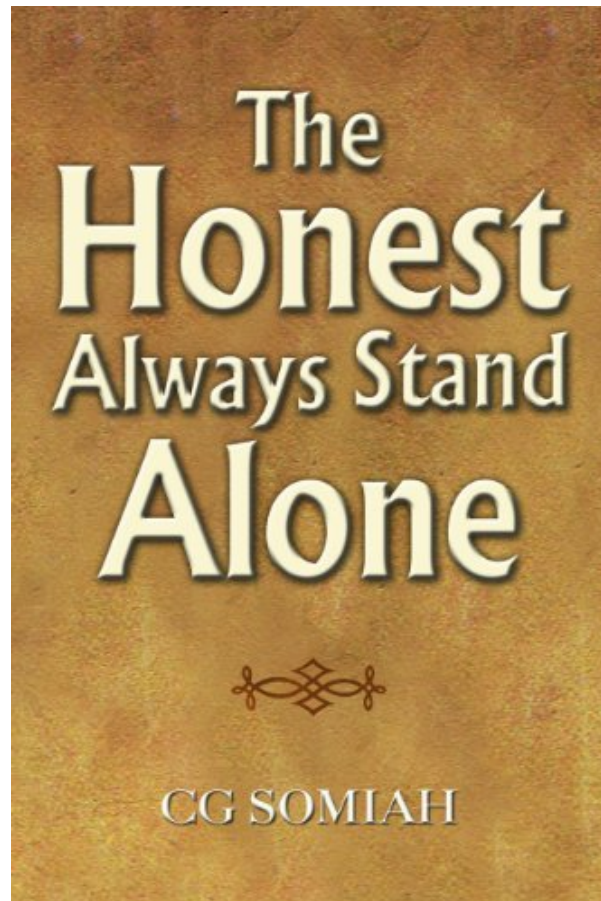


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About the Author

CG Somiah was the Comptroller and Auditor General of India from 1990 to 1996. He was the first Indian to be elected a member of the United Nations Board of Audit by the UN General Assembly in 1993. In 1995 he became the Chairman of the Board responsible for the audit of the UN, its many agencies across the world and the UN Peace Keeping Force. An enthusiastic tennis player as well as a regular golfer, CG Somiah has held many important posts in the Government of India, including Home Secretary and Central Vigilance Commissioner. He lives in Bengaluru with his wife, Indira and still enjoys his game of bridge.

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THE HONEST ALWAYS STAND ALONE BY C.G. SOMIAH PDF

Candid and outspoken, CG Somiah shares his experiences as an Indian Administrative Officer, from his first posting to Orissa as Assistant Collector to the more heady days of fighting terrorism in Punjab, keeping an eye on the country as Home Secretary and Central Vigilance Commissioner and, finally, a six-year tenure as Comptroller and Auditor General of India. His efforts to stem corruption resulted in a loss of promotion for two years. His colleagues were upset about his plight and some of them were of the view that it was not prudent to defy corrupt politicians who can harm one's career. Somiah, however, heartily disagreed with them. Speaking straight from the heart, Somiah's narrative is well-knit and crisply put together. It takes us back to the exciting days of Rajiv Gandhi's prime ministership and gives us a glimpse into the discussions that took place at the highest political level. As its title suggests, *The Honest Always Stand Alone* marks the journey of a man who always upheld the truth.

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Outstanding

By B.Sudhakar Shenoy

This is one of the most candid accounts of an honest bureaucrat's challenging and illustrious career, a reflection of flawless professionalism, courage and endurance to withstand the pressures of being so honest in a largely corrupt system. Mr C.G.Somiah's first hand narration of his personal story in simple language stimulates thought and touches hearts.

I am amazed by his humility, simplicity and unbiased discharge of duty with the highest levels of intellectual and moral integrity and yet, a humane outlook in all his decisions.

The anecdotes in each chapter are splendid. Some are humorous and some are plain fearless expose of the corrupt system.

We had a hearty laugh at home when I read aloud the incident where Field Marshal (Retd) Cariappa hands over Mr Somiah a tie before letting him in for lunch at his residence. A very interesting first meeting of two illustrious Coorgs!

Playing tennis with his mother and winning the mixed doubles is a memory that he fondly remembers.

Starting from the one square centimeter photo of his wife Indira and the fairy tale that endures forever is perhaps one of the best facets of his personal life.

The fine accounts of his travels across the length and breadth of this country and also his visits abroad are full of energy and passion.

The case of tendu leaves makes interesting read, though not surprising. So is the case of his confrontation with the liquor lobby in Orissa. Despite the undue political pressures and unwarranted transfers, truth and integrity have ultimately triumphed for this courageous man.

His elevation to the position of Comptroller and Auditor General of India in 1990 was the pinnacle of a great career. Coorg had produced one more "General"!!

I finished reading this book on 12 th September and with joy and pride, I carefully preserved the copy in order to request for an autograph on it from Mr Somiah during my next visit to Bengaluru. I also jotted down some short questions for him, if I could get a few minutes of his time.

God had other plans for this noble man. On 13 th September, I learnt from the news that Mr C.G. Somiah was no more with us. I could not control my tears in office.

I plan to visit Mangalore during Christmas this year. I shall certainly visit the St Aloysius chapel, which he loved, and pray for his great soul.

Sir, you do not stand alone. I join the millions of Indians who stand in salute, in sincere thanks, gratitude and appreciation of your illustrious service to our Motherland.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

The Importance of Being Honest

By Aparna Thomas

The Indian Administrative Service fascinates many young people. Most of them seem to be running after it for the power and social status it brings. But for a honest officer, the IAS can be a means to fight the cancer of corruption. C. G. Somiah in his book `The Honest Always Stand Alone' describes a variety of situations in his career in IAS to show how he maintained his honesty and tried to fight corruption though he had to suffer a loss of promotion for two years because of that. I found this book inspiring. The story of how Somiah reached the top of his profession overcoming complicated situations and tribulations without losing his integrity gives us the hope that there is still a place for ethical values in spite of the widespread existence of corruption.

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