



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

Quarterly

EDITORIAL

Tools of good governance

While dealing with the problem of corruption, it is seen that the positive approach is more effective than a negative one that condemns the holders of power by stigmatizing them with the disapprobation which puts all in the same bracket thus both negating the reality of the existence of the good and creating a defensive wall around the bureaucracy that then defies all change by defending the status quo. Therefore, rather than censuring, it is better to find a remedy that works. Vilification only without seeking a remedy is worse than inaction. Secondly, there is an indirect correlation between corruption and good governance. In fact, corruption is a symptom of the crackling system that appears to have broken down with none making an effort to repair it. The presence of corruption is a sure indication of loose governance that permits aberrations. However, there is a positive correlation between good governance and development and protection of rights. It is an antidote to corruption.

It is in this context that a serious effort has to be made in seeking good administration. This propels search for tools that have worked and, if pursued conscientiously, would deliver, though slowly. This can be done by only those who have the power to bring about change.

Some of the effective tools are the Integrity

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Pact adopted by 51 public sector undertakings who have committed to principles of integrity, transparency, and fair play in procurements to the satisfaction of all stakeholders. Use of technology, wherever feasible, shall not only expedite the delivery of service but also eliminate the middlemen who have been exploiting the illiterate, the depressed, and the impoverished people, besides reducing the contact with the service provider. The social audit mandated by law under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has exposed wrong doing and manipulation. Similarly, independent studies help in showing a mirror to the administration about the leakages and inadequacies as well as solutions to problems. This is supplemented by the citizens' card that conveys the perception of people about response of government.

Though the Right to Information Act is designed to help any citizen to seek information from public authorities, yet Section 4 of the Act that mandates the department to provide suo motu information has unintended consequences in making the agency to consider this as a check list and fill in the gaps. All that a department of the government is expected to do is contained in this law. The section itself is a storehouse of dos that no agency should ignore. This alone would raise the level of performance of public officials.

The civil society must continue to seek electoral reforms, forfeiture of property of corrupt public servants facing investigation and trial so that the proceeds of ill wealth are not alienated in the meantime. It must also sensitize the bureaucracy about their role and their potentials to deliver. It can also convince private sector to pledge and

follow rules of integrity. The insistence upon ethical curriculum in educational institutions and using the tool of public interest litigation are instruments available in its arsenal.

All this must be proposed, propagated, and pursued in the interest of good governance.

Special General Meeting

A Special General Body Meeting was held on 31 Oct. 2015 to consider the amendments of TII's Rules & Regulations, as approved in the earlier SGM in 22 Aug. 2015. Amendments were discussed in detail. Some changes were made in the draft due to typographical error. Amendments were accepted, unanimously, by the general body.

Board of Management Meeting

The BOM meeting was held on 26 Dec.2015.

Integrity Pact

NTC Ltd Signed the Integrity Pact with TII

The National Textile Corporation Limited (NTC Ltd) became the 51st Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) and 49th Central PSU to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TII for adopting Integrity Pact (IP). The signing ceremony was attended by Shri K. V. Chowdary, Central Vigilance Commissioner, Shri S K Panda, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Shri P C Vaish, Chairman & Managing Director, NTC Ltd and senior officials from NTC Ltd and Ministry of Textile. Shri Chowdary said that "*Independent External Monitors (IEMs) should not be seen as umpires but as guidance providers. They are there to throw light on the issues faced by vendors and advise the management regarding the same*". He further added that "*Any vendor who has a genuine grievance can approach the IEM.*" NTC's CMD Ltd. Shri P C Vaish said that "*NTC Ltd has been a transparent and fair organization and signing the Integrity Pact will give rejuvenated strengthen to the organization.*" NTC Ltd desires to implement Integrity Pact in over 95% of contracts. They have put a threshold of Rs. 10 lakh for all domestic contracts and Rs. 5 lakh for all export contracts.

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Other IP Activities

- TII's Executive Director Shri Ashutosh Kumar Mishra participated in a panel discussion at Thai Institute of Directors Association's (IOD) and Partners of Thailand in the 6th National Conference on Collective Action Against Corruption on 15 Oct. 2015, in Bangkok. He shared his views and experiences on "Integrity Pact in Thailand and lessons from international experiences".
- TII is preparing training modules on Public Procurement and Integrity Pact to take up consultancy projects. The first one is with CIDCO (State Government Undertaking), to train all its procurement staff and vendors on Public Procurement and Integrity Pact.
- Training Programs on Promoting Transparency in Public Procurement and Integrity Pact were organised by TII for
 - (i) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) staff on 16-17, Oct., 2015 at HAL, Bengaluru
 - (ii) CIDCO staff on Oct. 30, 2015, CIDCO, Navi Mumbai.
- The Executive Director, TII participated in a Book Sprint organized by Transparency International on the theme of "Step by step guidance for implementing Integrity Pact". The book sprint was organized between Nov. 30 - Dec. 3, 2015 at Berlin, Germany.
- TI India has received an invitation from the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Association (APCRDA) to train its procurement staff on procurement procedures and Integrity Pact in connection with the project of establishing a new capital for the bifurcated state of Andhra Pradesh. The program would be held on 20-21 January 2016 at Vijayawada.
- For endorsing Integrity Pact in the private sector, TII had discussions with the World Bank (WB) to act as a Nodal

Agency for Integrity Pact implementation in the Corporate Sector. The WB agreed to a transparent procurement for all projects funded by it. Information on existing IEMs has also been made available to them.

- TII wrote to Secretaries of Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Power for adoption of IP in all Coal and Power related companies of Government of India.
- Training on Best Practices in Public Procurement and Integrity Pact for Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) staff has been proposed for February 2-3, 2016 at NLC's Headquarter at Neyveli.

ALAC

- 87 Initial contacts/complaints were received at on Anti-corruption Helplines in Delhi during Oct.– Dec. 2015.
- ALAC Wing of TII along with Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) Federations in Delhi conducted training program in November 2015 on Right to Information Act 2005 to empower citizens to fight against corruption.
- Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) Federations in Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi, organized Anti-Corruption Day in December 2015 on theme of effective ways and means to curb corruption.
- ALAC trained 18 interns during October to December 2015. The interns were trained to provide Free Legal Aid to citizens'.

PAHAL

With the help of student volunteers, awareness camps on ill effects of corruption in interfering with peoples' entitlements under various welfare scheme were organized in Panchayats of Madhubani, and Darbhanga (Bihar).

UN Anti-Corruption Day

TII observed the UN Anti-Corruption Day/ week by organizing a series of events like debates, discussions, cartoon competitions,

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slogan writing, oath taking as well as focusing on theme of 'Tools of Good Governance' at Delhi, Srinagar, Raipur, Madurai, Dhanbad, Gonda, Bangalore and Patna. TII envisioned an "Integrity Pledge" which was e-mailed to colleges, NGOs and TII Chapters (state centers) across the country. The pledge was taken by students on Dec. 9, 2015.

TII Media Coverage

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) took action against Principal Secretary to the Government of Delhi in December 2015 on the information sent by TII to the Chief Minister and Lieutenant Governor of Delhi dated 27th May 2015. Both Electronic and Print Media covered this issue.

Engagement with the Government

The Chairman wrote letters to

- Shri Akhilesh Yadav, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh on 14 Oct. 2015 to consider introduction of IP in all public procurements .
- Shri Nripendra Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, on 14 Oct. 2014 to seek appointment and make a presentation on the Decriminalization of Politics, introduction of Integrity Pact in the Central Para military Forces and Infrastructure sector. (14 October).
- Prof. (Dr.) R. Venkata Rao, Vice Chancellor, National Law School of India University, on 15 Dec. 2015 to collaborate with NLSIU and find out prospective synergies of opening an ALAC center with NLSIU.

Other Activities

1. Chairperson, Shri P. S. Bawa participated as Guest Speaker at My Parliament Fellowship Training on 12 October at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Delhi
2. Online Anti-Corruption Communities were launched in ten States in collaboration with the Local Circle.
3. TII participated in a meeting organized

by Department of Personnel and Training to review progress in implementation of the United Nation Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) conducted by a team from UN consisting of representatives from Uganda and Kazakhstan.

4. TII made a representation to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for inclusion of “anti-corruption/ governance” as one of the activities for Corporate Social Responsibility in Schedule VII of Companies Act 2013.

Activities of State Chapters

Rajasthan Chapter

- Shri I. C. Srivastava, Chairman of Rajasthan Centre, delivered a talk to Members of IIPA, Rajasthan Branch, on Oct. 19.
- TI India, Rajasthan Centre held a Seminar on “Right to Information Act: Present Status and Prospects”. It was addressed by Shri Ashok Jain and Shri Ajay Dubey, eminent RTI Activists and Members, TII Board of Management, on October 14, 2015 at Jaipur.
- An MOU between Rajasthan Chapter and Bharat Mera Garv Abhiyan, NGO, was signed to enable collaboration in their awareness program in schools and colleges through a documentary and lectures series. This program has so far been conducted in 47 schools and colleges.
- TII Rajasthan Centre organized on 4th November an inter-school debate for rural students on possibilities of elimination of corruption by Anti-Corruption Act in collaboration with Sri Kalyan World School, Jaipur.

- A debate among Civil Service aspirants was held at Prakrit Bharati Academy on the topic: “RTI proved a strong weapon to fight corruption” on Dec. 9.
- Shri I. C. Srivastava, Chairman, presided over a session on Women Empowerment, Community Engagement and NGOs In International Conference on Women Empowerment and Sustainable Development Goals organized by SIDART in Collaboration with UN Global Compact Network, India, at Jaipur (December 18)

TI INDIA'S DONORS

Name of Donor	Receipt No.	Rs.
1. Maj. Gen.(Retd.) Baljit Kumar Mehta D-136, Defence Colony New Delhi - 110024	1164	4,000/-
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Request

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**TI India's (ALAC) Anti-Corruption Help-Line
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