



Whistle Blower Portal: IREDA

Why in News

Recently, the **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** has launched a 'whistle-blower Portal', as a part of 'Vigilance Awareness Week 2021'.

- It is a part of IREDA's "zero tolerance" of corruption. Through this portal, IREDA employees can raise concerns related to fraud, corruption, abuse of power etc.
- IREDA is a [Mini Ratna \(Category - I\)](#) Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.

Key Points

▪ Whistleblowing:

- According to the **Companies Act 2013**, whistleblowing is an action aimed at drawing the attention of stakeholders to instances of unethical practices in an organization.
- A whistleblower can be anyone who chooses to expose wrong practices and has evidence to support the allegations.
- They can be either from within or outside the organization, such as current and former employees, shareholders, external auditors, and lawyers.
- In India, whistleblowers are protected by the [Whistleblowers Protection Act, 2014](#).
- In January 2020, the [Securities and Exchange Board of India \(SEBI\)](#) came out with a [new mechanism to reward whistle-blowers](#) and other informants for sharing information about insider trading cases.
 - **Insider trading** is an unfair and illegal practice in the stock market, wherein other investors are at a great disadvantage due to the lack of important insider non-public information about a company.

▪ Vigilance Awareness Week:

◦ About:

- It is celebrated every year in the birthday week of [Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel](#), often referred to as the '**Bismark of India**'. It is observed by the [Central Vigilance Commission](#).

- **National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas** is celebrated on 31st October every year to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

- This year, Vigilance Week is being observed from 26th October to 1st November.

◦ Theme:

- 'Independent India @ 75: Self Reliance and Integrity'.

◦ Aim:

- Various activities are planned through the week, which are aimed at **recognising the ills of corruption and promoting ways to combat it** at an individual as well as systemic level.

Corruption in India

▪ Prevalence:

- The **Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) - Asia 2020**, found that nearly 50% of those who paid bribes were asked to, while 32% of those who used personal connections said they would not receive the service otherwise.
- As of 2020, India stands at the **86th spot on the [corruption perception index](#)** among a list of 180 countries. This is worse than 2019 when India stood at the 80th spot.

▪ Causes:

- The important causes of corruption in India are poor regulatory framework, exclusivist process of decision making aggravated by discretion and official secrecy, rigid bureaucratic structures and processes; and absence of effective internal control mechanism.

▪ Impact:

- It promotes inefficiencies in utilisation of resources, distorts the markets, compromises quality, destroys the environment and of late has become a serious threat to national security.

▪ Initiatives Taken:

- [Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.](#)
- [The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.](#)
- [The Companies Act, 2013.](#)
- [The Foreign Contribution \(Regulation\) Act, 2010.](#)
- [The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013](#)
- **Central Vigilance Commission**

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