AWARENWSS PROGRAMME ON THE THEME OF 'CORRUPTION FREE JAMMU AND KASHMIR'

ORGANIZED BY
ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU ANANTNAG (SOUTH KASHMIR)
IN COLLABORATION WITH
GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE ANANTNAG
August 05, 2023

REPORT



GOVT. DEGREE COLLEGE ANANTNAG 192101

Introduction:

An awareness programme on the theme of 'Corruption Free Jammu and Kashmir' was organized by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Anantnag (South Kashmir) in collaboration with the Govt. Degree College Anantnag (GDCA), and the Debate and Seminar Committee of GDCA under the Patronage of the Respected Principal Prof. Muzafar Ahmad Bhat.

The programme was presided over by the dignitaries, who included, **Mr. Gulzar Ahmad (JKAS)**, Addl. Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, who was the Chief-Guest of the programme. **Prof. Muzafar Ahmad Bhat**, Respected Principal, GDCA. **Mr. Sheikh Mudasir Ahmad**, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Anti-Corruption Bureau. **Mr. Aijaz Ahmad**, Chief Prosecuting Officer (CPO), Anti-Corruption Bureau. **Prof. Farooq Ahmad Malik**, Staff Secretary, GDCA, Convenor of Debate and Seminar Committee, and Head, Department of Political Science. Prof. Farooq Ahmad Malik and the Debate and Seminar Committee of GDCA coordinated the awareness programme.



Inaugural and Welcome Address:

Prof. Muzafar Ahmad Bhat, Principal, GDCA, delivered the inaugural address, in which he welcomed the luminaries, the sectorial officers of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Anantnag, and all the attendees of the awareness programme. Prof. Muzafar Ahmad Bhat summarized the scenario of the corruption in Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the fact that corruption erodes the trust of people, and it has drastic impact on the poor and vulnerable sections of the society. Prof. Bhat raised the issue of the prevalence of the corruption in the society at different levels and in different forms, also highlighted by the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) that awards India a score of 41, making India to rank as 81st most corrupt country in the world. In India, erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir ranked among the most corrupt states. Prof. Bhat talked about the appointments in 2015, which crossed all the stages of corruption and nepotism as in Justice Bashir Ahmad Kirmani report.

Prof. Bhat also said that corruption had permeated every Govt. office in the past, but under the leadership of the Hon'ble LG of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir the scenario is changing. In previous regimes the deserving and qualified people have been ignored, and thousands of blue-eyed candidates were appointed, Prof. Bhat pointed out.

Prof. Bhat also talked about the decline in corruption that has happened 2018 onwards. primarily due to the zero tolerance policy adopted by the Govt. of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir against corrupt officials and departments. Prof. Muzafar Ahmad Bhat pointed out the many officers have been terminated by the UT Government, showing that



things are changing in the right direction. Prof. Bhat at the end again welcomed all the guests and sectorial officers of the ACB.

Key-Note Address:

Prof. Irshad Ahmad Sheikh, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, GDCA, delivered key-note address

on the topic of 'Corruption and Accountability'.

Prof. Irshad started his lecture with an observation that the word 'Corruption' in itself is an abusive term, that no one wants to hear. He followed it up with anecdote an highlighting how prevalent corruption is in our society at multiple levels. Prof. Irshad highlighted the fact that CPI lists 188 countries, thus showing that none of



the countries the world over are insulated from the corruption, and are involved in it, one way or another. Prof. Irshad presented an overall understanding of corruption, which according to him primarily involves – honesty

deficit and governance deficit. Prof. Irshad laid emphasis on the notion that corruption breeds on weakness, and it is due to the deficits and shortfalls in the society at different levels, and we all are sailing in the same boat. Prof. Irshad also highlighted the fact that overregulated economy also paves way for the onset of corruption.

Towards the end of his address Prof. Irshad contrived to show a way forward, narrating what to do? That includes giving adequate remunerations, effectively implementing rules and regulations, giving independence to judiciary and commissions, and by following active democracy along with coordination and cooperation of departments for the eradication of this menace. Prof. Irshad also emphasised the Govt. initiatives in this direction, which include, monetary surprise, Aadhaar revolution, GST, *Jhan Dhan* (account for everyone), Digital India (e-governance), and Direct Debt Transfer (DBT). Prof. Irshad said we must be hopeful, and think about the progress of our Nation as we move towards 2050, as a corruption free, multi-billion dollar economy. Prof. Irshad said that India of 2023 is different in comparison to the India of 1950s, and we will have to keep working to deserve a better life, and we should move towards peace to reach to our aspirations and dream of corruption free Jammu and Kashmir.

Address by:

Mr. Sheikh Mudasir Ahmad, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Anti-Corruption Bureau in his address to the august gathering said that, corruption is anti-national, it is a great hindrance to economic development, and to fight corruption all the stakeholders are to be encouraged to create public awareness. Mr. Ahmad narrated that ACB

has been created to implement the laws to fight the menace of corruption, which can be achieved in five ways. He explained the meaning corruption that is any public servant obtaining any gratification or valuable things for discharging his/her duties, and possesses assets beyond source of income. Mr. Ahmad made it clear



that the corruption has been defined in multiple ways, and has impacts mainly at three levels: (i) Individual level, (ii) Organizational level, and (iii) Societal level. He also emphasised the fact that the laws and organizations fighting corruption have evolved over time, with State Vigilance Organization evolving into Anti-Corruption Bureau with police stations covering entire UT.

Mr. Ahmad overly emphasised that the programmes like these create public awareness, and educational institutions are the places where new ideas are bred that have the potential to impact the future of public offices. He also made the august gathering aware of how to reach ACB to post any complaint or grievance – that can be via Twitter, WhatsApp, Facebook, and the Govt. notified applications, but he emphasised that the complaints should not be anonymous. Mr. Ahmad also talked about the laws, acts and provisions in ACB towards the end of his lecture.

Address by:

Mr. Aijaz Ahmad, Chief Prosecuting Officer (CPO), Anti-Corruption Bureau in his address elaborated on the

description understanding of the word corruption, and brought about the difference between corruption and crime. He emphasised that corruption is the use of power for personal gains, and usually is executed only public servants, who demand money from common man doing his/her duty for which he/she already paid by the



Government. Mr. Aijaz Ahmad overly emphasised that corruption is crime but every crime is not corruption. He also elaborated on the nature and types of corruption and corrupt practices at individual level. Mr. Aijaz Ahmad said that at individual level people can go to ACB to file a complaint, and at the level of the society all the people can participate in the act of good governance, that has the potential to bring down the levels of corruption.

Mr. Aijaz Ahmad also emphasised the fact that digital revolution has an important role to play in curbing this menace, He said we have to implement and take advantage of the schemes that are rolled out by the Government, e.g. RTI. He reiterated that we have to participate in active-governance to fight the menace of corruption.

Address and concluding remarks by:

Mr. Gulzar Ahmad (JKAS), Addl. Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, in his address as Chief-Guest of the programme enlightened the august gathering about the fact that, how public servants are duty bound. He said, we as public servants should know that we are servants of public and all our work should be in the interest of public. Any document or information that lies with us (public servants/ government officials) belongs to the public. Mr. Gulzar Ahmad (JKAS) also emphasised that good governance is extremely important to curb corruption, and that is why we have to use our vote very wisely, to choose such a government that the potential to curb corruption. Mr. Gulzar Ahmad (JKAS) overly emphasised that we as government servants should not lose our character and become mere brokers to earn corruption money that only brings ill fortune and curse! He also said that the time is running out and we have to make every effort to stay away from the menace of corruption and drugs.

Student lecture presentations:

Two students from the local schools also delivered short lectures on the menace of corruption, the students included - **Mr. Azim Maqbool**, who talked about misuse of power, greed of people and being aware to curb this menace. **Miss Aatifa Maqbool**, she emphasised the fact that corruption brings destruction to the society, and we have to be aware, awake and united to fight corruption.





Vote-of-Thanks:

A formal vote-of-thanks was presented by **Prof. Iftikhar Bashir**, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Govt. Degree College Anantnag.

Participation:

The programme was participated by the officers and officials of the Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner's office Anantnag, sectorial officers and officials of Anti-Corruption Bureau Anantnag, staff, students and faculty members of the Govt. Degree College Anantnag, and a galaxy of experts from diverse disciplines.



Emceeing:

The programme was moderated by Miss Binaksha Nazir, a student of Govt. Degree College Anantnag.

Rapporteur:

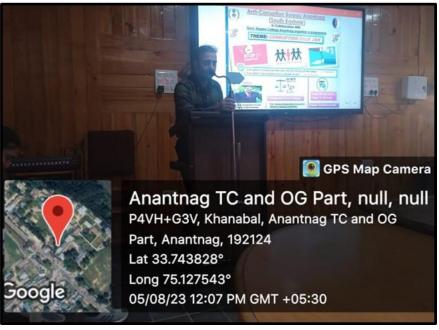
Dr. Naveen Hakhoo, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Geology, Govt. Degree College Anantnag.











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