

Editorial

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Consumers' Right

More often than not, the immediate necessity for the preservation of the self and family (read: staying alive) in these uncertain times have relegated a very vital issue which should have been of much concern for the people of this state to a mere inconvenience. Perhaps, the rising sense of desperation or the expectation of worsening social conditions has made the public alter its sense of priorities. The issue, the rights and interests of the consumers of the state and measures to protect them.

The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was enacted to provide a simpler and quicker access to redressal of consumer grievances. However, in India, it has been found from a number of independent analyses carried out over the years that the agencies at the district level are working more efficiently than those at the national and state level. Therefore, there is still need of

agencies functioning at state and national level to dispose of the pending cases as early as possible by creating supplementary benches as per the provisions of Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

Consumers are very often at the receiving end of the poor, inefficient and negligent services and substandard goods on offer. Modern technological growth and complexities of the sellers techniques, existence of a vast army of middlemen and unethical and untruthful advertisements as well as hoarding and creation of artificial scarcity during difficult and troubled times in the society have aggravated the situation of consumer exploitation. And yet, these blatant

exploitations can be brought down or at least curtailed only with proper awareness and involvement of the consumers about their rights.

Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, Redressal Forums have been established at three different levels namely District Forum, State Commission and National Commission or National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. A complaint can be filed with the district forum

by a consumer, any recognized consumer association, a group of consumers or The Central /State Government as the case may be, either in its Individual capacity or as a representative of interests of consumers in General. Moreover, any person aggrieved by an order made by the District Forum may appeal against such order to the State Commission within a period of 30 days from the date of the order. The State Commission may entertain an appeal after 30 days if it is satisfied that there was sufficient cause for not filing it within that period. The same process can be repeated with the national commission if the consumer is still not satisfied with the rulings of the state commission.

It must be said that there already exist a strong setup designed to protect the interests and rights of the consumers of the state, at least in principle. The state forum situated at the Food & Civil

Supplies complex at Sangaiporou have started functioning after being suspended for a few years, and the public should avail of the legal and other assistance which can be had from this centre if there is any instance where the sellers of goods or providers of services are felt to have used unfair means or cheated the consumers. It is we the consumers whose proactive ways can send a clear message saying that no one can shortchange us.

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"Space Waste"

(A threat- beyond the control of general public)

By:Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh.



Picture for representation only

Initially the term Space debris referred to the natural debris found in the Solar System like; asteroids, comets and meteoroids. However the beginning of the NASA Orbital debris program in 1979, the term also refers to the debris (alt: space waste or Space garbage) from the mass of defunct, artificially created objects in space in the orbit of the Earth. These include old satellites and spent rocket stages as well as the fragments from their disintegration and collisions.

As of December 2016, five satellite collisions have generated space debris. Space debris is also known as Orbitaldebris, spacejunk, spacewaste, spacetrash, and space litter or space garbage. As of 5th July 2016, the United States strategic Command tracked a total of 17,852 artificial objects in orbit above the Earth, including 1,419 operational satellites. However these are just objects enough to be tracked. As of January 2019, more than 128 million bits of debris smaller than 1 cm (0.4 inch), about 9,00,000 pieces of debris (1 -10 cm) and around 34,000 pieces larger than 10 cm were estimated to be in orbit around the Earth. Collision with debris have become a hazard to Spacecraft, causing damage akin to sandblasting, especially to Solar Panels and optics like telescopes or Star trackers that cannot be covered with a ballistic whipple shield (unless it is transparent).

Below 2,000 kms (1,200 miles) Earth altitudes, pieces of debris are denser than meteoroids, most are dust from solid rocket motors, surface erosion debris like paint flakes, and frozen coolant from ROSAT (nuclear power satellites). For comparison, the International Space Station orbits in the 300-400 Kms (190-250 miles) range and 2009 satellite collision and 2007 antisat test occurred at 800 to 900 kms (500-560 miles) altitudes. The ISS has

whipple shielding, however known debris with a collision chance over 1/10,000 are avoided by maneuvering the stations.

The Kessler syndrome, a runaway chain reaction of collision exponentially increasing the amount of debris, has been hypothesized to ensue beyond a critical density. This could affect useful polar-orbiting bands, increases the cost of protection for spacecraft missions and could destroy live satellites. Whether Kessler syndrome is already underway has been debated. The measurement, mitigation and potential removal of debris are conducted by some participants in the space industry. The main sources of space debris are (i) Dead spacecraft like those spacecraft and satellites whose life span are ended (ii) Lost equipment's belonging to the astronauts and cosmonauts. Astronauts Ed White lost a glove on the first American spacewalk (EVA); a camera lost by Michael Collins near Gemini 10; a thermal blanket lost during STS-88; garbage bags jettisoned by Soviet cosmonaut during Mir's 15-year life, a wrench and a toothbrush; Sunita Williams of STS-116 lost a camera during an EVA. During an STS-120 EVA to reinforce a torn solar panel, a pair of pliers was lost and in an STS-126 EVA, Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-piper lost a briefcase sized tool bag (iii) Booster: characterizing the problem

of space debris, it was learned that much debris was due to rocket upper stages which end up in orbit and breakup due to decomposition of unvented, unburned fuel (iv) Weapons: a past debris source was the testing of antisatellite weapon (ASAT) by the U.S and Soviet Union during the 1960s and 1970s. North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) files only contained data for Soviet tests and debris from U.S. test were only identified later. By the time the debris problem was understood, thus widespread ASAT testing ended; the U.S. program 437 was shut down in 1975. But on 27 March 2019, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India shot down one of its own LEO (Low Earth Orbit) satellite with a ground base missile. He stated that the operation, part of Mission Shakti, would defend the country's interest in space. The vulnerability of satellite to debris and possibility of attacking satellite to create debris clouds has triggered speculation that it is possible for countries unable to make a precision attack. An attack on a satellite of 10 tons or more would heavily damage the LEO environment.

The threats of space debris are multiplying. It is a threat to active satellite and spaceships. The Earth orbit may even become impassable as the risk of collision grows too high. Although

spacecraft's are protected by whippleshields, solar panels which are exposed to the sun, wear from low mass impacts. These produce a cloud of plasma which is an electrical risk to the panels. Satellites are believed to have been destroyed by micrometeorites and orbital debris (MMOD). The earliest suspected lost was of kosmos 1275, which disappeared on 24th July 1981 (a month after launch). Kosmos contained no volatile propellant, therefore there appeared to be nothing internal to the satellite which could have caused the destruction explosion which took place. However, the case has not been proven. It is also a challenge to manned spacecraft's to avoid collision. Although most debris burns up in the atmosphere, larger objects can reach the ground intact. In 1969 five sailors on a Japanese ship injured by space debris. In 1997an Oklahoma woman Lettie William, was injured when she was hit in the shoulder by a 10 cm X 13 cm (3.9 in x 5.1 in) piece of blackened, woven metallic material confirmed as part of the propellant tank of Delta II rocket which launched by U.S Air Force satellite the year before. We may recall the original re-entry plan for SKYLAB, called for the station to remain in space for 8 to 10 years after its final mission in February 1974. On 12 January 2001, a Star 48 payload Assist Module (PAM-D) rocket upper stage re-entered the atmosphere after a catastrophic orbital decay, crashing in the Saudi Arabian desert. In the 2003, Columbia disaster, larger parts of the spacecraft reached the ground and entire equipment system remained intact. So, space debris or space garbage is a great threat to the Earth, the control of which is beyond our reach.

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The Power YOU Have

By : Mr. Prem Rawat,

"It is a good thing to know others, but it is a wise thing to know yourself". Nature has bestowed on every living thing the necessary power that is required for its survival. It is inherent in everyone and is an incredible thing. It can change the impossible into possible, sadness into happiness, war into peace and hate into love. The question is "Do you realize, the power you have is a gift of nature?" As a human being YOU are bestowed with the true power of abundant kindness, joy, love, truth and peace within yourself. These are the things that can change the face of your own world in which you live every day, every moment and there will never be a shortage of these. Despite of all turmoil, there is abundant source of happiness in you, which you can bring forward whenever and wherever you need. In the deepest hour of sorrow, you still have these powers in you that have the ability to change sorrow into happiness for you. The only thing you require is to practice these powers; because whatever you practice, you get good at it. If you find yourself getting angry within no time, it means you have practiced anger the most in your life. Practice peace in your life and you can get good at it. Of all the powers you have, you also have the power to feel peace within yourself. When you are in peace, your world will be in peace too. So take that time to make a difference in life, for which you only need to care. This is one earth and one humanity. You as a human being, can make others project out their

good. One should learn to appreciate the differences. These differences are like, the spaces between two places; and building a bridge can connect the two places. We have not yet built this bridge because of the differences. You have that power to bridge the space by doing constructive things for your loved ones.

Everything in your life begins with you sowing seeds. Love, kindness, peace, understanding, doubt and confusion are like the seeds you have been given. Depending on which seed you sow in the soil of this life, will be those trees you see in the garden of your life. They all start out as little seeds, but as they sprout and grow, they manifest their particular characteristics. Some you will like and others you won't. It's upto you which seeds you sow and nurture in your life. It's not only a question of sowing the seeds but also nurturing them, watering them, protecting them, taking care of them so that they grow in the soil of our life. To feel kindness, to feel true love, to understand what it is like not to be in doubt and confusion; this is something you do first of all for you and then for other people; and it will be a step towards humanity and peace.

When you focus on problems, you will have more problems and when you focus on possibilities, you will have more opportunities. Ships don't sink because of the water around them; ships sink because of the water that gets into them. So don't let what's happening around you get inside you and weigh you down. Life is an opportunity - the truest opportunity, as we only have this one life to navigate. The breath



coming into us is the definition of opportunity. Sometimes we need to be reminded of that to keep our focus clear and to remember what is real because we get impressed by money, followers, degrees and titles. One should be impressed by kindness, integrity, generosity and humility. This should be real and practical.

There are activities in our life that actually does not have any weight. But we give them gravity, shape & importance and weight them so much only in our minds which weighs us down. Being victorious over the self requires us taking decisions in our life, not others on our behalf. Being victorious over the self does not mean conquering.

We always look at things as we have to conquer the situations, people and ideas. Conquering means somebody is going to win and somebody is going to lose; but when we are victorious over ourselves, we don't lose, we win; nobody loses. It's only win-win situation. If life is a lottery, we all hold winning tickets in our hands.

(Mr. Prem Rawat, also known by the honorary title of 'Ambassador of Peace' inspires people with his message around the world towards a unique opportunity of self-discovery and he offers a practical way of feeling peace within oneself. For more information please visit the websites www.ravividyakender.org and www.premrawat.com.)