



Network India

Independent India @75: Self Reliance with Integrity Business Integrity & Acceleration -Role of Businesses

OBSERVING VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK, 2021

ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION

Topic
**INDEPENDENT INDIA@75:
SELF-RELIANCE WITH INTEGRITY- ROLE OF BUSINESS**

For Business Management and Law Students.

To be submitted online at afin-india@giz.de
Last date of submission October 28, 2021 before 12:00 hrs (IST)

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Winning essay will get:

1. Published in Compliance bulletin of the Alliance for Integrity
2. Hosted on UNGC India & PTFI's website and Social Media channels.
3. Integrity goodie bag.

All the participants will get Certificate of participation.

**Guidelines:**

1. Language - English
2. Word Limit - Maximum 1500 words (Font Arial-11, without spaces)
3. Plagiarism - Author will give a declaration of originality.

◆◆◆ For registrations visit our website.

Standing committed to the fight against corruption and enhancing transparency and integrity across the sectors, Global Compact Network India (GCNI), Alliance for Integrity (AfIN) and Partners for Transparency Foundation India (PTFI) in line with the CVC's Vigilance Week 2021, have jointly organized an Essay Writing Competition for the Business Management and Law students from across India on 12-28 October 2021. The theme of the Essay Competition was...

### **Independent India@75: Self-reliance with Integrity "Business Integrity & Acceleration-Role of Businesses"**

The students presented their views on the topic and how they think that the business community can support self-reliance with Integrity in socio-economic context. The entries were evaluated by a jury of experts having exemplary contribution and experience in the field of Business Integrity.

After the evaluation of the entries submitted by the students from across India, the jury for the Essay Competition unanimously decided for Ms. Anavi Jaitley to be the winner; she is a 3rd year student from Symbiosis Law School, Pune/India.

This joint initiative of GCNI, AfIN and PTFI not only created awareness of the need of vigilance in realizing Anti-Corruption Efforts in India but also encouraged diverse stakeholders including law professionals to stand committed against corruption and contribute to eradicate corruption from across the sectors through collective action.

### **The winning Essay ..**

**Rich India, Poor Indians: Role of Business  
An Insight into the Need of Vigilance for Anti-Corruption Efforts  
in Modern India with special emphasis on the Role of Business**

**“While transparency reduces corruption, good governance goes beyond transparency in achieving openness. Openness means involving the stakeholders in decision-making process. Transparency is the right to information while openness is the right to participation.”**

**PM Narendra Modi.**

India is infamous as a rich country of poor people as it sits at the crossroads of two worlds: one that is fueled by power and resources to improve the country's living standards and economic standing, and another that is still fighting for basic necessities. Despite making significant progress in every sector of international relevance, including the economy, infrastructure, and diplomatic ties, India is still classified as a developing country. We live in a country where the 10th richest man in the world and the world's largest slum co-resides, ironically in the same city.

Thus, India's prosperity cannot be attributed to a few billionaires contributing to per capita income, which is a nebulous measure of a country's wealth in and of itself. A country's growth will not be regarded enough unless all of its residents can easily meet their basic needs, such as food, shelter, and clothing, and they have equitable access to all of the government's opportunities. A prosperous country's apotheosis will be when its citizens feel safe and happy, have the opportunity to groom themselves through proper education, have better health facilities, have a longer life expectancy, have a favourable social and environmental environment, and, finally, have substantial economic growth. A country with transparent, accountable, and responsible governance is on a never-ending path to success.

It does not take deep contemplation to understand that the lack of probity and integrity in administration resulting in corruption is the prime reason for every hurdle in India's progress. To keep a watch on this is as necessary as to bring various social and economic reforms for creating equal opportunities. This keeping a watch is known as vigilance.

The vigilance now a day is not limited to tackling the corruption of simple forms but it also includes various economic and socio offences such as drugs, money laundering, tax invasion, terrorism, terror financing etc. As Hon'ble Prime minister said in his oration, "The corruption not only attacks on every individual citizen in various financial ways but creates a challenge to social security as well. It breaks the trust itself over the body where corruption is traversed across". The impoverished are harmed by corruption, the honest confront difficulties, and the destitute are stripped of their legal rights. The alert citizen not only ensures the suppression of corruption, but also assists the weak in combating the injustices perpetrated by the system. A person who is not punished for corruption encourages others to follow in his or her footsteps. The lack of vigilance system makes corrupt persons heroes to others since they gain from crime without fear of being caught. Whether by error, neglect, or by choosing to engage in reckless risk-taking, some companies engage in corporate misconduct as newspaper headlines dealing with price-fixing cartels or bribery and corruption scandals remind us on a regular basis. In some cases, the limits of what is acceptable business behaviour are pushed so far that the boundary between the pursuit of profit and overtly criminal behaviour becomes blurred - or disappears. The misconduct of a few can undermine efforts of the many and erode trust in markets and institutions. Certainly, most companies are not part of the problem, but the potential impact of corporate misconduct remains a challenge that many business organisations, governments and stakeholders are trying to address from varying angles.

Vigilance brings transparency, accountability, and responsibility to governance, allowing all members of society to participate more fully in the polity. The more transparent the system is, the more resources will be distributed evenly. Vigilant India will ensure that India is wealthy because it will be able to fulfil the promise of equality, fraternity, dignity for all, liberty, and justice for all citizens of this country, resulting in happiness, improved human development, and economic progress.

In today's hyper-connected global economy, the value of company integrity has never been more apparent. Globalisation has had considerable positive effects over the last half-century, including enhanced production and efficiency, rising average earnings, increased competitiveness, and a broader range of goods and services.

The Indian business sector, which is a major driving force in the Indian economy, is focused on learning about anti-corruption methods and best practices. The corporate world, as a whole, is currently developing a moral consciousness. Corporate governance, business ethics, and corporate sustainability are some of the new and emerging management ideas via which this increasing ethical sense in the corporate world is attempting to express and incarnate itself in the corporate world.

A business that operates with integrity can make a good impact on society. Moral institutions may make a genuine contribution to the country's prosperity, and serving with integrity is not difficult. A country with less corruption has a better socioeconomic

climate, where the poor have equal possibilities as the wealthy. It gives citizens more freedom and a better quality of life. Money earned through corruption is regularly used to fund terrorism. Corruption will be eliminated, increasing society's security systems and making living and working safer.

Despite the many scams, frauds and scandals, the rise of Corporate Social Responsibility, Business Ethics, and Corporate Governance highlights the efforts of Indian businesses towards a better, transparent and corrupt-free society. The days of businesses disregarding ethical values and profiting from their actions while harming other members of society are long gone. Companies participate in development initiatives as part of their CSR policy, obey governmental and legal standards as part of Corporate Governance, and uphold moral principles by developing a Code of Conduct/Ethical as part of their ethics strategy. Some businesses go above and above to enhance the society in which they operate.

Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-sufficient India) is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambition for making India self-sufficient. Self-sufficiency is not a protectionist approach, and as the finance minister put it, "self-sufficiency does not imply isolation from the rest of the world." India's self-sufficiency makes it a much larger and more important component of the global economy, and foreign direct investment and technology are both welcome. Self-reliance requires enriching our finest works, widening our perspectives, and then publicly showing our achievements.

Self-reliance does not imply any exclusionary or noninterventionist tactics, but it does imply some type of aid to the entire planet. The importance of progressing "nearby" items is central to the Mission. The mission would be built on five pillars: economy, basis, framework, vibrant demography, and demand. The Mission is also intended to contribute to the 'Make in India Initiative.'

India has gone a long way since its independence in 1947, yet some aspects of our society continue to obstruct our progress toward becoming a self-sufficient nation. If we want the country to be self-sufficient, we need to change our thinking since here is where it all starts and ends. In our culture, horrific and terrible traditions that split the public into different factions are still practiced, which prevents us from achieving our progress and aspirations. Despite 75 years of independence, we continue to practice British division, which has affected our society in the long term.

However, as the number of educated people grows, reforms are being made and institutions are speaking up for what is right. It is critical to instill these values in children at a young age. Because young children are creative, it is critical to guide them in the appropriate direction so that they can serve their country and become global citizens. Education is essential in today's environment; it shapes who you are and gives you the ability to speak up for what is right at all times. Also, one should be a responsible citizen of the country, upholding the Constitution and laws at all times.

It's crucial to remember that while exercising our rights, we must also remember to fulfil our obligations as responsible and dutiful citizens. It's also critical to keep brainstorming and considering new ideas that can benefit our varied country, help everyone, and reach everyone. Physical and mental fitness are inextricably related. It's because junk food is readily available and inexpensive. Keeping oneself healthy and fit at home is critical during these trying times.

Finally, if we channel all of our flaws in the correct direction, we can transform into a successful nation that sets an example of a well-functioning and evolved democracy. Our population is actually a blessing in disguise because with better facilities and simple access to them, we can develop more businesses. We should strive for general development while focusing on the younger generation, as they are the future of contemporary India. This is what will make Atmanirbhar Bharat a utopian reality.

**Entry by:**

**Anavi Jaitley**  
**Symbiosis Law School Pune**

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