

*Say No to Corruption*

# The Integrity Bulletin

March 2019



Petition to Protect Whistleblowers



An Editorial Initiative of Raman Media Network

Editor: Rakesh Raman

**Corruption News | Anti-Corruption Campaigns | Policy Initiatives | Research**

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# Online Petition Launched to Protect Whistleblowers in the EU

The petition seeks the right to contact law enforcement directly with safe disclosure to journalists.

An online petition urges the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, and the European Commission to protect whistleblowers in the EU by agreeing to a directive which includes the right to seek advice from a trade union and NGOs and the right to be represented by a trade union.

It also seeks the right to contact law enforcement directly with safe disclosure to journalists while ensuring adequate safeguards for existing national whistleblower laws.



The petition argues that thanks to whistleblowers the public found out about scandals like Lux-Leaks, the Panama and Paradise papers on tax evasion, Dieselgate on environment, as well as many scandals involving food safety, health, and elderly care.

“We’ve been fighting for years to gain strong protections for whistleblowers in the EU. After long and persistent campaigning, together let’s tell the EU to secure strong protections for whistleblowers,” the [petition](#) claims while urging the supporters to sign the petition.

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A whistleblower is a person who takes risk and reveals illegal or unethical practice such as corruption in their own organization.

# India Among the Most Corrupt Countries: Transparency Report

The Index reveals that the continued failure of most countries to significantly control corruption is contributing to a crisis of democracy around the world.

The 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) released by Transparency International reveals that India is among the most corrupt countries of the world.

The Index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people, uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.

More than two-thirds of countries score below 50 on this year's CPI, with an average score of 43. India, with a score of just 41, is ranked 78 in the world. In other words, India is more corrupt than 77 other countries.

As bureaucratic and political corruption is rampant in India, the recent cases of [Rafale scam](#) and the removal of CBI Director Alok Verma surreptitiously by a 3-member committee headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi have further tarnished India's image in the world. And now India – under PM Modi's regime – is categorized among the most corrupt countries of the world.

“Corruption is much more likely to flourish where democratic foundations are weak and, as we have seen in many countries, where undemocratic and populist politicians can use it to their advantage,” said Delia Ferreira Rubio, Chair, Transparency International.

The Index reveals that the continued failure of most countries to significantly control corruption is contributing to a crisis of democracy around the world.

“With many democratic institutions under threat across the globe – often by [leaders](#) with authoritarian or populist tendencies – we need to do more to strengthen checks and balances and protect citizens' rights,” said Patricia Moreira, Managing Director of Transparency International. “Corruption chips away at democracy to produce a vicious cycle, where corruption undermines democratic institutions and, in turn, weak institutions are less able to control corruption.”

The 2018 [CPI](#) draws on 13 surveys and expert assessments to measure public sector corruption. Denmark and New Zealand top the Index with 88 and 87 points, respectively. Somalia, South Sudan, and Syria are at the bottom of the Index, with 10, 13 and 13 points, respectively.

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The highest scoring region is Western Europe and the European Union, with an average score of 66, while the lowest scoring regions are Sub-Saharan Africa (average score 32) and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (average score 35).

Transparency International is a global civil society organization leading the fight against corruption for the past 25 years.

## How Money Mules Use Internet to Commit Frauds

The FBI says it recently conducted more than 300 interviews with individuals who had been flagged by financial institutions for activity that indicated they were acting as money mules.

The FBI has joined with law enforcement partners worldwide to raise awareness of and curtail this illegal movement of funds, which is fueling the growth of crimes across the globe.



Money Mules. Photo: FBI

The [FBI](#) defines a 'money mule' as a person who transfers illegally acquired money on behalf of or at the direction of another. Money mules often receive a commission for the service or provide assistance because they believe they have a trusting or romantic relationship with the individual who is asking for help.

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Much of the money moved through these third-parties is stolen through Internet-enabled frauds, thefts, and scams. Drug trafficking and human trafficking are also common sources of the money. While some money mules may be genuinely unaware of their involvement in a larger criminal scheme, many fully understand they are moving money attained from unlawful activities. All mules, whether unaware or complicit, are committing a crime.

“Money mules are needed to help move stolen money from country to country, avert the scrutiny of financial institutions, and mask the identity of the individuals involved in these largely Internet-enabled crimes,” said Special Agent James Abbott of the Bureau’s Money Laundering, Forfeiture, and Bank Fraud Unit at FBI Headquarters. “Being able to easily move the profits from these crimes contributes to their rapid growth and threatens the safety and security of everyone who has a presence online.”

The FBI says it recently conducted more than 300 interviews with individuals who had been flagged by financial institutions for activity that indicated they were acting as money mules. The [stories](#) they relayed to FBI agents help draw a picture of how these individuals, who span every race, gender, and age demographic, are recruited and used.

*Courtesy: FBI*

## Bureaucratic Corruption in India



If after even seven decades of its independence, India is still an underdeveloped [country](#), it is mainly because politicians and bureaucrats such as IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officers are clueless about the evolving paradigms of governance.

Although Indian ministers in different departments rely on IAS officers who occupy top positions, the IAS officers – like ministers – lack domain expertise to run an office efficiently particularly in today’s competitive world. They can’t resolve public problems and are dead slow in their response.

In a country where graduates, postgraduates and even Ph.D. degree holders fail to get even peons’ [jobs](#), these simple graduates become bureaucratic rulers and treat the commoners like slaves. Their [inefficiency](#) is perhaps the worst form of corruption.

While the IAS concept has lost its relevance in the fast-paced technology-driven world, Indian rulers don’t have courage to replace all such bureaucrats with domain experts.

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# New CBI Director Expected to Investigate the Rafale Case

Rishi Kumar Shukla replaces Alok Verma who was surreptitiously removed from his position by a 3-member committee headed by PM Narendra Modi.

The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions of the Government of India announced on February 2 that the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Rishi Kumar Shukla, IPS, as the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation ([CBI](#)), a top anti-corruption agency.



Photo: CBI

According to the government statement, the decision was taken based on the panel recommended by the Committee constituted as per Section 4A(1) of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

Shukla replaces Alok Verma who was surreptitiously [removed](#) from his position in January by a 3-member committee headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi.

It is said that Verma was trying to probe the [Rafale deal](#) in which it is alleged that corruption worth thousands of crores of rupees has been committed by the Modi government. It is expected that Shukla will investigate the Rafale case to reveal the truth of this deal to the people of India.

Shukla will serve for a period of two years from the date of assumption of charge of the office.

## What They Say...



“Corruption is much more likely to flourish where democratic foundations are weak and, as we have seen in many countries, where undemocratic and populist politicians can use it to their advantage.”

**Delia Ferreira Rubio**, Chair, Transparency International. [Read More...](#)



“The challenge posed by corruption is complex and involves many different actors. Therefore, we need to apply a multi-stakeholder approach to fighting corruption. We need governments to provide an appropriate legal system and strong institutions.”

**Ulla Tørnæs**, Denmark Minister for Development Cooperation. [Read More...](#)



“Corruption robs schools, hospitals, and others of vitally needed funds. It rots institutions, as public officials enrich themselves or turn a blind eye to criminality. It deprives people of their rights, drives away foreign investment, and despoils the environment.”

**António Guterres**, UN Secretary-General. [Read More...](#)



“Corruption can make governance inefficient and ineffective. Ultimately, people stop trusting government and that can mean they don’t want to pay taxes or abide by laws themselves, because they don’t see them as legitimate.”

**Dr Elizabeth David-Barrett**, Director of the Sussex Centre for the Study of Corruption (SCSC). [Read More...](#)

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# 12 Steps to Deal with Corruption in India

While dereliction of duty is also a crime, the inefficient and delinquent officials must be indicted and suspended from their jobs.

Today, no government in India is willing to stop corruption because it has become the lifeblood of Indian bureaucrats and politicians. However, in order to avert a situation of imminent civil unrest because of corruption in the country, the judiciary and law-enforcement agencies must take the following 12 preventive steps - at least.



1. As today's online interfaces for public to file corruption complaints are very weak and ineffective, robust technology-based online interfaces must be established to monitor and address the corruption complaints in a time-bound manner.
2. The services of government officials who are slow in response to the public or who are not following the statutory procedures must be terminated immediately.
3. When the prima facie case is established and any inquiry is ordered, the corrupt government officials must be jailed for their criminality while the onus should be on them to prove their innocence.
4. The members of public who complain against corruption should not be harassed by asking them to furnish documentary evidence because no documentary evidence is required in white-collar crimes such as fraud or corruption. Only circumstantial evidence in terms of non-compliance of statutory procedures should be enough to prosecute and punish the wrongdoers.
5. As it is not possible for most complainants to approach the conventional courts, it is the responsibility of the administration (politicians and bureaucrats) to provide speedy justice to the suffering people. This should be part of the essential governance.
6. While dereliction of duty is also a crime, the inefficient and delinquent officials must be indicted and suspended from their jobs.
7. The government has no right to show a public complaint as disposed of by simply sending it to some other department or giving a perfunctory reply to the complainant. A complaint can be disposed of only when the justice is fully delivered as asked by the complainant.
8. A single case of corruption can harm hundreds or thousands of lives. Therefore, in the courts corruption should be considered equivalent to crimes such as culpable homicide, attempt to murder, or even murder in some cases.

9. The names of government officials and politicians who are facing any kind of corruption inquiry must be openly put on exclusive websites created for each state and central government offices.

10. In order to ensure transparency of inquiries, all the communications exchanged between the accused and the inquiry officers should be made publicly available on the websites.



A dirty street in India's capital New Delhi. The authorities are so careless that they do not get the localities cleaned. Bureaucratic and political corruption is the main reason for dirty streets and increasing pollution which is causing diseases and deaths among the people of the city. Photo: Rakesh Raman / RMN News Service

11. The hearings in corruption cases of bureaucrats and politicians must be on-camera public hearings which must also be live-streamed in real time.

12. In extreme cases of bureaucratic and political corruption, public execution should be the punishment for the culprits.

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<a href="#">Legal Directions</a>	<a href="#">Young Learner</a>	<a href="#">Real Voter</a>

## Write for The Integrity Bulletin

RMN Foundation - the humanitarian organization in India - has launched *The Integrity Bulletin* which is a monthly newsletter on global corruption news and issues. Currently, the newsletter project is being managed by Mr. Rakesh Raman who is a national award-winning journalist and founder of RMN Foundation.

*The Integrity Bulletin* invites anti-corruption organizations, social activists, professionals, and experts to contribute their editorial articles for the newsletter. You may please submit the articles with your brief profile to Mr. Rakesh Raman (Email: [contact@rmnfoundation.org](mailto:contact@rmnfoundation.org)). People from all across the world are also invited to [participate](#) as volunteers in this project.

# FAR Construction and Corruption in Delhi

Huge corruption money in the form of bribery is apparently involved in FAR construction approvals.



In an unscrupulous manner, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is giving approvals for extended construction in Delhi's group housing societies where people are already living. This construction - under the dubious floor area ratio ([FAR](#)) policy is spreading lethal dust and noise pollution which is poised to harm millions of people including men, women, children - and even senior citizens.

The extended construction racket - in which huge corruption is happening - is being run by DDA in connivance with the corrupt managing committee (MC) members of various cooperative group housing societies and dishonest builders. Along with DDA, the other departments involved in this criminal [activity](#) are office of the Registrar Cooperative Societies (RCS), Delhi Fire Service (DFS), and Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC).

While DDA officials are blindly giving approvals for harmful extended construction, they are ignoring the directions of the Office of the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) and the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) which are the top anti-corruption organizations in India.

As huge corruption money in the form of bribery is apparently involved in such FAR construction approvals, the DDA officials are blatantly breaking the law and putting human lives to risk.

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While this organized crime is happening in Delhi, the corrupt government officials and those who support corruption – such as MC members of housing societies and builders – must be jailed if the government really wants to weed out crime and corruption from Delhi.

[Click here to download and read the full report on FAR construction.](#)

## Can PM Modi Be Jailed in Rafale Corruption Case?

Congress and others who struggled to know the truth behind the Rafale deal found that all the administrative and judicial doors were closed for them.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi has been accusing Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi of Rafale scam for about a year and has also [predicted](#) that Modi will be jailed. However, after running from pillar to post to get Modi indicted, Rahul Gandhi could not do even a sliver of harm to Modi or his friends accused in the [Rafale scam](#), which is believed to be the biggest financial scandal in the world.

“Modi is under oath to protect secrets. He has given these secrets to Anil Ambani who knew about the biggest defence deal in the world 10 days before. This itself is criminal. This itself will put the Prime Minister in jail,” Rahul Gandhi asserted.

However, Modi and his political friends have responded aggressively to all the questions raised in the Rafale case, although their response has never been credible. When Congress leaders start asking details of the deal, Modi and other politicians in his party BJP start complaining about Congress corruption and Congress dynasty.

Other Modi opponents – including former Indian ministers Yashwant Sinha and Arun Shourie, and lawyer-activist Prashant Bhushan - filed a complaint with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), urging the agency to register FIR against Modi and a former defence minister in Modi government Manohar Parrikar. But Modi got CBI Director [removed](#) from his position.

When the Rafale case went to the Supreme Court, the court – for shaky reasons – refused to entertain it. The Comptroller and Auditor General ([CAG](#)) of India – the top auditor of government accounts – failed to reveal financial faults in the deal. The Central Vigilance Commission ([CVC](#)) – an anti-corruption body which works tightly under the control of Modi government - also could not handle Rafale case against Modi.

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In short, Congress and others who struggled to know the truth behind the Rafale deal found that all the administrative and judicial doors were closed for them. While others have given up, Congress president is now the lone rebel who is trying to manufacture new stories which have no audience.



Congress leaders protesting against PM Modi and the Rafale deal on February 13, 2019. Photo: Congress

The controversial decision to purchase Rafale aircraft from Dassault Aviation was taken in 2015. But so far Modi and his friends could not be indicted, let alone jailed. Then how will Rahul Gandhi get Modi imprisoned? He can't. Congress president should realize that Indian judiciary and law-enforcement agencies are not working freely as they work in true democracies such as Pakistan or the U.S.

In Pakistan, for example, [Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif](#) was disqualified by Pakistan's apex court in the Panama Papers case. And later he was sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment by an anti-corruption court because judiciary is independent in Pakistan.

Similarly, in the U.S., [special counsel Robert Mueller](#) appointed jointly by the Republicans and the Democrats is investigating the shady deals of the sitting President Donald Trump. He has even interrogated Trump who has answered in writing specific questions asked as part of the probe.

Currently, Mueller is leading a judicial team to know the extent of [Trump-Russia ties](#) that allegedly helped Trump win the 2016 presidential race. Mueller has already indicted or jailed a number of Trump associates while Trump is also being asked again to sit for a face-to-face interrogation with Mueller and his team. Even Trump's Republican party colleagues support Mueller investigation against Trump.

But such honest judicial and law-enforcement systems do not exist in India. So, Modi can't even be questioned properly while Rahul Gandhi is suggesting a jail term for him.

[Click here to read the full report on Rafale corruption case.](#)

## Appeal for Donations



RMN Foundation is a humanitarian organization that was formed in May 2015 as an educational and public charitable Trust for the benefit of humanity at large.

It is registered with the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi at New Delhi, India.

Currently, all the activities of RMN Foundation are being managed single-handedly (without any support) by RMN Foundation founder Rakesh Raman who had left his job a few years ago to run this charity.

As RMN Foundation has embarked upon some major humanitarian projects during the past over 3 years, now it needs a significant amount of funds in the form of [donations](#) to expand the scope of its activities.

Individual Indian donors can help RMN Foundation with their contributions using the following bank details:

Bank Name: ICICI Bank  
Bank Branch: HL Square, Plot No. 6, Sector 5 (MLU), Dwarka, New Delhi 110 075  
Account Number: 025005004368  
Account Name: RMN Foundation  
Type of Account: Current  
IFSC Code: ICIC0000250

Or you can [click here](#) to donate with PayPal, credit card, or bank account.



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# Cricketer Sanath Jayasuriya Banned Under Corruption Charges

The conviction of Jayasuriya is the latest part of a much broader ICC ACU investigation into corruption in cricket in Sri Lanka.

A top cricketer from Sri Lanka and former Sri Lanka Cricket Chair of Selectors, Sanath Jayasuriya, has been banned from all cricket for two years after admitting breaching two counts of the ICC (International Cricket Council) Anti-Corruption Code.



Sanath Jayasuriya. Photo: ICC

As a result of the admissions, according to an ICC [statement](#) released on February 26, he has accepted a sanction of a two-year period of ineligibility.

“This conviction under the Code demonstrates the importance of participants in cricket cooperating with investigations. Compelling participants to cooperate under the Code is a vital weapon in our efforts to rid our sport of corruptors. These rules are essential to maintain the integrity of our sport,” said Alex Marshall, ICC General Manager – ACU.

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The conviction of Jayasuriya is the latest part of a much broader ICC ACU investigation into corruption in cricket in Sri Lanka. The ACU recently held an amnesty in relation to Sri Lankan Cricket resulting in eleven players and other participants coming forward with new information.

“The amnesty has worked very well and has delivered significant new and important intelligence. This new information has assisted a number of our ongoing investigations and has resulted in some new investigations getting underway,” Marshall added.

“I am very grateful to those who participated in the amnesty and as a result of the information shared we now have a much clearer picture of the situation in Sri Lanka and our investigations are continuing,” Marshall said in the statement.

## Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu Faces Corruption Charges

Netanyahu says the charges are politically motivated to harm him just before the election.

The Attorney General of Israel Avichai Mandelblit [announced](#) on February 28 that he would indict Prime Minister (PM) Benjamin Netanyahu on charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust in three different cases.



India's PM Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu at the Community Reception Programme, in Tel Aviv, Israel on July 05, 2017 (file photo)



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Netanyahu says the charges are politically motivated to harm him just before the election. He has called the inquiry a “witch hunt” and said Mandelblit is weak.

Netanyahu’s response is similar to the one offered by his friend Donald Trump when he found that Attorney General [Jeff Sessions](#) was not able to stop the Russia [investigation](#) against Trump's alleged ties with Russia that allegedly helped Trump win the 2016 U.S. presidential race.

Netanyahu is expected to challenge the indictment in the court. As the court case will linger on for years, he may win a fifth term in April 9 election to finally get exonerated.

In a similar case, India's PM Narendra Modi is facing serious corruption charges in [Rafale scam](#), which is stated to be the biggest government fraud in the world with an estimated corruption money amounting to Rs. 30,000 crore (approximately US\$ 4 billion).

Like Trump fired Jeff Sessions, Modi surreptitiously [removed](#) the CBI Director Alok Verma who was supposed to investigate the Rafale case in which Modi is an accused.

Since there are no checks and balances in the Indian system of governance, the case will gradually get closed although the Supreme Court of India has ostensibly decided to [reopen](#) the Rafale case.

Former Indian ministers Yashwant Sinha and Arun Shourie, along with lawyer-activist Prashant Bhushan had filed a complaint with the CBI, urging the agency to register an FIR against Modi and former defence minister Manohar Parrikar.

The [complaint](#) alleges that Modi and Parrikar have committed a number of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, in the course of the April 2015 decision to purchase 36 Rafale aircraft from Dassault Aviation. The complaint was handed over to Alok Verma, who was Director of the CBI.

The complaint states that Modi – who is a public servant – misused his position as PM of India to give undue benefit to his close associate Anil Ambani who is the Chairman of Reliance ADA group of companies.

## Meet the Editor



The editor of *The Integrity Bulletin* [Rakesh Raman](#) is a national award-winning journalist and social activist. Besides working at senior editorial positions with leading media companies, he was writing an exclusive edit-page column regularly for The Financial Express (a daily business newspaper of The Indian Express Group).

Nowadays, for the past about 8 years, he has been running his own global news services on different subjects. He also has formed a free Education and Career Counselling Center for deserving children at a poor J.J. Colony in Dwarka, New Delhi under his [NGO](#) – RMN Foundation.

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He runs an exclusive community-driven anti-corruption social service “[Clean House](#)” to help the suffering residents of Delhi raise their voice against the growing corruption and injustice. He also has formed an environment-protection group called [Green Group](#) in Delhi.

He creates and distributes a number of [digital publications](#) that cover areas such as technology, law, environment, education, politics, corruption and transparency. He has created a comprehensive online information service to educate the Indian voters for the upcoming [Lok Sabha election](#) scheduled to happen in 2019.

Earlier, he had been associated with the United Nations (UN) through United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as a digital media expert to help businesses use technology for brand marketing and business development.

## About The Integrity Bulletin Project

*The Integrity Bulletin* content project is being carried out by RMN Foundation in collaboration with the Centre for Transparency and Accountability in Governance ([CTAG](#)), National Law University (NLU), Sector 14, Dwarka, New Delhi. *The Integrity Bulletin* is being circulated among the top anti-corruption organizations, law-enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, social activists, politicians, and others in India and abroad.

RMN Foundation is looking for collaborators across the world who can join hands with us to carry out major campaigns and projects to engage with different stakeholders in the anti-corruption domain.

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