

# Governance Alert



The Newsletter of Public Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT)

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## EDITORIAL

One of the most exciting Acts to be passed by the Government of India in recent times has been the RIGHT TO INFORMATION Act. It is a powerful weapon, and like all weapons, needs to be used.

It is with great pleasure that we are partnering with various groups in Mumbai to bring citizens a Seminar on how they can use the Act to nip bribery in the bud. We hope you will come and bring your family and friends and any instances of Governmental delay that you have.

It is now a year since we have been bringing out the newsletter and it has become a popular way for our supporters and partners to know the work PCGT is doing. As of the next issue, the name of our newsletter has been registered as "Public Concern" and as the name suggests it focusses on issues that the Public is concerned about.

Encouraged by this response, we have been approached by organisations in other states to start similar groups there. We shall keep you informed about the development. With monsoons heading our way, we hope that the Municipal departments in our cities will be doing their work on time, so that we don't get flooded again. If they don't, there is always the RTI Act to find out what they have been doing all this time about it!!

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## CAMPAIGN AGAINST BRIBERY USING THE RTI ACT

July 1-15, Government Law College Churchgate, Mumbai

You will be glad to know that PCGT has joined hands with like-minded NGOs and individuals to create awareness on the Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005 by taking part in the 'National Level Anti-Bribery Campaign' being organized simultaneously in 50 cities from 1-15 July 2006. The print and tele-media have joined hands in taking the campaign to the masses. You might have already seen the promos on NDTV!

The Campaign in Mumbai will be organized at the Government Law College, Churchgate. During the fortnight, PCGT along with other organizations will set up help desk to assist the public (in Hindi, Marathi, English, and Gujarati) in drafting questions and filling RTI Applications to the concerned authorities regarding their local issues.

Volunteers from diverse sections of the city will man these desks. These Volunteers will be given prior training on the RTI Act itself, on some case studies and how to draft questions and fill applications. We are positive that this campaign will not be limited only to the fortnight, but that when our volunteers go back to their localities they can spearhead mini-movements in their own areas.

### Why RTI

At any point of time, if any legitimate work is pending in a government office, use your Right To Information, e.g.

- (1) If you have applied for a ration card and you haven't got it.
- (2) Reimbursement of tax from the Income Tax Department, if you have paid excess tax.
- (3) If you have filed a complaint with the Municipal Authorities against accumulation of garbage in your locality.
- (4) If your passport has not been issued even after the expiry of the stipulated time fixed by the government.
- (5) If you have sought clarifications or collections in your water, electricity or telephone bills, but the authorities have not responded so far.

File a requisition under the RTI Act, you must demand to know:

- (1) Daily progress made on your application so far, i.e. When did the application reach which officer, for how long did it stay with that officer and what did he/she do during that period?
  - (2) Names and designations of the officials who were supposed to take action on the application and who have not done so.
  - (3) What action would be taken against these officials for not doing their work and for causing harassment to the public? By when would that action be taken?
  - (4) By when would the work be done now?
- Do, keep the pressure and implement Gandhi's belief "Be the change you want to see in the world".

### INEFFECTIVENESS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



The outcome of the Priyadarshini Mattoo and Jessica Lal cases has brought into focus the ineffectiveness of the Criminal Justice System. Some of the reasons for the ineffectiveness are inherent in the system and the rest may be found in the inadequacy of the resources and the acts of commission and omission of those who operate the system.

In the adversarial system of jurisprudence followed in India, the prosecution has to make out a prima facie case and trial is a proceeding before an independent and passive arbiter. The system demands of the courts to focus their attention more on evidence than on discovering the truth. It shows least concern for the victim of crime, allows perjury to go unpunished and mistrusts the investigating agency.

Inadequacy of resources is perennial. The number of courts, prosecutors and investigating officers has never been commensurate with the volume of work at hand. Since all prosecutors are now officers of the court and totally separated from the investigating agency, the latter is left without an institutional support system for legal advice and assistance, which is required in thousands of cases everyday.

Forensic Science Laboratories are very few and the wherewithal at the police station level much below par. At rural police stations bare essentials like stationery are in short supply.

Non-registration of criminal cases by the police is a chronic problem. It has been there for a long time basically due to two reasons: first, non-availability of sufficient investigating staff and, second, too much emphasis on the control of crime.

Poor quality of investigation coupled with delays which result in grant of bail to the accused is another factor, which contributes to the ineffectiveness of the system. The investigating officer is so heavily saddled with multifarious duties, public order and VIP security being the most time consuming, that concentrated attention to investigation of crime becomes almost impossible.

Extraneous influences have also adversely affected the system. Withdrawal of criminal cases from prosecution on political considerations makes a mockery of the system.

Inordinate delays in trials are the final blow to the effectiveness of the system. Heavy pendency, frequent adjournments, and non-adherence to Section 309 Cr.P.C., which stipulates that examination of witnesses once begun should continue from day to day until all have been examined, are factors that cause the delay in trials. But the cumulative effect of everything put together is that a common man has lost faith in the criminal justice delivery system.

At PCGT it will be our endeavour to change the system so that justice is delivered in time...because as the saying goes, Justice delayed is justice denied!

*Mr Satish Sahney, Trustee, PCGT*

### RTI AND E-GOVERNANCE GO HAND IN HAND

**What are the implications of RTI Act on the Indian democracy?**

The Indian RTI Act 2005 is one of the most advanced Right to Information legislations in the world. The Act is based on the principle that all government information is the property of the people. It takes democracy to the grass root level and is also a step towards ensuring participatory governance in the country. RTI Act is a source of strength for all Indians as it will ensure timely response to their information needs on government functioning, and lead to greater transparency in governance.

**How relevant is IT in enabling citizens to exercise their information right?**

Information Technology is a key tool to ensure that citizens have access to any relevant information that they seek. Computerisation of records and use of internet are specified in the Act.

To start with, all offices of government are to have websites with relevant information. Most of the government departments are working towards this. Ministry of Panchayati Raj is setting up e-panchayats to reach information to the grass root levels. There is continuous effort from department of information technology in spreading the use of IT. Community Information Centres (CICs) are being set up across the country.

An RTI portal developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) is also getting ready for citizens to do quick 'search' of information put up by various government departments.

All said, much more has to be done in ensuring people's access to information, as majority of Indians do not have access to Internet.

**What is the role of NGOs and government authorities in ensuring RTI?**

The RTI Act 2005 is a product of the efforts made by Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, (MKSS) an NGO based in Rajasthan. Though the Act is in place today, the awareness levels of the people is very low. More has to be done on this front.

The state governments have a big responsibility to create awareness in their respective states. The RTI Act mandates the government to develop educational programmes for awareness creation, to promote timely and accurate information by public authorities. They should also empower NGOs to take up the cause. Training for central and state Public Information Officers (PIO) are also important to ensure the reach of information to the grass root levels.

Excerpts of an Interview with Wajahad Habibullah, Chief Information Commissioner, Government of India, New Delhi.

[Source <http://www.ciol.com/content/news/2006/106052506.asp>]

## POLICE REFORMS

PUBLIC-POLICE PARTNERSHIPS FOR  
POLICE REFORM

## INTRODUCTION

The basic philosophy of the Indian Police today is elucidated in the Police Act of 1861. Its primary focus is to contain trouble after it occurs, whether mob violence or individual criminality. It is reactive in dealing with situations except when it is influenced by 'extraneous' factors. The contact between policemen and the citizens mainly involves actual or implied enforcement of law. Thus any significant attempt to reform the Indian Police must begin with the men at the bottom, not at the top.

People are the most important functionaries in the implementation of any law. People are the informers of crime, witnesses of crime, as well as victims of crime. The problem of the police has been that it has failed to create a mechanism where these people, in an ambience of trust, confidence and privacy, inform the police whenever and wherever violation of law takes place as informer and witnesses of crime. For example, a simple process of recording their FIR is not a very pleasant encounter with the police on many occasions. Therefore the public and police will have to sit together to determine a mechanism which is acceptable to both. People as well as police shall go on suffering each other unless they find a solution to this problem.

Police need to increase methodology of including people in policing. State will never give more money to police, it spends more on infrastructure – police has to depend on people's support. In civilised societies, the police are seen as an agency for the provision of human security, protection and service to the people in addition to maintaining order.

As policing in a democracy essentially involves serving communities, it is vital that police organisations be required by law to understand and respond to community needs, through consultation and partnership.

Most public-private partnerships are about voluntary engagement for mutual benefit, combining resources and competencies. The police depend on citizens to assist in almost every aspect of crime prevention and investigation. Mobilising that public support is essential to the core mission, and good treatment of the public is one way to build public support.

For a police organisation, a partnership with the public to strengthen service to the citizenry can provide useful distance from the partisan interests of a particular government administration. It also emphasises accountability to multiple constituencies rather than independence from them all. A

partnership with public would bolster the ability of a police force to withstand pressure from specific politicians seeking to advance their own parochial interests and mitigate against the image of the police as "politicised."

In contemporary democracies, police reform is a continuous process. For police reform to succeed, it needs external as well as internal support. Without leadership committed to improvement within a police organisation, external calls for reform will rarely penetrate to the daily delivery of police services on the front lines. But without external support for reform, even the most committed police leadership will lose the political backing and resources necessary to sustain a successful reform process.

These reforms need time to establish themselves in the culture of a police institution. Early in the process, they can easily be uprooted if they lose the support of the government of the day. Public interest groups can help keep these kinds of reforms on track, forming a sort of pressure group to demand professional service from the police, regardless of who is in government.

## Different Structures and Scope

## Brazil

In Sao Paulo, Brazil, several of the city's business leaders founded and still maintain the Institute Sao Paulo Against Violence, mobilising business associations, private companies, academic institutions, community associations, and media organizations in the effort to reduce crime. Since its formation in 1997, the institute has supported projects aimed at promoting police reform and increasing police responsiveness and accountability to the public.

Its main mission is to work with the police to prevent crime. The institute's "Crime Stoppers" project, for example, runs a call center for tips from the public about criminal activity; the information is then passed on to the police. In two years, this project has reportedly helped police solve about 2,500 crimes.

## United States

Twenty community leaders from industry, academia, and the clergy serve on the board of the New Orleans Police Foundation, a public-private partnership dedicated to strengthening the police department and promoting public safety in New Orleans. Leaving police oversight to other agencies, the foundation focuses on crime reduction. Since its creation in 1995, the foundation has changed the police department's definition of "success" from number of arrests made to reduction in crime rates. The Police Foundation maintains open communications with the mayor's office, city council, federal agencies, and the police department.

Thus a well-defined, effective public-private partnerships will increase the general demand for quality police service. An effective partnership needs to include civil society, so that the interests and priorities of the poor and disenfranchised will be represented.

The police depend on citizens to assist in almost every aspect of crime prevention and investigation. Mobilising that public support is essential to the core mission, and good treatment of the public is one way to build public support. Like the most successful businesses, police organizations should be recruiting, training and supervising to achieve the highest level of service to citizens.

*(Excerpts from "Public-private partnerships for police reform" by Chitra Bhanu and Christopher Stone – Vera Institute of Justice)*

**CORRUPTION NEWS**

Lokayukta N. Venkatachala has been in the news ever since he assumed office five years ago. He has conducted raids on the offices and houses of government officials who are below the rank of IAS/IPS and has trapped government servants for allegedly indulging in corrupt practices. Many high profile officers have been made to sit at their homes for amassing ill-gotten wealth. Of course, many cases have not reached a logical end, thanks to bureaucratic hurdles. Some of the suspended officers have also found their way back to offices taking legal course.

Justice Venkatachala's tenure will end on July 4, 2006. But many want him to continue in his office. However, the Lokayukta Act specifies that a Lokayukta can occupy the post only one term of five years. His term can be extended, provided the government amends the Lokayukta Act. Justice Venkatachala has said that he would continue in office provided he is vested with powers to conduct raids on public servants of all ranks.

Following is a list of his raids which appeared in Deccan Herald dated 14-05-2006:

<b>LOKAYUKTA BANGALORE OPENS A BARREL OF WORMS!</b>				
<b>Here are some of the 'richest' babus who fell to the Lokayukta trap . . . .</b>				
Name	Date of Raid	Gold* in kg.	Silver* in kg.	cash (Rs.)
G. S. Bhat	Sep. 1, 2005	3.827 GM, KSDL (diamond jewellery worth Rs. 4.7 lakh	8.834	71,695
Ramaswamy, Commissioner, K. R. Puram CMC	Nov. 20, 2002	1.920	—	2,20,000
R. Ranganath, Chief Engineer, BMP (South)	Nov. 8, 2005	1.391	1.855	8,18,160
Shami-Ur-Rehman, Inspector, City Crime Branch	Mar. 14, 2006	1.325	—	3,84,500
B. T. Lakshman, CGM, Mysore Minerals Ltd.	Apr. 6, 2006	1.291	9.157	1,00,600
Shanthappa IFS	Jan. 24, 2001	1.200	2.492	3,90,000
M. C. Prakash, Executive Engineer, BMP	Nov. 7, 2005	1.173	5.612	1,12,700
T. V. Belagavi, Section Officer, Housing & Urban Development	Mar. 22, 2002	.703	2.419	4,25,740
M. Devananda Babu, CTO, Hosur Road, B'lore	Aug. 10, 2005	.562	7.678	32,000
Shivanna, Inspector, Yeshwanthpur, B'lore	Mar. 14, 2006	.110	5.612	1,12,700

Deccan Herald has done a follow-up to the cases registered by the Lokayukta between 2001 and 2006.

Raids and Traps between Jan. 1, 2001 — March 17, 2006

Year	Raid	Trap	Others	Total
2001	13	168	1	182
2002	9	109	1	119
2003	3	81	4	88
2004	—	69	4	73
2005	24	156	29	209
2006 (till March 17)	9	89	11	109
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>780</b>

Cases booked under Prevention of Corruption Act 780 (from January 1, 2001 to March 17, 2006).

Reports filed (reports where no case is made out against the accused) 134.

Sanctions for prosecution sought from the competent authority 573. Sanctions given by the competent authority 422.

#### The Custodian Of Conscience: A tribute to Justice Venkatachala and the role of Lok Ayuktas.

For 20 years, the Lok Ayuktas of Karnataka did little, despite the wide-ranging powers conferred on the incumbents of this office. But this changed since 2001, when Justice N. Venkatachala, a retired judge of the Supreme Court, became Lok Ayukta. He has stirred things up and made life more uncomfortable for officialdom, particularly at the top. Officials and politicians are being closely scrutinised for errant behaviour, and governmental and local bodies being called to account. The judge has a penchant for shaming corrupt persons in authority. He is a good man and is doing good things.

Perception of degrees of corruption can only be approximate. But if the CPI '03 (Corruption Perception Index) of Transparency International is considered, India's place between 2 and 3 on the scoreboard, which ranges from 10 (highly clean) to zero (highly corrupt), is abysmally low.

UNDP's annual Human Development Report has a new slot—the percentage of people residing in the world's principal cities asked to bribe public officials. The figures for Mumbai and New Delhi were shown to be as high as between 21-22 per cent. The reason there are no figures for Bangalore is presumably because when people are asked to pay a bribe, their hunch tells them to complain to the Lok Ayukta.

The French statesman Jean Monnet often used to say—there are two types of people in this world: those who want to be somebody and those who want to do something. There are far too many in the first category but there are only a handful who really get down to doing something worthwhile. Justice Venkatachala is amongst the select few. And for this I salute him.

Source: Fali S. Nariman in Outlook India.com June 19, 2006

**POLICE REFORMS****OFFICIAL FINED FOR NOT GIVING INFORMATION**

A sub-district administrator in Madhya Pradesh has been fined Rs. 25,000 for not complying with the Right to Information Act and ignoring the State Information Commission.

Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) T.N. Shrivastava imposed the fine on H.S. Chouhan, tehsildar of Gyaraspur in Vidisha district, as "he failed to provide the information to an applicant within the prescribed one month time limit", a state official told IANS.

The CIC has also recommended disciplinary action against the first appellate authority and sub-divisional officer (SDO) of Gyaraspur, Sharad Shroti, for his conduct that was unbecoming of the dignity of his office.

"The appellant, Manoj Kumar Sharma of district Vidisha, had made an application on Dec. 5, 2005, seeking a certified copy of a mutation case pertaining to his land at village Chatauli under Right to Information Act. He should have received the information by Jan. 4, 2006. The Public Information Officer provided the certified copy on April 20, 2006, and that too incomplete", sources said.

As the Public Information Officer knew that a wrong entry had been made about the mutation on April 17, 1999, he should have informed the appellant of it, but he provided him a copy of an earlier date instead.

"The conduct of the Public Information Officer has harmed the right of the appellant. The officer took no measure to rectify the error either. He deliberately violated the provisions of the Right to Information Act and also provided wrong information to the State Information Commission" CIC observed.

The CIC directed that the tehsildar deposit the fine within 30 days of issuance of the order.

The CIC also found that the SDO of Gyaraspur had failed to issue an order within the prescribed time limit. He passed the order only after receiving a notice from the State Information Commission.

The SDO also brought up false pretexts for not appearing before the State Information Commission.

As the act has no provision for action against appellate authority, a show cause notice cannot be issued to him, but the Commission feels that he is not fit to discharge the responsibilities of that office. In view of his conduct, the state government should take disciplinary action against him.

The Commission had fixed April 10, 2006, as the date for hearing the case. Separate notices were issued to both the officers to be present for the hearing. However, both the officers replied in separate letters that they would not be present as the state's chief minister was visiting Gyaraspur the same day.

However, clarifications from the chief minister's office revealed no such programme scheduled on the said date, making it clear that the officers had deliberately absented themselves from the hearing on purely false pretexts.

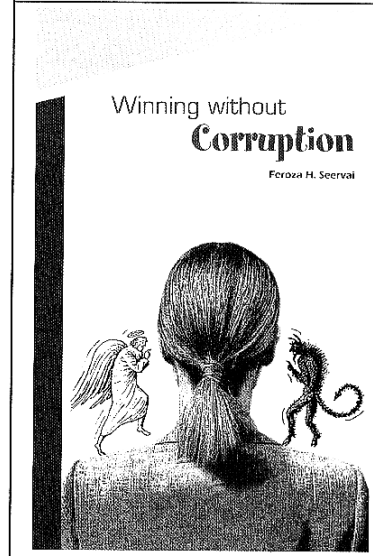
[Source <http://news.webindia123.com/news/articles/india/>]

**MUMBAI DISTRICT ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMITTEE**

Did you know that every first Monday of the month the committee meets at the District Collectors Office on the first floor of the Old Custom House at Fort so that citizens can approach the panel with complaints. They have dealt successfully with all the 49 cases given to them by citizens. Most of the complaints related to slum rehabilitation and illegal encroachments. So if you have a complaint about corruption, the next meeting is on July 3, tell the Committee about it. Meetings start at 3 pm.

**Book Review:**

Winning without Corruption  
Feroza H. Seervai  
Pages 84  
Suggested contribution: Rs. 120/-  
Published by PCGT



A longtime activist working with women's issues and education, Feroza Seervai was married to the late HM Seervai who was the former Advocate General of Maharashtra. Since the 60 years she was with him she came into contact with hundreds of officials...these are her experiences with officialdom.

Although she was advised not to write the book for fear of "assault and battery" she has gone ahead and spared no one. As she quotes her husband's words: "If one is to be afraid of one's shadow, one may as well be dead"..... She recounts her experiences, her successes and her failures and they should inspire each one of us to Speak Up when we feel things are wrong. "Without courage there is no truth, and without truth there is no other virtue." — Rima Kashyap

## RIGHT TO INFORMATION

**Below are some of the draft questions which can be used under the RTI Act-2005**

Suppose you have pending work or a pending grievance in some government department. Whenever you went to their office, they would either not listen to you or they would not tell you the correct status of your application or they would raise some funny and irrelevant objection. They are basically expecting some bribe. If you pay the bribe, your job would be done but if you do not do that, they will keep on making you run around. In most such cases, a common man gives up and pays the bribe. But now, you need not pay bribe. You can use the Right to Information Law to get your work done. How to do that?

Just as an example, let us assume that you applied for a new water connection about a year back, but you have not been granted the connection. Fill up Form A prescribed under the Right to Information Act and seek information on the following lines.

### Water Connection

I had applied for a new water connection about a year back, but have not received the same. Copy of the receipt of the same is enclosed for your reference. Please provide the following information with respect to the same:

1. Please provide the daily progress report made on my application.
2. Please give the names and designations of the officials with whom my application was lying during this period. Please intimate the periods when it was lying with which officer and what was the action taken by that official during that period.
3. Please give the proof of receipt and dispatch of my application in the office of each of these officials.
4. According to your rules, in how many days should a new water connection be granted. Please provide a copy of these rules.
5. The above officials have not adhered to the time limit mentioned in these rules. Are these officials guilty of violating these rules and hence guilty of misconduct under their conduct rules. Please give a copy of their conduct rule, which they have violated by violating the above mentioned rule.
6. These officials have caused serious mental injury to me by making me run around all this while. Are these officials guilty of causing mental harassment to the public?
7. What action can be taken against these officials for violating all the above rules and the conduct rules? By when this action would be taken?
8. By when would I be granted my water connection?

Normally, it becomes difficult for the officials to reply to these questions as this would bring their inefficiencies and lapses on record in writing. A reply to these questions also has the effect of fixing of responsibility.

### Sanitation

Does your area remain very dirty? The municipal sweepers rarely show up? Do you have a garbage bin in your area which is not being cleaned regularly? Fill up Form A prescribed under the Right to Information Act and seek information on the following lines:

There is a garbage bin at (give address of the garbage bin). Please provide the following information with respect to this garbage bin:

1. Please give the address of the Depot from where the loader and truck for this garbage bin are sent?
2. Please give the vehicle nos of the truck and the loader assigned for picking up garbage from this garbage bin.

3. As per the vehicle beat register maintained at the Depot, please give the time when these vehicles left the Depot and at what time did they return to the Depot on each day from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (mention the period for which you want this detail).
4. On each of the days during the above period, please mention the addresses of the garbage bins, which were serviced by these vehicles.
5. Please give the number of trips made by this truck on each of these days.
6. On each of these trips, please mention the weight of the garbage picked up by this truck, as per the weighment receipts at landfill sites.
7. This garbage bin has not been cleaned for the last \_\_\_\_ days. The area SI is supposed to send balance report to the workshop SI everyday giving details of the garbage left unattended. On the basis of this report, the workshop SI is supposed to get such garbage picked up. Please give copies of balance reports sent by the area SI for each day during this period.
8. Does the balance report for each of these days mention that the garbage at this bin is not being picked up? If no, why has the area SI not been mentioning the same?

### MLA Funds

Every MLA gets **Rs. 2 crores** every year to spend on works for the development of his constituency. It is seen that a number of times, the money is spent on works, which have little utility for the people. But when the people go to the MLA with a request for any work, some MLAs send them back saying that there are no funds available. Now you can use the Right to Information Act to find the fund utilization position for your MLA. You can also seek to know the details of works on which your MLA spent money and verify the status of these works and whether these works were required at all by the people of that area. Fill up Form A and ask for the following details from the Urban Development Ministry of State Government, which acts as the nodal agency for MLA Funds:

1. Please provide the following details for all the works awarded during the FY \_\_\_\_\_ for constituency no \_\_\_\_\_ out of the MLA Constituency Development Fund:
  - a. Name of work
  - b. Brief Description of work
  - c. Amount sanctioned
  - d. Date of sanction
  - e. Status of completion
  - f. Name of agency
  - g. Date of start
  - h. Date of completion
  - i. Rate at which work awarded
  - j. Amount paid
2. How much money was available with this MLA in this fund at the beginning of the current FY?
3. How much money was provided to him during the current year?
4. Out of the above total amount available, projects worth how much money have already been sanctioned?
5. How many projects worth how much money are awaiting sanction?

Please find enclosed a copy of RTI application form for your use. Feel free to xerox and share it with your family and friends.

(Source: Parivartan.com)

**HUMOUR TRAPPED!!**

Following are real life incidences that the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Maharashtra has encountered while catching hold of bribe-takers, aptly titled 'Humour Trapped'. Enjoy!

1. A complainant, who was working as a wireless operator in Motor Transport Section of Mumbai Police, came to Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) and lodged a complaint that his in-charge Hawaldar was demanding money for showing favor in the matter of distribution of duties. A trap was laid at the quarters of the said hawaldar. He was sleeping in the room. He woke up, accepted the bribe of Rs. 500, kept the bribe, amount under his pillow and again went to sleep! The Hawaldar had to be woken up and told that this was a trap from the Anti-Corruption Bureau. He pleaded that he was sleeping and that he was not aware as to who had kept the said amount under his pillow. However, this was untrue as the entire transaction had taken place in presence of independent witnesses.
2. A complainant lodged a complaint with us against a Mukadam of M-Ward, BMC, Mumbai, of a bribe demand of Rs. 1500. A trap was laid at the office of the M-Ward, BMC. Some of the raiding party members went to the second floor along with the complainant and the witnesses, while the remaining raiding party were waiting in front of the office near a Pan shop. The Mukadam met the complainant and asked him to accompany him outside the BMC office. They came to the same pan shop where the remaining members of the raiding party were waiting! The Mukadam asked for a paper bag from the pan shop owner and after blowing into the bag, he asked our complainant to drop the bribe inside the bag in the presence of entire raiding party! Thereafter, he was trapped. At that time, he was aged about 57 years and 11 months and was to retire in a month's time. The Mukadam was convicted by the Court.
3. A complainant telephoned to the ACB office and informed that one Rationing official was demanding Rs. 50 from him for not deleting the name of his deceased father from the Ration Card saying that "Mare Huain Aadmi ke Naam Pe Ration khate Ho, Tumhare Upar main Case kar Doonga" (You are taking the Rations of a dead man. I will register a case against you.) The complainant was asked to come to ACB for lodging his complaint, but he could not come, as the Rationing officer insisted on immediate payment of the bribe. The complainant wisely made a photo copy of the Fifty Rupee note he was going to pay as bribe to the Rationing official. During his personal search, Rs. 50 was found in his pant pocket and which was the same that had been accepted by him on the earlier day!
4. A complainant came to ACB for lodging a complaint of demand of bribe against an Official of the Municipal Corporation of Mumbai. The Addl. DCP, ACB asked one of the ACPs of the Bureau to record the complaint and lay a trap. The ACP told the Addl. DCP that he was busy in some other matter and had no time for a fresh case. Ultimately, the Addl. DCP entrusted this work to one of the Police Inspectors of the Bureau. A trap was laid at the BMC office and the BMC official was trapped while accepting a bribe of Rs. 4500. When the BMC official was detained, he immediately disclosed that his son-in-law is an ACP and is serving with Anti-Corruption Bureau. Needless to say, he was the same ACP to whom this trap has been entrusted earlier!!
5. A complainant lodged a complaint with ACB against a Police Sub-Inspector attached to Pychonie Police Station regarding demand of bribe of Rs. 4000. The surprising modus operandi of accepting the bribe was that the Sub Inspector gave our complainant a credit slip of his Bank and instructed him to deposit Rs. 4000 in his account! The officer filled in the details in the credit slip and after duly signing the same, handed it over to the complainant! After the complainant deposited the said amount in the bank, the PSI was trapped. He was convicted by the Court.
7. A complainant came to ACB and lodged a complaint against a Judicial Clerk for demand of bribe of Rs. 100 for issuing him a copy of the Judgment Order. The trap was laid in the premises of the Court. At the time of the trap, the Court typist and peon were also present in the vicinity. The complainant was about to pay Rs. 100 (10 currency notes of Rs. 10) to the Judicial Clerk, when the typist and the peon intervened saying "Hamara Kya" (What about us) to the complainant, who then had to distribute the trap amount Rs. 50 to the Judicial Clerk, Rs. 30 to typist and Rs. 20 to the peon! After this trap, the Court's work came to a stand still as there was nobody to assist the Honorable Magistrate!
8. A complainant came to ACB and lodged a complaint against a Junior Security Officer attached to F - South Ward, BMC for demand of bribe of Rs. 1500=00. When the trap was laid at his office, the officer was not present in his cabin. On enquiry, it was learnt, that the said officer was busy in a meeting with the Ward officer, in which the topic for discussion was "Prevention of Corruption in BMC" !! The complainant gave an intimation through a BMC Security Guard about his arrival, where upon the Security Officer came out, leaving the meeting with permission, and accepted bribe from the complainant!! He was trapped.

(Source: [www.acbmaharashtra.org](http://www.acbmaharashtra.org))

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Brought to you by the Newsletter Task Force

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