



# TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

EDITORIAL

Quarterly

## The Reluctant State

During the mid-sixties, Gunnar Myrdal in his book titled *The Asian Drama* called India a 'soft state'. Instead of changing its image to hard and meaningful state, it became a 'denying state' that refused to believe the existence of mal-administration by suggesting that it was of no use speaking from rooftops that there was corruption as it demoralized the bureaucracy; that it was a universal problem; and that scams were due to systemic failure. The regime of licenses, quotas, and permits had taken toll on the front of integrity. There was growth of crony capitalism that distorted the political system. Later it became a 'helpless state' when it acknowledged that only fifteen percentage of the benefits accrued to the people for whom the development and welfare schemes were meant.

It then converted itself into an 'absent state' by not penetrating into the interstices of the vast country thus leaving a vacuum to be filled up by the non-state actors who still wield considerable influence in these areas and prevent the state from interventions. Its mandate does not work as it is physically not there. Its space has been occupied by others who run parallel system of administration in those areas. It continues to be serious problem to be reckoned with.

It can also be called a 'reluctant state' due to its inability to take prompt measures that are desirable for uplifting the state. It had reluctantly enacted the RTI Act, the NREGA, and the Right to Education Act many years after education was included as a fundamental right. It has been reluctant to enact the Lokpal Bill for over four decades. It is now reluctant to bring about electoral reforms; to improve standard of police; to strengthen the criminal justice system by releasing adequate resources to improve the

judge-population ratio as well as for an efficient prosecution and prison administration; to insist upon the states to enact Lokaykta bills; to take adequate measures to retrieve illicit funds lodged in foreign offshore banks; to resist temptation of having a voluntary disclosure of income scheme that is often propped up for getting support of the business community.

We expect the state to be strong and not soft; forthright and not denying; determined and not helpless; present and not absent; proactive and not reluctant. Its change of assumptions, philosophy, and stance shall help the country get out of the quagmire of apathy, cynicism, despondency, and problems of poverty, inequalities, backwardness, ill health, and illiteracy thus securing for its people a reasonable, just, and fair social order.

## Integrity Pact (IP)

During the quarter, (i) an IP survey based on interviews of various stakeholders was carried out; (ii) Chairman and Director (IP) participated in the panel discussion organized by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India on 8 August; and (iii) a one day conference on "Ethics in Business" was organized in Mumbai on August 17 in collaboration with Shipping Corporation of India, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, KPMG and Partnership for Transparency Funds (PTF). It was attended by about 130 participants, including Vigilance Commissioner, CMDs, CVOs, IEMS, CEOs, CII, audit agencies and others.

Annual review of functioning of the IP was held at Kudremukh Iron Ore Limited (KIOCL) on 21 September at Bengaluru and participated by TII's Chairman, Director (IP) and IEMS, besides stakeholders and KIOCL's senior management.

An MoU was signed with the Numaligrah Oil Refinery, a joint venture of Central Government and Government of Assam, on 26 September, at Guwahati. The number of undertakings signing the IP has now become 41.

## Development Pact (DP)

An assessment report on the UNDP aided Development Pact (DP) project concluded that there were visible results in some constituencies

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DPs have helped in concrete improvements in the provisions, timelines and quality of goods & services. It has increased the sense of ownership among citizens and engagement with public resources and development efforts. Public officials have become more responsive to people's needs. The DPs in the form of 'social contracts' aim at improving public accountability of resources and access to quality goods and services. The project has been implemented at panchayat level in Chattisgarh & Rajasthan; and at the Assembly and Panchayat levels in Bihar. ED would be making a presentation on 'DP as a tool to fight corruption' at Oslo in October.

### **Project Pahal: Shaasan Sudhaar Ki Ore**

In Bihar, more than 1,800 citizens, PRI reps and govt officials have been trained on tools of good governance. A 'self-sustaining PRI network' has been created to promote the concept of model Gram Panchayat and overall good governance in the region. TII team in Madhubani organised (i) Citizens' Walk Against Corruption; (ii) Right to Service Support Camp; (iii) *Navodit Kavi Sammelan* to raise awareness among citizens to fight corruption on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

on TII's request, workshops were organised by Shri Sunil Mahto, a noted RTI activist, in Dhanbad to train youth from university and professional colleges on August 17, Ranchi and Giridih in September in partnership with Nehru Yuva Kendra to train field workers on use of RTI and other anti-corruption tools for community development. A series of *Nukkad Nataks* (street plays) were held in ten Gram Panchayats of Ranchi, Koderma and Chatra between 27 August and 12 October to widen awareness about Right to Information, Panchayati Raj and corruption in governance.

**Networking Activities for Pahal:** Meetings were held with representatives of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), PRIA, Action Aid and Forum Asia to explore possible collaborations. Nehru Yuva Kendra has already partnered to engage TII for their regional training programs. PRIA has agreed to share the knowledge resources with TII teams nationally and locally in various states. Dr. Kamal Kabra of ISS is keen to share his expertise on corruption related research with TII.

A Training Campaign on RTI in Chhattisgarh (mainly in Raipur and Bilaspur districts) was launched in collaboration with the Chhattisgarh Information Commission and Departments of School Education on 29 July. Till date, about 1300 school children and youths have been informed

about the use of various tools of good governance. Several school children have also prepared and filed RTI applications to address common problems in their surrounding areas. The campaign would culminate in a state level youth convention in Raipur on 9 December, being the International Anti-Corruption Day.

Director (Pahal) and TI Nepal FK Fellow interacted with the TII-TN team members and shared their experiences from field areas of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Nepal.

Pahal project was launched in Madurai (TN) on 6 August. More than 150 civil society members, especially women, participated. Tamil version of Pahal brochure along with the TII-TN Chapter's communication materials in Tamil on RTI and anti-corruption helpline were distributed. Two training programs on RTI and tools of good governance were held on Aug 8, and September 15, respectively, for volunteers. It was followed by a rural camp to train villagers on governance tools and address their grievances. The events were broadcast by the community radio.

Director (*Pahal*) presented a paper on *Pahal* project at the National Conference for Improving the Lives of the Marginalized, held at A A P G College, University of Puducherry (Pondicherry) during Aug 4-5.

### **ALAC Center in Delhi**

A project to help in resolving public grievances and also for advocacy with the Government is being planned to start in three states, including Delhi. Supported by TI-S, the centers aim at providing hassle free access to justice to victims, as well as advocate for improvement in the Government system. For the purpose, Ramnath Jha has been appointed as coordinator.

Meanwhile, ED has contacted Odisha's Secretaries of Department of Health and Women & Child Welfare to explore the possibility of coordinating the activities of ALAC with their respective grievance redressal cells.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM is scheduled to be held on December 10 at Balwantray Mehta Vidya Bhawan, Greater Kailash Part II at 2:30 pm.

### **Board of Management (BoM) Meeting**

The meeting of the BoM was held on 17 September. It was attended by TII Mentor Admiral Tahiliani, and Adviser Shri Shambu Dutt among others. The Chairman informed about the activities during the preceding quarter and the accreditation granted to TI India by the Credibility Alliance for compliance with 'Desirable Norms',

the highest category.

### TII Strategic Priorities - 2015

The Board of Management was apprised of TII's Strategic Priorities 2015 as follows

**Strategic Priority 1:** Increased empowerment of people and partners across India to take action against corruption

- To create awareness about tools of good governance through expansion of Pahal program
- To expand Advocacy & Legal Advice Centers in different cities across India
- To support and expand Development Pacts in more areas to seek accountability of elected representatives
- To improve communications through social media like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc., to update TII website, and to make TII blog more functional

**Strategic Priority 2:** Improved implementation of anti-corruption programs in leading institutions, businesses and government

- To promote Integrity Pacts in more Public Sector Undertakings
- To promote Integrity Pledge for private corporations
- To endeavor to create a Corporate Social Responsibility Forum for private companies
- Strengthening of State Chapters to become more active
- To explore launching of new chapters
- Liaison and partnerships with other like-minded Civil Society Organizations, NGOs, advocacy networks, etc., and increase institutional memberships
- Launch new studies and research
- To publish material, including studies, the Quarterly, informative leaflets, lectures, etc.

**Strategic Priority 3:** More effective enforcement of laws and standards in India and reduced impunity for corrupt acts

- Develop program for reforms in criminal justice system
- Review of proposed legislations like judicial accountability, police reforms, whistleblowers' bill, etc.
- Participation in TI/S conventions
- TII strategy and road map for UNCAC implementation in India
- TII strategy and road map for passage of Lokpal Act and its implementation

**Strategic Priority 4:** Higher levels of integrity demonstrated by organizations and people, especially youth and those in leadership positions

- Promotion of youth volunteer network, integrity pledge for individuals, and value education for children and youths in schools, universities, and professional institutions
- Promote Development Pact and tools of integrity with selected elected representatives
- Promote ethics among business leaders through lectures, presentations, etc.
- Strengthen all above three flagship program of TII and to ensure their long-term functioning

**Strategic Priority 5:** Strengthened ability to work together

- Engage in South Asia/Asia as thematic chapter leader
- Disseminate and use TI-S' global research and tools effectively
- Utilize TI-S' Anti-corruption Solutions and Knowledge (ASK) resources for TI-India's anti-corruption knowledge needs
- Strengthen communication of TII for effective advocacy

**Strategic Priority 6:** Enhanced responsiveness, presence, performance and impact at all levels

- Using TIS resources like Institutional Network Strengthening Program (INSP), Rapid Response Unit (RRU), etc., efficiently
- Ensure TI India's presence and participation in all important national forums like CVC, Administrative Reforms Department & committees, etc.
- To engage with anti-corruption bodies of UN, World Bank, ADB, and other international organizations
- To organize/observe/participate in important anti-corruption events like the Vigilance Week, UN Anti-Corruption Day, etc.
- Advocacy for strengthening reforms in all sectors

### TI India's Annual Lecture

The annual lecture shall be delivered by Shri Jagmohan on 'Developing Social and Cultural Capacity for Corruption-free Governance' at the India International Center at 6.00 pm on 15 November in the presence of Ms. Huguette Labell, Chairperson, Transparency International.

### FK Meeting

Dir (Pahal) attended the meeting for the debriefing of old FK exchange fellows (Dilshan & Shifu) and briefing of new exchange fellows (Akanksha



Pandey from India and Binod Bhattarai of Nepal) on July 2-5, in Bangkok, (Thailand).

### Lectures/Seminar

- ED delivered a lecture on 'Gender and Corruption' at the Inner Wheel Club at Bhubhaneshwar on 7 July and attended a Seminar on Global Finance Capital Marginalized Majorities and limited Transparency – Lessons for Ensuring and Inclusive India at Cochin on 28<sup>th</sup> September
- Chairman attended a conference organized by the ABD/OECD, and Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms on 'Building Multidisciplinary Frameworks to Combat Corruption'. He spoke in a panel on civil society initiatives in seeking legal reforms.
- Chairman participated in the Transparency Committee of CAPART with regard to compliance of section 4. of Right to Information Act
- Chairman attended a conference of Initiative of Change at Caux, Switzerland, at the invitation of IC Centre of Governance, (11-17 July) and contributed a paper on 'Inclusive governance for shared growth'.
- Chairman delivered talk at the Foundational Course for probations of the All India Services at the National Academy of Direct Taxes, Nagpur on 9 September.

### Activities of State Chapters

#### Odisha

In an article published in Indian Express (Bhubaneswar) on Aug 23, Biswajit Mohanty, member of TII, demanded a CBI probe into "arbitrary" award of mini-hydel power projects worth Rs 2,500 crore in Orissa without inviting tenders or competitive bids.

#### Uttar Pradesh

U.S. Pandey delivered talks on (1) " Ethics in Management and Life " in a conference of Chief Engineers held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, at Indian Railway Institute of Civil Engineering, Pune.; (2) "RTI and its usefulness in combating corruption and good governance " on 4<sup>th</sup> October, before a group of rural youths being trained by Nehru Yuva Kendra, Lucknow, to generate awareness about RTI and its provisions.

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