

## **'Vigilance'**

### **(i) Why should we be concerned about vigilance?**

"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance", said Thomas Jefferson, one of America's prominent historical leaders who played a role in achieving his country's independence from British Rule. Though the words were uttered in the context of sustaining democracy in the United States of America, it applies equally well to the task of fighting corruption.

Corruption has been identified by the UN as one of the world's greatest challenges. It reduces the efficiency and profitability of organizations, undermines the ethics of the workforce, diminishes the reputation of the organizations and hampers growth. Corruption in organizations, ultimately, has an adverse impact on our nation's economic progress and destroys the time honored values of our society. It is, therefore, the duty of every employee / staff member to remain vigilant and guard the organization against the menace of corruption.

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) was set up by the Government of India by a Resolution dated 11.2.1964, based on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption. The CVC was eventually accorded statutory status on 25.8.1998.

The key functions of this Commission include among others (i) carrying out investigations into public works / contracts (ii) taking action against public officials found guilty of corrupt practices (iii) reviewing administrative procedures and practices as far as maintenance of integrity is concerned and (iv) providing guidance in vigilance matters. The CVC also reserves the right to approve the appointment of Chief Vigilance Officers (CVOs) in government organizations / public institutions to handle vigilance related matters in these organizations and to serve as extended arms of the Commission.

### **(ii) Creating awareness on vigilance / anti-corruption**

In order to increase the general awareness of the staff in respect of vigilance issues and the anti-corruption measures recommended by the CVC, this window provides access to two PowerPoint presentations – one giving an overview of the CVC functions and directives and the other on the attitudes to be adopted for preserving honesty and integrity within the organization. The staff is also requested to browse the website of CVC at <http://www.cvc.nic.in> for further information.