Slowdown in economy is temporary; India on path to become 5 trillion-dollar economy – Vice President**

**Delivers lecture on policy and good governance at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre for Leadership, Policy, and Governance of IIM, Ranchi**

**Shri Atal Bihari was a visionary leader; he brought connectivity revolution in India- Vice President**

Posted On: 16 FEB 2020 7:46PM by PIB Delhi

The Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu today said that corruption is biggest hurdle to inclusive growth and called upon the youth to support those who are fighting to eradicate the malice of corruption from the country.

Interacting with public policy students at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre for Leadership, Policy, and Governance of the Indian Institute of Management in Ranchi, the Vice President said that corruption deepens inequalities and increases poverty and obstructs the growth prospects of the nation.

Asking the youth to take a lead role in fighting corruption, he suggested the use of new technologies to bring transparency and accountability at all levels.

Describing the future as digital, Shri Naidu expressed happiness that the government is connecting all Gram Panchayats with high speed broadband under the project – Bharatnet.

Emphasising the good governance, Shri Naidu said that there should be no gap between policy intent and policy implementation.

“The intended benefits of a program must reach the people in time,” he added.

Calling students as future leaders of the nations, the Vice President asked them to find innovative solutions to country’s problems such as illiteracy, poverty, malnutrition etc.

Shri Naidu called the current slowdown in economy as temporary and exuded confidence that India is well on path to become a five trillion-dollar economy.

Lauding the government for bold reforms such as GST, IBC etc., he maintained that these bold reform measures will lead to long term gains for the economy and people.

Calling for inclusive growth, the Vice President said that development should reach every person. Only then it has meaning.

“Each citizen should feel that he is a stakeholder in development journey of the nation”, he said.

Asking students to become ‘smart leaders’ of tomorrow, Shri Naidu said that the true leadership is characterized by 4Cs – Character, Capacity, Caliber and Conduct.

He asked students to innovate and become entrepreneurs of tomorrow. The government has created a very supportive start up ecosystem through various schemes such as Startup India, Standup India, MUDRA etc, he said and asked the youth to take full advantage of it.

Asking everyone to use the ‘freedom of speech’ judiciously, the Vice President said that dissent is welcome in democracy but not the disintegration of the country.

He also said that Parliamentarians should debate, discuss and decide the things instead of disruption and obstruction in the house.

Expressing satisfaction over the media reports indicating the improvement in the functioning of Rajya Sabha, Shri Naidu said that all legislatures should work constructively and productively. Else they risk losing the trust of people, he cautioned them.

Shri Naidu said that violence has no place in democracy and the Ballot is more powerful than Bullet. “Everybody should follow rule of law and respect constitution in letter and spirit”, he added.

Pointing out that the aim of good governance is to ensure that the fruits of development and governance reach every section, especially those at the lowest rung of the economic and social ladder, the Vice President called for decentralizing powers and responsibilities to local bodies in accordance with the Constitutional provisions.

He said that transferring funds, functions, and functionaries to these institutions would bring in governance closer to people and enhance their credibility and effectiveness.

Shri Naidu, while expressing his concern over the increasing urban-rural divide and inequalities in quality healthcare, education and other areas, urged the Centre and States to work with the spirit of Team India to address such challenges.

He wanted the bureaucracy and administrative setup to embrace technology, adapt themselves to the changing global trends and make constant changes in accordance with local needs to provide seamless delivery of public services.

On the occasion, the Vice President compliment IIM Ranchi for establishing a Policy and Research Center in memory of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and said that Shri Vajpayee was a role model for all those in public life.

He said many such Centres were needed at India's premier management and technology institutions to nurture professionals in all aspects of governance and public policy.

Describing Shri Vajpayee as a true statesman, Shri Naidu said that the late Prime Minister had successfully helmed a multi-party coalition governments and accelerated the pace of reforms and had provided efficient and effective governance. "Atal Ji was a great democrat, an outstanding Parliamentarian, and a great poet," he added.

The Vice President opined that Atal Ji's vision for the country came out in full bloom in the form of several initiatives for infrastructure development and economic reforms.

"He brought connectivity revolution in country through initiatives such as Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and Golden Quadrilateral" the Vice President added.

The Governor of Jharkhand, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Chairman, IIM Ranchi, Shri. Praveen Shankar Pandya, Director, IIM Ranchi, Prof. Shailendra Singh, Convener-ABVCLPG, IIM Ranchi, Prof. Gaurav M. Marathe, and students and faculty members were present at the event.

Following is the full text of the speech –

"I am delighted to be present here at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre for Leadership, Policy, and Governance of the Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi and share my thoughts with you on "Leadership and Good Governance-- India and Global Context."

First, let me compliment IIM Ranchi for establishing such a Policy and Research Center in the name of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a great son of the soil and a role model for all those in public life.

He was one of the tallest visionary leaders and a true statesman, who had successfully helmed a multi-party coalition government and accelerated the pace of reforms and had provided efficient and effective governance. Atal Ji was a great democrat, an outstanding Parliamentarian, and a great poet.

As Prime Minister, Atal Ji's vision for the country came out in full bloom in the form of several initiatives for infrastructure development and economic reforms.

India carried out the second underground nuclear test in 1998 when Atal Ji was the Prime Minister, 24 years after the first such test. While several leading countries acknowledged India's right in undertaking such nuclear test. Atal Ji steered the nation admirably over the hurdles that were imposed by a few till they were lifted. India also scored a decisive victory in the Kargil War forcing the infiltrators to retreat in 1999. Atal Ji not only knew how to smile but also to be tough

when warranted.

As Prime Minister Atal Ji pioneered a 'connectivity revolution' in the country giving an unprecedented fillip to building of national highways, air travel infrastructure and massive expansion of telecom sector.

Alongside, the path breaking 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna' was also launched which is instrumental in changing the rural landscape through increased all weather connectivity. I was privileged to be associated with the launch of this scheme as the then Minister of Rural Development in the Vajpayee's Government. 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan' or campaign for universal education and a series of other measures taken by Shri Atal ji changed the face of India's development story. Shri Vajpayee revived the economy and the GDP growth was around eight percent when he demitted the office.

He was a master communicator whose mastery over language left audiences spellbound. He was the architect of the telecommunication revolution as well. He brought people together, villages and cities together and political parties together.

As a matter-of-fact, Good Governance was close to his heart and I am sure that this Centre will come up with many innovative policy formulations for improving governance. The nation celebrates his birth anniversary as Good Governance Day.

All of us need to carry forward his legacy and ensure that people receive time-bound delivery of all the services. In my view, that is the best tribute we can pay to him.

As you all are aware, the State of Jharkhand was carved out during the tenure of Atal Bihari Vajpayee as the Prime Minister.

I am happy to learn that this center aims to become a globally renowned think tank to nurture policy professionals and thought leaders through research on leadership strategies, policy skills, and governance mechanisms.

It is a great opportunity for participants of the programs at the ABVCLPG as they will be benefited from interactive lectures, engaging group discussions, leadership training, and personality development and networking opportunities.

We need such Centers at all our premier management and technology institutions to nurture professionals in all aspects of governance and public policy.

Dear Sisters and Brothers

Good governance is a form of governance that follows the rule of law, makes processes participatory, consensus-oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive

Kautilya's Arthashastra, the Sanskrit treatise on statecraft, economic policy, and military strategy explored the governance aspects. Kautilya said that good governance and stability go hand-in-hand.

According to him, there is stability if rulers are responsive, responsible, accountable and democratic. Otherwise, there would be instability.

According to Kautilya, good governance could be ensured by upholding the true essence of

sovereignty. For good governance, all administrators, including the King, are considered servants of the people.

These concepts and principles hold good for all times to come. Good governance is a combination of visionary leadership, committed bureaucracy and transparent mechanisms of service delivery.

Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan was widely quoted as observing that “good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development”.

While there cannot be any compromise on the fundamental aspects of good governance such as ensuring rule of law, providing efficient service delivery and eliminating corruption, it is important to learn from the best global practices and replicate them by suitably modifying to Indian conditions wherever needed. In an increasingly globalized world order, it is important to adapt to changing global trends and make constant changes in accordance with local needs.

As there cannot be a one-size-fits-all solution, a nation needs to think globally and innovate locally to address challenges such as poverty, urbanization, pollution, climate change and water shortage, among and others.

Unlike many other nations, India is blessed with a huge demographic dividend. Good governance plays a vital role in the optimal realization of the demographic potential and in ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendrabhai Modi had given a three-word mantra—Reform, Perform and Transform. We need to cut down on red tape, improve accountability and transparency and transform the face of governance by implementing wide-ranging reforms. The fundamental idea behind the Prime Minister’s call is to transform the nation by changing the paradigm of governance.

Dear sisters and brothers,

Please remember that peace is an essential precondition for development. Any type of disturbance or unrest will hamper progress and therefore it is essential for all citizens to observe the rule of law.

My dear sisters and brothers,

Despite the temporary lull due to global economic slowdown, India is expected to bounce back as the fastest growing economy. As one of the world’s major economies, India has been commanding the attention of the global community. Structural reforms such as Goods and Service Tax, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and the measures taken to improve the Ease of Doing Business have been attracting foreign investors.

By reaping its demographic advantage and skilling the youth, India has the potential to become the human resource capital of the world.

Effective leadership and good governance are requisite qualities for any nation to move on the path of Sustainable Development and achieve inclusive growth.

Today, we are envisaging a \$5 trillion economy in the coming years. To reach the ambitious goal, we need combined and united efforts of the government, the public institutions and the civil

society.

The far-reaching and path-breaking reforms initiated by the government must be further accelerated through citizen-centric, technology-oriented, transparent, responsive and adaptable good governance practices.

While many progressive policy interventions, legislations, and programs such as “Swachh Bharat”, ‘Beti Bachao Beti Pado’ and ‘Ayushman Bharat’ are aimed at transforming people’s lives, there is a need to strengthen the foundations of governance and ensure that no deserving beneficiary is left out of any scheme. It is essential to ensure effective delivery of the services at the grass-root level.

Implementing and executing laws and policies is the most crucial aspect of the governance system.

It is not enough if we design programs meticulously. Monitoring their implementation and evaluating their outcomes scientifically are important aspects of good governance. We need to constantly evaluate our governance strategies and bring about course corrections whenever necessary.

There should be no gap between policy intent and policy implementation. The intended benefits of a program must reach the people in time.

One way to make the delivery of services more efficient is through the use of digital technologies. India has embarked upon an ambitious ‘Digital India’ mission, intended to drive governance and the delivery of services online, thereby eliminating middlemen and infusing greater transparency and accountability into our systems.

Dear Sisters and Brothers

I am glad that the government of India has recently launched the Good Governance Index on the birth anniversary of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on December 25, 2019.

It will also promote the spirit of competitiveness among states and encourages them to perform to the best of their abilities.

Dear Sisters and Brothers

The rising gap between the rich and poor, increasing urban-rural divide and inequalities in quality healthcare and education infrastructure in rural areas continue to pose a challenge to the administrators. Here the Centre and the States must work with the spirit of Team India to address these challenges.

It is also important to ensure the decentralization of powers and responsibility to local bodies’ needs in accordance with the Constitutional provisions. Funds, functions, and functionaries must be transferred to these institutions. This will bring governance closer to people and enhance their credibility and effectiveness.

The fruits of development and good governance must reach every section, especially those at the lowest rung of the economic and social ladder.

Dear Sisters and Brothers

The need of the hour is to declare total war on corruption as it is the biggest the hurdle to development and growth. It deepens inequalities and increases poverty.

Every citizen must develop a positive outlook and constructive approach towards nation-building. Every citizen must strive to protect the unity, safety, security, and sovereignty of the country.

Finally, I would urge every Indian to work towards realizing Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Surajya and build a New India where there is all-round inclusive growth without poverty, corruption, discrimination, inequality, illiteracy and hunger.

Once again, I convey my best wishes to the Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi for setting up the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Center for Leadership, Policy & Governance in memory of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji to train future leaders.

My best wishes for your future endeavors.

Jai Hind."

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VRRK/MS/RK

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**END**

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