



# IOS NEWSLETTER

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## Thought for the Month

And they (sometimes) say:

“There is nothing except  
Our life on this earth,  
And never shall we be  
Raised up again.”

If you could but see  
When they are confronted  
With their Lord!

He will say:  
“Is not this the truth?”

They will say:  
“Yeh, by our Lord!”

He will say:  
“Taste ye then the Penalty  
Because ye rejected Faith”

Al-Quran- VI: 29-30

### EDITOR

*Prof. Sanghasen Singh*

### CIRCULATION MANAGER

*Syed Arshad Karim*

### CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

162, Jogabai Extension  
Jamia Nagar, New Delhi  
PIN-110025  
India

Phone 26981187, 26989253,  
26987467  
Fax : 91-11-26981104

E-mail: [manzoor@ndf.vsnl.net.in](mailto:manzoor@ndf.vsnl.net.in)  
Website: [www.iosworld.org](http://www.iosworld.org)

## FOCUS

### The Journey Continues

Over a year ago we planned to organize a series of international conferences to mark the *Silver Jubilee* of the Institute of Objective Studies. In March 1986 the IOS was established as a think tank ‘to promote purposive research to generate understanding and awareness of conceptual issues and current problems and highlight the ethical and moral dimensions of social dynamics’.

The Institute of Objective Studies set out to achieve its objectives by undertaking researches on issues of social importance. Over the years it has established some important institutions. It has given awards and fellowships. Its distinguishing role, however, has been to carry out researches, publish well-researched and well-documented academic works of high standard on ideas and issues of contemporary relevance and organize national/ international seminars and conferences which over the years have provided platforms for objective and dispassionate discourses and exchange of ideas.

It was befitting for a think tank, that the IOS has been all these years, to mark its *Silver Jubilee* by organizing grand international conferences all across the country. We started the year-long journey in Delhi by convening the opening conference in April 2011. The theme of the conference was: *Towards Knowledge, Development and Peace: Outlining Roadmaps for the Future*. The three-day conference discussed every aspects of the central theme thoroughly.

The second conference was also held in Delhi to discuss and explore ‘*Prospects for Islamic Venture Capital Fund in Indian Economy*’. At the end of the conference the participants realized and concluded that there was great scope for investing in Indian economy on Islamic lines.

The intellectual caravan thereafter moved out of Delhi to travel all across the country. The first stop was in Srinagar, Kashmir. A three-day international conference was organized in the beautiful campus of Kashmir University to discuss ‘*Interest-free Institutional Mechanism (Banking, Finance and Insurance) for Promoting Investment*’.

We came back to Delhi to organize a three-day international conference to discuss and explore the ‘*Prospects of Indo-ASEAN Trade and Investment*’. The conference was indeed a grand success. Our next stop was Patna where a three-day international conference was held in September 2011 to discuss ‘*Global Trends of Education: Review and Options*’.

Having organized the Patna Conference successfully the caravan moved to the south. The first stop in the south was Bangalore where a three-day international seminar discussed the ‘*Power of Media in a Globalizing World*’. The next international conference was held in Kolkata to discuss ‘*Good Governance in a Globalizing World*’.

*Contd. on page-7*

**Activities of the IOS Headquarters**

**International Conference  
On  
Judiciary, Ethics and Justice Delivery  
in India**

Issues of judicial ethics, accountability, performance of judges and judicial independence examined closely by judges, lawyers, law teachers and students at National Law University, Odisha.

Cuttack, January 21: A two-day National seminar titled “Judiciary, Ethics and Justice Delivery in India”, organised by the Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi in collaboration with National Law University, Odisha, began here today. The occasion was graced by the august presence of chief guest Naveen Patnaik, the chief minister of Odisha, along with eminent persons like Justice Dipak Mishra of the Supreme Court of India (as the chief speaker) and Prof. Mool Chand Sharma, former vice-chairman, University Grants Commission and presently vice-chancellor, Central University of Haryana (as the guest of eminence) in the inaugural session. This session was presided over by Justice Gopala Gowda, Chief Justice, High Court of Odisha and chancellor, National Law University, Odisha.

In his address in the inaugural session, Mr. Patnaik, dwelt upon the importance of ethics governing every aspect of life. Describing Mahatma Gandhi as the “greatest lawyer the country ever produced”, he referred to Gandhiji’s remark that there should be “no gap between truthfulness and law”. Thus there was a need to restore ethical values to India’s judicial system. For that an individual should strive to lose himself/herself in something greater than

himself/herself to become ethical. Stressing on the importance of ethics for a lawyer, he told the students of the university that lawyers of repute never compromised on ethics at any cost. He also stated that in order to become a great lawyer, one must have a thorough knowledge of the history of one’s country.

In his welcome address, Dr. Manzoor Alam, chairman, Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi said that “delay defeats justice” and therefore our judicial system must be speedier. Prof. (Dr.) Mool Chand Sharma drew the attention of the gathering to a crisis that most institutions in the country were facing due to deterioration in the standards of

He argued that ethics could never be static as it was an evolving, dynamic phenomenon. The temporal nature of ethics constantly evolving with the spirit of the age. Personal values should never get in the way of collective values of judiciary and hence, personal values should not hamper decision making of a judge. He insisted that judicial ethics was the soul of justice.

Speaking on “Assessing the Performance of Judges: Search for Yardsticks” in the Plenary Session on the first day Justice V.S Malimath said that no matter how intelligent or productive judges former Chief Justice of Karnataka and Kerala High Courts and corrently Chairman Karnataka Law Commission, and lawyers might be, everything would be inconsequential if they were not men of character and integrity. He raised an important question: Why is judicial administration concerned with quantitative performance assessment and not with qualitative assessment?

According to him, it was not quite as important how many court cases were

disposed of, as how effectively justice had been meted out. He raised issues like “What is the assurance that every judgment would deliver justice” and is justice whatever that comes from the highest courts.”

In both Business Sessions of the first day, the theme “Judicial Accountability: Practices and Perspectives” was discussed by speakers Jayant Das, senior advocate, Supreme Court of India and president, Odisha High Court Bar Association and D.P Choudhury, director, Odisha Judicial Academy. The first business session was chaired by Justice D.P. Mahapatra, formerly Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman, Odisha Human Rights Commission and in the second session, the chairperson



L-R: Prof. (Dr.) Mool Chand Sharma, Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Gopala Gowda, Hon'ble Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra, Dr. M. Manzoor Alam  
L-R: Prof. (Dr.) Mool Chand Sharma, Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Gopala Gowda, Hon'ble Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra, Dr. M. Manzoor Alam

democracy.

He termed democracy as a “constant tension” present in all aspects of life at all times. However, he felt the positive energy generated out of this tension could be channelised fruitfully. As democracy became more demanding, this tension would be more visible. Paradoxically, it also generated a greater scope for creative action. He also underlined the need for judges to have “compounded faculties of a historian, philosopher and prophet”.

Justice Dipak Mishra, also deplored the dent visible in democracy today. He stressed the importance of an “ethical and independent judiciary.” Such a judiciary marked a “civilised society”.

was Prof (Dr.) Mool Chand Sharma. Both Mr Das and Mr Choudhury spoke about the importance of the mechanism of control and discipline by judges. Whereas Mr. Das felt the criteria for admission to the Bar must be more rigid and stressed the need for “disciplined lawyers under disciplined judges.” Mr. Choudhury argued that a disciplined system would ensure adequate punishment for misconduct of judges which would help ensure proper accountability.

The first day of the seminar saw paper presentations by students and academicians from reputed institutions all across India like Christ College, Bangalore, most National Law Universities in the country and University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun.

## Day II January 22, Plenary Session

The second day’s plenary session, chaired by Prof. (Dr) P. Ishwara Bhat, vice-chancellor, National University of Juridical Sciences Kolkata, featured Prof. (Dr) V. Vijay Kumar, vice-chancellor, Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University, Chennai, as speaker.

Prof. Vijay Kumar delivered a learned and erudite lecture on “Judicial Appointments: Structural and Functional Reforms.” He prefaced it with, “The Indian Constitution happens to be the best-written and worst implemented Constitution.” The functioning of state machinery had drifted from the written word, leading to misgovernance and malfunction in public life, he said.

The Constitution had made the judiciary “the last policeman”, who should never be slighted. Keeping in view the judges’ exalted position in

view, the British and American system had fixed no retirement age for them. Now, a time had come when this last policeman had become someone beyond reproach. Even “impeachment” moves ended up in failure. (Interestingly, in India it is not referred to as impeachment, but by a more neutral phrase, “the removal of judges.”)

“Judges are protected by the Constitution,” Prof. Kumar said. Among the less pleasant aspects of appointment of judges of the Supreme Court was its “parochial” nature in the sense that judges from all states of India must be represented at the apex court. Then, judges from all religious communities had also to be there at the Supreme

Prof. Kumar said there were too many inadequacies in the process of the selection and appointment of judges that reflected in the quality and integrity of the judiciary. In India, because of the laxities, the sons, daughters, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, nephews and nieces of judges, too, became judges. On the contrary, the US system was more strict. “They have extensive dossiers on people who are to be appointed as judges,” he said. The dossiers included even such details as how many times they were married and divorced.

Another point that militated against the quality of High Court and Supreme Court judges was their low salary compared to good lawyers, who earned far more than the judges did. Explaining the reasons of heavy backlog of cases in the High Courts, he said that one of the reasons was that judges’ vacancies in these courts were not filled.

While such anomalies continue in the mainstream, former judges are getting paid astronomical sums for their work in arbitration. “A judge gets as much as Rs. 1.5 crore for preliminary proceedings,

that is, pre-conference payment”, he pointed out.

Legal hair-splitting and politico-legal manipulation further muddied the scene, Prof. Kumar said. Legal provisions like “proceedings to remove a judge must be concluded in the same session of Parliament as these are initiated” effectively ensures that no judge is removed by Parliament.

Manipulations lead to a judge finding a less humiliating way of exiting service through resignation than facing the ignominy of removal by Parliament.

“Mercy petitions to the President for sparing prisoners on death row awaiting hanging need serious and urgent attention of the President. They gather dust for up to 14 years in the Rashtrapati



A view of the audience

Court. These considerations, Prof. Kumar observed, detracted from merit. “How does it matter whether a judge is a Christian or a Muslim as long as he or she is a good judge?”, he asked.

In theory, as laid down by the Constitution, the Executive will have no role in the appointment of judges, while the fact remains that the Executive is involved all along the process of appointment of judges of higher judiciary. The Ministry of Law, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Prime Minister’s Office are crucial in such appointments. “The President of India, in consultation with the Chief Justice of India” is more clearly involved. Judicial independence is constrained by these and other related facts.



Bhawan.” On the contrary, the resignation of Justice Ramaswamy was accepted the same day by the President. This effectively aborted the bid of Parliament to remove him because a judge whose resignation had already been accepted could not be removed, he explained.

In his presidential address Prof. Bhat summed up the remarks of Prof. Kumar.

**Business Session IV**

The theme for Business Session IV, chaired by B K Mohanty, former Advocate General of Odisha, was “Constitutional Morality: Ethics and Judicial Accountability.” The key speaker on this theme was Prof. (Dr) PK Sarkar, professor of law at Utkal University and chairman, PG Council, Utkal University.

“The idea of judicial accountability is not new for Western countries, but in India it is still evolving.” Prof. Sarkar pointed out. Endorsing Prof. Kumar’s views on the issue, he said that some limits on judicial activism were required to keep judicial powers within well-defined boundaries.

“Judges expect to keep a check on the Legislature’s and Executive’s excesses, but who will check judicial excesses?”, he asked. He also posed the question as to who would enforce judicial accountability, Parliament or the Supreme Court?

He said the Indian judiciary was moving away from its moorings in the British judicial system and getting closer to the American system. “We are moving towards the executivisation of the judiciary and towards a review of judicial function by civil society,” he claimed.

**Business Session V**

The theme of this session, chaired by Justice L. Mohapatra, Judge High Court of Odisha, also was “Constitutional Morality: Ethics and Judicial Accountability.” The key speaker was Prof. (Dr) V.D. Sebastian, professor of law, KIIT School of Law.

Prof. Sebastian defined constitutional morality as “a mandate for upholding individual dignity and social morality through a legal order.” Under this scheme of things the justice system was called upon to deliver justice within the constraints of law, he elaborated. He added that a little restructuring of judiciary would have made it more effective.



Dr. M. Manzoor Alam presenting a Memento to Mr Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Orissa

The situation had come to such a pass that it was being used by rich people, big companies, big bureaucrats, Prof. Sebastian observed.

He pointed out issues involved with jurisdiction and procedure that often hindered justice.

Shenanigans like the judicial versus the administrative and traditions inherited from the British Civil Service like excessive weightage to seniority adversely affected the quality of justice.

Justice L. Mohapatra presented a robust defence of the integrity of judges. He said most of the corruption being talked about was confined to the administrative staff of courts, including the staff working as administrative assistants to judges.

The judges had to work with lawyers, some of whom could be involved in unfair practices. Overworked judges, who had been working even on Saturdays, and Sundays, were already under great pressure. Inflicting wild charges on them would be grossly unfair, he said.

Corruption in the judiciary began in the 1980’s and court clerks began to be bribed. Co-operation from lawyers was not always forthcoming, he said.

About the mounting backlog of cases in the higher courts, he said the only way of checking the growth of backlog, was restricting entry to fewer cases. However, restricting admission to a manageable number of cases would be like “pre-empting the recourse to justice.”

One way of coping with the mounting pressure of backlogs would be for the states to increase the number of courts and judges. Giving the example of Odisha High Court he said by March end there would be only 13 judges against the required number of 35. He advised law students to join judicial

service.

A participant in this session, Navneeta Dash, a student of GLC, Mumbai, said that 77 percent of Indians believed the judiciary was corrupt, according to Transparency International.

Regarding the backlog of cases she said it would take 400 years to clear them.

Another participant, Dr Zafar Mahfooz Nomani, Associate Professor at AMU, said that “the ethical residue” had been often missing from the judiciary. However, it had greatly helped the cause of environmental movement in India by “dramatically inserting environmental rights in their judgments.”

**Business Session VI**

The theme of this session, chaired by Prof. (Dr) Afzal Wani, former dean faculty of law, Indraprastha University and member Law Commission of India, was “Judicial Appointments: Structural and Functional Reforms.” The key speaker was Prof. Kumar Kartikeya, assistant professor of law, KIIT School of Law. Prof. Kartikeya pointed out a series of flaws in the system and suggested corrections.

In his presidential address, Prof. Kartikeya said that judicial appointments should be made in a way that the judges’ independence from the Executive and their efficiency was assured. In India, Executive officers used to function as judicial officers also since the days of Warren Hastings.

Rule of law and protection of human rights should be the guiding values for judges. For a smooth functioning of judiciary, “the Executive cannot be excluded, but its role in judicial appointments should be limited,” he opined.

Prof. Krishna Mahajan of the National University of Law, Odisha, quoting a senior judge, said 50 percent of judiciary was corrupt. One of the reasons for this was the appointment of lawyers representing “smugglers and terrorists” as High Court judges. He pleaded for opening judicial appointments to public scrutiny.

In his presidential address Prof. Wani summed up the discourse with the plea to integrate local legal knowledge sources and traditions to the Anglo Saxon inheritance of the Indian judiciary.

As an exemplar of uprightness, he quoted the famous case of Imam Abu Hanifah, who refused to be appointed as a judge. For that he was jailed and tortured, but he stood his ground and did

not accept the position even though several of his disciples later became renowned judges.

**Valedictory Session**

The valedictory address was delivered by Prof. (Dr) P. Ishwara Bhat, vice-chancellor, National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata.

Prof. Bhat mainly summed up and endorsed the views of Prof. Moolchand Sharma and Prof. Afzal Wani. He pleaded for safeguarding constitutional morality which would, in turn, protect national identity and human rights.

About judicial accountability and judicial independence he observed that accountability and independence reinforced each other.

that the Supreme Court had shrunken over the years. “In the 90’s it had 93 benches, today there are only nine.”

He explained that it was not the Supreme Court that was supreme, but the Constitution. “The judges should keep themselves restrained within the Constitution,” he advised.

In his presidential address the Chief Justice of Odisha High Court, Justice V. Gopala Gowda, congratulated Prof. Mustafa and Dr Alam on holding such a fruitful conference.

He pleaded for economic justice as without it social justice was not possible. Nor was political justice possible without it. “Constitutional morality is guided by Fundamental Rights,” he

explained, and added that social transformation was crucial for political morality.

For all this to fall in place, he said, gender justice must be ensured. If people refusing to pay alimony to divorced wives failed to understand the issue of gender justice, the force of law would make them understand it, he warned.

“To the judges,” he said, “Constitutional morality is the mantra.”

The following were awarded during the two-day conference:

1. Prof MQ Khan (Former VC Behrampur University Orissa)
2. Ms Farhat Amin
3. Syed Yusuf Iqbal Chief Advisor Muslim Youth Cultural Association
4. Ms Meera Ghosh Sr Advocate
5. Mr SBA Tanweer Social Activist (Odisha Muslim Development Council, Coordinator All India Backward & Minority Community Employees Federation)

The following resolutions were adopted at the end of the conference:



L-R: Dr. M. Manzoor Alam, Prof. (Dr.) P. Ishwara Bhat, Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Gopala Gowda, Prof. (Dr.) Faizan Mustafa, Mr. B. K. Biswal

He said that a lot of insights and ideas must have emerged from the two-day proceedings and hoped that the university would build on that experience.

The IOS chairman, Dr Mohammad Manzoor Alam, gave an account of the eleven conferences held so far in India that were part of the 14 conferences planned to celebrate IOS Silver Jubilee.

He said in this age of fast changes, knowledge was spreading too fast, without getting deeper. “The youth are tomorrow’s leaders, and their knowledge has to be both extensive and deep,” he said.

In his remarks the NLUO vice-chancellor, Prof. Faizan Mustafa, said

1. The Conference places on record its appreciation of the role which Indian Judiciary has played in preserving and protecting the civil liberties of poor and down-trodden sections of our society. The Conference places on record in particular commendable job done by the Indian judiciary in expanding the ambit of Fundamental Rights particularly the 'Right to Life & Personal Liberty'. Similarly, the Seminar places on records its appreciation of Indian Judiciary in expanding the ambit of Article-12 so that the guarantees of Fundamental Rights becomes more widespread.
2. The Seminar also took note of sensitivity shown by the Indian Supreme Court as the Apex Constitutional Court of the country in initiating a process of good governance and accountability through implicitly reading Right to Information as part and parcel and Freedom of Speech & Expression' and also expanding and concretizing the rights of linguistic and religious minorities through landmark decisions.
3. The Seminar resolves that there is an urgent need for emphasizing Ethical Legal Education which should aim at inculcating ethical values in the law students who in future would become the proud members of Bench & Bar.
4. The Seminar also resolved that there is an urgent need for enhancing number of judges in the country and to attract the best talent in Judiciary, the Seminar resolves that the pay package of judges should be in the same proportion as it was in the original Constitution.
5. It was also unanimously resolved that in order to discharge the divine functions of justice delivery while the judges should not think of themselves as divine but at the same time the independence of the judges should be fully ensured and they must be protected from any kind of false and mischievous allegations.
6. It was also resolved that there is a need to do indepth research in

developing various yardsticks to assess performance of judges. The yardsticks would differ on the basis of assessor such as the litigants, lawyers, the appellate Judges and above all the common man.

7. The Seminar also resolves that in the process of clearing the arrears of cases we should not over emphasize the disposal of cases as justice hurried would mean justice buried. It is also resolved that rather than emphasizing the quantity justice delivery, we should place more emphasis on the quality of our justice delivery system.
8. It is who resolved that justice delivery should not be confined to the Judiciary, we need to ensure justice at all levels of governance.

**Silver Jubilee Celebrations  
Programmes  
(April, 2011 – April, 2012)**

**The following thirteen programmes celebrating the IOS Silver Jubilee occasion have so far been organized.**

1. **Opening conference on 'Towards Knowledge, Development and Peace – Outlining Roadmaps for the Future'**  
On April 15-17, 2011 at India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi
2. **'Prospects for Islamic Venture Capital Fund (IVCF) in Indian Economy'**  
On May 14-15, 2011 at Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi
3. **'Interest-free Institutional Mechanism (Banking, Finance and Insurance) for promoting Investment'**  
On June 3-5, 2011 at University of Kashmir, Srinagar
4. **'Indo-ASEAN Trade and Investment'**  
On July 8-10, 2011 at New Delhi

5. **'Global Trends of Education: Review and Options'**  
On September 16-18, 2011 at Patna (Bihar)
6. **'Power of Media in a Globalising World'**  
On October 14-16, 2011 at Bangalore (Karnataka)
7. **'Good Governance in a Globalising World'**  
On November 18-20, 2011 at Kolkata (West Bengal)
8. **'Challenges Before Youth in Contemporary World'**  
On December 10-11, 2011 at Chennai (Tamilnadu)
9. **'Islamic Culture and Art'**  
On December 30, 31 and January 1, 2012 at Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)
10. **'Empowering Women: Paradigm, Sources and Methodologies'**  
On January 6-8, 2012 at Calicut (Kerala)
11. **'Judiciary, Ethics and Delivery System'**  
On January 21-22, 2012 at Cuttack (Orissa)
12. **'Peace and Progress: Role of Religions'**  
On February 11-12, 2012 at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (UP)
13. **'Worldview of Development: Challenges and Alternative Paradigm'**  
On March 9-11, 2012 at Pune (Maharashtra)

**The following programmes will be organized as per the scheduled given below**

14. **Concluding conference on 'Minority Identities and Rights: Challenges and Prospects in an Unfolding Global Scenario'**  
On April 13-15, 2012 at New Delhi



**Contd. from page-1**

In December 2011 we were in Chennai where we organized a three-day international conference to debate and ponder over 'Challenges before Youth in Contemporary World.' 'Islamic Culture and Art' was the theme of our next international conference in Hyderabad. Our international conference in Calicut in January 2012 was devoted to discussing a very vital theme: 'Empowering Women: Paradigm, Sources and Methodologies.' The next stop of the caravan was Cuttack, Orissa where our three-day international conference discussed a very important theme: 'Judiciary, Ethics and Delivery System.'

In February 2012 the caravan was in Aligarh where a three-day international conference was held to discuss all aspects of 'Peace and Progress: Role of Religion.' We then moved to Pune, Maharashtra where a three-day international conference held on 9-11, 2012 discussed 'Worldview of Development: Challenges and Alternative Paradigm.'

The concluding conference is going to be held in a few days time. The three-day international conference being held on April 13-15, 2012 will discuss 'Minority Identities and Rights: Challenges and Prospects in an Unfolding Global Scenario'. We hope that this last conference, like all previous ones will be a grand success.

Organizing a conference is no fun. Weeks and months go into planning requiring lots of physical and intellectual resources to hold a conference. And organizing 14 international conferences, in a year more than one in a month, is indeed an stupendous achievement for which the IOS, its chairman Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam and his team deserve to be congratulated.

Every year of IOS's 25- year existence has been full of activities. Lectures, seminars and conferences have been organized and books as well as

periodicals have regularly been brought out. All these have been possible only with the grace and blessing of Allah. We bow before Him in gratitude and worship.

A year of hard work to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of our great Institute is about to end. Large numbers of people have been involved to make all the Silver Jubilee programmes a grand success, and they all deserve appreciation, congratulation and thanks.

A journey spread over 25 years is quite a long journey. We have been an open book which anybody can read as and when he wants. On the occasion of our Silver Jubilee we have to honestly assess and analyze our efforts. People are normally tempted to value their activities in terms of success and failure. Let us remind ourselves that both success and failure come from Allah. Our job is to try and give our best. One year-long programme has come to an end. But the journey continues.

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Along with alertness media or media houses also need to be academically strong. It appears as the policy is to invite or involve academics and experts working in universities and high profile institutions and enlighten the audience with their educated views and expert comments. But these experts cannot deliver unless right questions are put to them on right times. The role of the anchor is therefore vital. He/she must do his/her research and be fully prepared academically to be Devil's advocate in the real sense of the word. His/her academic preparedness and thorough study of a subject's all aspects will make television debates on corruption more meaningful.

Perhaps we depend a lot on law to end corruption. Agreed that there just not exist appropriate laws but these must have biting teeth also as without such a legal mechanism fighting

against corruption would be well nigh impossible. However, along with stringent laws we also need to educate people that corruption is morally incorrect and is ultimately caught and punished. Perhaps the fight against corruption deserves to find appropriate place in school curriculum. The malaise of corruption is deep-rooted and widespread and therefore a long battle is required to root it out. It would be a wonderful idea to start this battle at the school level so that our next generation may breathe in corruption-free India.

**Calendar 2012**

The IOS calendar 2012 has been published. Agents, Shop-keepers and others may place their order with the IOS Headquarters.

The Four-Page calendar has the following feature:

- Page-1 Mosque through the Ages Masjid-e-Nabavi Madina
- Page-2 India Representation of Muslim IAS Officer 1990-2009
- Page-3 World: Military Expenditure selected Countries 2007
- Page-4(a) India Share of Muslims in Individual Deposits in Scheduled Banks 2005
- (b) Priority Sector Advances of various Social Groups 2005

The calendar may also be obtained from

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### Corruption in High Places by Ishtiyaque Danish

The views expressed in the article do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of the Newsletter (editor)

The holier than all others media is at it again. They have found another controversy to debate and opine on. Accepted, this exactly is the purpose of media; they are watchdogs and they must bark at thieves. But they also must see to it that they are noV barking at theehonest or innocent by-passers.

A television debate is not expected to be an academic exercise. However, we do expect that it is not a farce. Media persons or T.V. journalists must realize that corruption in high places is a complex issue and can hardly be understood in black and white terms. Controversies surrounding defence deals are especially complex and multi-faceted and therefore need to be thoroughly probed. Such issues cannot be treated like college debates where two groups of students are required to speak in favor of or against a motion. It is quite apparent that neither General V.K. Singh nor Mr. Antony, the Defence Minister can speak out the whole truth as they are bound by oath of office on the one hand and are required to be restrained by the high sensitivities involved in discharging their duties. They cannot speak the whole truth in public even if it is required to clear

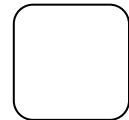
their image. They will prefer to suffer the loss of image than reveal to the media what might endanger the security of the country. Because of the highly restraining compulsion under which the Army Chief and the Defence Minister work, a good many information is held back. Therefore any debate on the basis of half-information is bound to be lopsided.

India's defence budget is very high. Unfortunately we make very few weapons indigenously and highly depend on import to meet our defence requirements. Here the corrupt minds see an opportunity to make quick big money. Import-export business understandably involves two countries atleast. All countries have their own business policies or methods of doing business. For instance we do not like middle man to play any role as it creates and encourages bribe culture. Well, this is our policy. But the country or the firm from which we want to purchase weapons have no such policy. In fact, in many cases they already have signed contracts with firms/people to promote the sale of their weapons. These firms/people are legal middlemen and are not necessarily bad characters. The difficulties involved in importing

weapons from such firms/countries can easily be understood.

The corrupt often capitalizes on such difficulties of nations. He/she has many other ways to indulge in corruption. Unlike the politicians, the corrupt dealing in arms is often very intelligent. They use money, wine and women, the universally known methods of promoting their dirty business. They also infiltrate media, bureaucracy, intelligence agencies and defense establishments and advocate their causes in such a subtle way that they appear to be greatest nationalist. In sum, the corruption has become very smart, clever and intelligent. Is our media really equipped to outsmart the intelligent corrupt. Having watched a television debates in the last few days, I have no doubt that often ill-informed, even unconcerned people are on the air. Most sadly the anchors, too, are ill-prepared and often conduct debates in a superficial manner. But this much credit must be given to the media that despite being intellectually ill-prepared, they have been alert and have sought to play their role of being the watchdog very well. Their alertness will surely play a role in rooting out corruption from the country. *Contd. on page-7*

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