

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2008

Introduction

Transparency International India secured three significant gains in the year 2008. Firstly, more Public Sector Undertakings adopted the Integrity Pact. Secondly, the accreditation that had been held in abeyance by TI Secretariat, was confirmed for a period of three years. And, thirdly, a significant victory was secured when the Supreme Court accepted the plea of TI India for an investigation of the conduct of judicial officers involved in Ghazaiabad provident Fund scam by police.

Legal status

Transparency International India was launched in March 1997, four years after the parent society in Berlin, Germany. It was registered with the Registrar of Societies, Delhi, under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Its registration number is S-32570 of 1998.

Transparency International's name and logo were also registered with the Trade Marks Registry vide Registration No.1343408 Clause 42, on September 20, 2007.

Internal Revenue Services, Department of Treasury, USA, has permitted TI India to avail of the exemption through its Friends of Transparency India Incorporation under the Federal Income Tax under section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions made by tax-payers in USA are deductible under section 170 of the Code. The Employer Identification Number is 20-2688263. DLD: 1705322041045. The order further permits receipt of tax-deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under sections 2005, 2106 or 2522 of the Code.

TI's Membership Accreditation Committee (MAC)

Mr. Michael Wiehen and Mr. Cobus de Stewardt, Executive Director, visited TI India on September 24-27, 2008 in connection with accreditation of the Indian Chapter, as it was being postponed. They were here to make an on-the-spot assessment of the working of the chapter. They also attended the meeting of the Board of Management on September 26, 2008, and interacted with the members. On 27 September, they met the Chairman and members of the Central Vigilance Commission. As a result, the accreditation of the Indian chapter has been extended unconditionally for a period of three years.

Vision and Mission

Vision statement, prepared in February 2007, was referred to the TI/Secretariat for suggestions/improvement, if any. Since there was no response from TI/S, the same was accepted by the TI India's Board of Management.

Advisory Council

An Advisory Council has been constituted with the following dignitaries

- 1 Mr. Fali S. Nariman, a jurist, constitutional expert, and Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India
- 2 Mr. B.G. Verghese, former editor of national dailies and an eminent journalist
- 3 Mr Anna Hazare, Social Activist, a Padma Bhushan awardee, and recipient of Transparency International's Integrity Award
- 4 Ms. Aruna Roy, Chairperson of the MKSS and a social activist
- 5 Mr. Narayana NR Murthy, Founder of Infosys Technologies.

Although no meeting of the Advisory Council has been held so far, TI-I had the benefit of their counsel individually whenever needed. Mr Nariman and Mr. George Verghese being Delhi-based, are often consulted on various issues. Ms. Aruna Roy participated in the national seminar, organized by TI India in August 25, 2008. She was the keynote speaker. Mr. Narayana N R Murthy had advised us on how to adopt the Integrity Pact for the private sector.

Board of Management

The Board of Management consisted of the following

Chairman - Admiral (Retd.) R.H. Tahiliani

Vice Chairmen - Shri P.S. Bawa Director General of Police (Retd.)

- Dr, S.K. Agarwal

Treasurer - Gp. Capt. (Retd.) S.C. Bahri

Members of the Board

- 1 Justice (Retd.) Kamleshwar Nath (Central/ Eastern UP)
- 2 Shri U.S. Pandey (-do-)
- 3 AVM (Retd.) V. B. Batra (Uttrakhand)
- 4 Mrs. Poonam Singh – Social Activist (Western UP)
- 5 Justice (Retd.) M.L. Saldanha (Karnataka)
- 6 Dr. Bimlendu Mohanty- Former Vice Chancellor (Orissa)
- 7 Shri Pankaj Agarwal – Chartered Accountant
- 8 Shri B.R. Lall – Director general of Police (Retd.)
- 9 Shri A.C. Talwani – Retd. Private Sector Executive
- 10.Lt. Col. K.R. Dharmadhikary
- 11 Mrs. Kiran Agarwal – IAS (Retd.)

Establishment

Ms. Anupama Jha continued as Executive Director.

Ms Pragya Besaria & Mr. Prashanat Prakash , associated with the India Corruption Study, left the organization in September, 2008.

Ms. Phalneineng Chichi Lhouvum joined on 23 September 2008.

Interns

- (1) Ms. Nitya Anand from West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (February – March for two months)
- (2) Ms. Ilka Ritter from Erfurt School of Public Policy, Germany, (1 October 2008 – 1 March 2009).

Integrity Pact

During the year, the Integrity Pact was additionally adopted by the following Public Sector Undertakings that had signed the Memorandum of Understanding with TI India.

- 1 Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) 10 January
- 2 Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) 18 January
- 3 Airports Authority of India (AAI) 15 February
- 4 Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL) 05 March
- 5 Northern India Coalfields Ltd (NCL), Singrauli 14 March
- 6 South eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL), Bilaspur 26 March
- 7 Mahanadi Coalfields 07 April
- 8 Central Coalfield Ltd. 11 August
- 9 Central Mines Designing Institute 11 August
- 10 Telecommunication Consultants India Limited 29 August
- 11 Hindustan Copper Limited 29 August

Expected

12 Bharat Heavy electrical Ltd (BHEL)
13 NTPC

16 December

With these, 31 PSUs would have adopted the IP. Meanwhile, presentations on IP were made to the following:

- (1) Pro-Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University on March 18.
- (2) Various PSUs and the Jt Secretary Mines at the Hindustan Copper Ltd, Kolkata, on May 12.
- (3) Delhi Transco, which deals with power transmission in Delhi, on May 12
- (4) The Lt. Governor of Delhi for introducing the IP in the Delhi Development Authority on August 19. (One Independent External Monitor has been approved. They are in the process of selecting more IEMs before the signing of the MOU.)
- (5) Railway Board in the presence of the Chairman and its Members.
- (6) KPMG for exploring the possibility of extending the IP in the private sector on 8 September.
- (7) Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Power, and the Chief Vigilance Commissioner on September 27. The minister has directed that all the PSUs under the ministry to adopt the IP.

Besides, on April 7, a meeting of vendors to the Ministry of Mining that have also signed the IPO was held.

In mid-September and on October 17, a meeting was held with Siemens in connection with private sector Integrity Pact and the mode of compliance.

One of the significant achievements has been the adoption of the IP by the Ministry of Defense. This has been included in its Procurement Procedure of 2008, stipulating that it shall be applied to all transactions of Rs. 100 crores. In the case of its PSUs, the IP shall be applicable for transactions of Rs 20 crores. Chairman has been in constant contact with the Minister of Defense

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has been extending solid support for the adoption of the IP. Accordingly, the CVC has issued three circulars on December 4, 2007, May 19, 2008, (on appointment of IEMs), and August 5, 2008 clarifying issues raised by the PSUs.

The CEOs of the PSUs that have signed the IP have been requested to give a feedback on the operation of the IP. This would enable TI India and the CVC to review the functioning of the pact. This also involves feedback from the IEMs and meetings with the CEOs. The process had started.

Award by Arbitrators

Consequent upon the withdrawal of PIL by Shri Omkar Razdan from the Delhi High Court, and the refusal to accept mediation, the Panel of Arbitrators consisting of Shri Omkar Chand, Shri Mohan Tikku, and Gp. Capt. (Retd.) S.C. Bahri, after hearings, proposed an objective and verifiable criteria for membership to the category of 'Active Member', laying down two conditions that (the Screening Committee shall consist of five instead of three members, and the decision be ratified by the TI India's General Body.

Accordingly, the Special General Meeting, held on June 28, at Balwantray Mehta Vidya Bhawan, adopted the recommendations of the Arbitrators were adopted. The decision of the General Body was reported in the TI – Ist Quarterly Bulletin of July 2008 (April – June 2008) Vol. V: Number 2. It also invited applications for active membership. In compliance with the Award, the number of members of the Screening Committee has been raised from three to five. The Committee would now consist of S/Shri Shambu Dutt (S.D. Sharma), B.B. Tandon, in addition to Shri G.P. Garg, Shri M.L. Kumar and Shri Prem Ballabh.

Since there was inadequate response from the members, another letter was issued on November 26, 2008, for the same purpose, repeating the stipulations proposed by the Panel of Arbitrators.

Studies & Papers

(1) India Corruption Study 2008

A comprehensive study for the whole country was conducted in collaboration with Centre for Media Studies (CMS) to understand the problem of petty corruption faced by below poverty line (BPL) people. The study was released by the Vice President of India on June 28, 2008.

(2) Education for Values

A project on 'Education for Values, Character, and Integrity' has been completed by Shri Shambu Dutt (S.D. Sharma) in the Indian context with suitable contributions from abroad. The book has been designed for students in order to strengthen moral values among them.

(3) Youth Integrity Survey

An attempt has been made to know the thinking among the youth on corruption related issues in Delhi, UP, and West Bengal.

(4) Justice Verma Committee

Responding to a public notice by Justice Verma Enquiry Commission inviting suggestions for avoiding misuse and malpractices in public contracts and procurement, TI India proposed the adoption of Integrity Pact.

(5) Standing Committee of Rajya Sabha

In response to notice by the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, and Law & Justice on implementation of Right to Information Act, Dr S K Agarwal has sent proposals on November 26.

(6) Suggestions to Parliamentary Committee

In response to notice by the Rajya Sabha seeking comments/views on the Representation of the People Bill 2008, Shri B B Tandon, former Chief Election Commissioner has prepared the draft.

(7) Syllabus on 'Ethics in Action'

After consulting various universities in USA, a syllabus has been prepared for circulation among the Business Schools with the request to include the contents, to the extent possible, in their curriculum on the subject of ethics. It has been done keeping in view laws in India, Constitution, and has a local flavor. A concerted effort shall be made to get the project adopted.

(8) Citizens' satisfaction

Delhi Development Authority had commissioned TI India to assess satisfaction of citizens in its services, particularly in respect of handing over possession of residential houses and flats, conversion of leasehold to freehold of property, and mutation of houses and flats.

Meetings

Special General Meeting was held on June 28, in compliance with the Award by the Arbitrators.

The Quarterly meetings of the Board of Management were held on 8 March, 28 June, and 27 September, 2008. The last meeting is scheduled for December 13 (FN).

The meetings of the Executive Committee were held every month regularly. Minutes of the meetings are drawn and reviewed in the subsequent meeting.

The AGM meeting is being held on December 13, 2008.

Quarterly Newsletter

The four quarterly issues were published as per schedule. These were circulated among all the members, donors, and others interested in TI-I activities.

Lokpal

Gandhi Satyagraha Brigade, an initiative of the Lok Sevak Sangh, a partner of the TI India, pursued the matter for the legislation of the Lokpal (national ombudsman) with the Government of India. It organized continuous satyagraha, every week, from August 2007 to July 2008. The government, owing to its compulsions of coalition, did not take action to redeem its commitment.

Consequently, the Brigade has constituted a 3-member People's Lokpal Commission, consisting of retired Supreme Court and High Court judges who have agreed to serve on this people's forum. They include

- (1) Shri P.B. Sawant, retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India (from Pune)
- (2) Shri S.N. Bhargava, retired Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court; former Chairman of the Assam Human Rights Commission (from Jaipur), and
- (3) Shri M.F. Saldanha, retired Judge of Maharashtra and Karnataka High Courts, also a member of the TI-I Board of management (from Bangaluru).

Two more judges are expected to join the People's Lokpal Commission. It is expected to start working with effect from January 2009.

Collaborations

TI-I had been collaborating with the following civil society organizations:

- Association for Democratic Reform
- Lok Sevak Sangh
- Gandhian Satyagraha Brigade
- Citizens' Forum Against Corruption
- Campaign for Judicial Accountability & Reform
- Parivartan
- CVC's Vigilance Advisory Council – Admiral R H Tahiliani as Member.
- Delhi State Council for Right to Information – Shri S D Sharma as Member.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS); (i) Social Responsibility Sectional Committee to evolve documents on various important social issues like social accountability, fraud & corruption control, etc. and (ii) Panel on Good Governance Principles, MSD 10/P-3

Delhi Election Watch

Gandhi Satyagraha Brigade is working in close collaboration with the Association for Democratic Reform that will furnish the necessary details regarding the affidavits submitted by the candidates with regard to their assets, liabilities, and criminal record.

Media

(1) Media Awards

To honor the excellence of print and electronic media correspondents in exposing corruption, TI India Media Awards, in collaboration with the Oberoi Group of Hotels, were given on March 15, 2008, at the Oberoi Intercontinental Hotel, New Delhi. Shri Fali Nariman, the eminent jurist, delivered the keynote address, focusing on corruption in the judiciary and gave away the prizes.

(2) Television Appearances

- * Anupama Jha, Executive Director, appeared on NDTV interview on corruption in hospitals and education.
- * Ms Jha appeared on Lok Sabha TV on the topic of corruption faced by people below poverty line on June 28.
- * Dr. S.K. Agarwal appeared on Lok Sabha TV on the topic of Corruption and Public Distribution System on July 14.
- * P.S. Bawa and Anupama Jha appeared on Lok Sabha TV on the topic of 'Corruption – the dangerous pit' on September 4.
- * Anupama Jha participated in a panel discussion on CNN-IBN program 'Face the nation' on September 24.
- * Dr. B. Mohanty presented a discussion on 'Is it possible to eradicate corruption from bureaucracy?' Orissa TV channel.
- * Admiral Tahiliani on Zee News on 8 Dec. on linkage between corruption and Mumbai blasts.

(3) Press releases

India Corruption Study 2008 – 28 June
 Signing of the Integrity Pact – August 2008
 Corruption Perception Index – 23 September
 Youth Integrity Index - 22 November
 Bribe Payers Index - 9 December

(4) Articles

- * Anupama Jha - Irregularities in the implementation of NREGS; *European. Org* (DFID journal); August 2008.
- * NREGS; *Economist*; October 2008.
- * Dr. B. Mohanty; *Kalika*, Bhubhaneshwar; 'Insecured India'; 3 October.
- * Dr. B. Mohanty; *Samaj*; Bhubhaneshwar; 'Need of strengthening Internal Security'; 7 Oct.
- * Dr. B. Mohanty; *Pragatibadi*; Bhubhaneshwar; 'Govt should write a paper on Kandhamal' 21 Oct
- * B.K. Dahal published every week an article on corruption, building up a corruption free society, and making people duty conscious in Dharitri, a local daily from Bhubhaneshwar.

Interactions

Collaboration with Orissa Souchana Adhikar Manch (OSAM), Orissa Chapter organized 12 training programs in 8 districts and two youth camps in districts of Sambhalpur and Bargarh.

Project staff attended 'National Youth Convention on Right to Information and Democracy' at Bewar, Rajasthan – 11-12 January.

Prof Tilly Smiths from University of Maastricht, The Netherlands, interacted on overview of the effectiveness and functioning of judicial institutions and the extent of corruption on 9 January.

Bureau of Indian Standards on ‘Good Governance Principles’ – 20 February.

Asian Development Bank on Accountability mechanism in New Delhi – 20 February.

Ms. Cynthia Kalasopatan, Economist, Economic Research Department of Credit Agricole S.A. Paris – 21 February.

Mr. Ran Liao from TI-S regarding strategic plan for India.

Mr. Jeremy Brooks, Director, Private Sector Programs, TI-S, discussed the IP, its effectiveness and the possibility of its introduction in small and medium enterprises.

Marcella Rozo from TI-S had extensive discussions on the IP and for making an internal assessment process on procurement monitoring.

Prof. Kirk Hanson, Executive Director, Markulla Centre for Applied Ethics, Santa Clara University, USA, showed interest in understanding the importance of business ethics and corporate social responsibility.

Participation in workshop on ‘How to file RTI Petition’ at Indian Social Institute, New Delhi – 23 January.

Participation in meeting on ‘Fraud and Corruption panel, MSD 10/P-2’ by BIS – 2 June.

Meeting with Concern Worldwide on 7 June with regard to India Corruption Study 2008.

Lectures

- 1 P.S. Bawa – Citizens’ Consultation Seminar on ‘Transparency in Public dealings’ at Sardar Patel Institute of Public Administration, Ahmedabad, 8 April, 2008.
- 2 Discussion with Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, a branch of the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology for a tie up in propagating the discourse on good governance. 29 April
- 3 Anupama Jha, ED, addressed meeting of Delhi school children organized by the Rotary Club of Delhi on importance of morality. 11 May.
- 4 Anupama Jha participated in the panel discussion on ‘Tackling Corruption and Transforming Lives’ organized by UNDP. 11 July.
- 5 She participated in the brainstorming session on ‘War on Corruption’ at the Institute of Social Sciences. 9 August.
- 6 Anupama Jha on implementation of NREGA at the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi. 30 September.
- 7 Admiral R.H. Tahiliani (Retd.) on ‘Ethics – Complimenting or Conflicting Agenda’ at the Delhi School of Economics, 19 September.
- 8 Anupama Jha was the jury for the regional round of Dr Mehboob-ul-Haq Inter School Debate competition, organized by Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. 30 August.
- 9 P.S. Bawa was the member of the jury for the finals of the SAARC Interschool debate at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. 24 October.

- 10 P.S. Bawa participated in the partners meet organized by Indiehelfe, Germany, at Kolkata (20-21 November)
- 11 Anupama Jha on Integrity Pact to ONGC at Chennai; 6 November.
- 12 Admiral R.H. Tahiliani (Retd.) chaired the panel in the seminar organized by the Foundation for Restoration of National Values (NRFV) at New Delhi. 18 November.
- 13 Admiral R.H. Tahiliani spoke to the Rotary Club of Delhi on 27 November.
- 14 Chairman participated in a seminar on corruption organized by the UNIDOC (8 Dec.).

Meetings abroad

The TI India members attended the following meetings and conferences abroad –

1. Admiral R.H. Tahiliani participated in a workshop in Geneva on ‘Building Transparency and Reducing Corruption in Defense’. This was organized by TI-UK, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, and the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of the Armed Forces, with financial support from NATO and the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 5-7 May.
2. Col K.R. Dharmadhikary attended an international conference at Doha (Qatar) on ‘Corruption-free Asia – A Long Term Vision’. 9-11 June.
3. During his private visit to USA, Shri P S Bawa visited the office of TI- USA and interacted with the officials of the Chapter. May 2008.
4. Dr. S.K. Agarwal and Anupama Jha participated in the Regional APD Conference at Manila (21-24 May).
5. Anupama Jha visited USA as an invitee of World Bank on corruption in the health sector in the Bank sponsored schemes in Orissa.
6. P.S. Bawa and Anupama Jha attended TI- Asia Pacific Conference (26-27 October), AMM (28-29 October), and International Ant-Corruption Conference (30 October- 2 November) at Athens (Greece).
7. Anupama Jha attended 6th regional Anti- Corruption Conference at Singapore (26-28 November)
8. Anupama Jha attended conference at Berlin on evaluating results of the IP and procurement monitoring work (4-10 December).
9. Admiral R.H. Tahiliani, on a private visit to USA, explored the prospects of energizing the Friends of TI India society.

All meetings outside Delhi had been sponsored by the host organisation. Hence, the expenditure on travel and other heads were borne by them.

UNCAC

A communication has been received from Government of India that the matter for ratification of the UNCAC is under ‘active consideration’ of the Government of India. TI India has been pursuing the matter. The Chairman had also spoken to the Defense Minister about this. It is hoped that the Convention would be ratified soon.

National Workshop on India Corruption Study 2008

As a follow up of the India Corruption Study 2008, and to set the tone for its implementation, a national workshop was held on August 25 at New Delhi. It was addressed by Ms. Aruna Roy from MKSS and attended by stakeholders and government officials, besides those representing civil society.

Anupama Jha visited Raipur and Bilai in Chattisgarh and Bhubaneswar in Orissa for the project ‘Pahal’ as part of the implementation phase of the Study for improving governance. She met government officials, local NGOs, and the media, all being important stakeholders in the project. In Orissa, she met the management of the Kalinga Institute of Technology and the faculty of Xavier Institute of Management. She also participated in the discussion with Concern Worldwide.

Public Interest Litigation.

On the basis of a report in the media that Rs. 23 crores had been withdrawn from the Provident Fund account of the class IV employees of the Ghaziabad judiciary, the Supreme Court was approached in a petition in the form of PIL seeking an investigation by police into the conduct of the judicial officers, including Judges of the Higher Judiciary so that the matter is cleared. Hitherto there had been a limitation on the investigation on the conduct of judicial officials by police. The Supreme Court accepted the petition and ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation to look into the conduct of those allegedly involved and submit report to the apex court within a period of three months. The CBI was empowered to examine the retired judges. However, the Court directed that in case the CBI found evidence against the sitting judges, it shall seek permission from the concerned Chief Justice for interrogation and filing the charge sheet.

Invoking of RTI Act

TI India invoked the RTI Act and sought information from the Ministry of Finance whether Government of India has decided to accept information volunteered by the Government of Germany on the issue of Indians having secret accounts in the banks in Liechtenstein, a principality.

The Ministry had replied that no such offer was made by the German Government. The appeal was also dismissed.

State Chapters

On 8 September, the Chairman had sent a communication to the chairmen of all chapters to inform the headquarters of all the activities pursued by them so that the same could be incorporate in the Quarterly Bulletin.

Keeping the problem of finances in view, the Chairman has sent another communication on 26 November suggesting activities that have no financial implications and can be undertaken in collaboration with other civil society organizations.

On the basis of information, the details of activities undertaken by the chapters are indicated hereafter.

Gujarat

Gujarat chapter had been associated with Mahiti Adhikar Gujarat Pahal in propagating the Right to Information Act and its use. The chapter also participated in the 'Voter Awareness' program along with the ADR and Janpath.

Karnataka

Justice M.F. Saldanha, Chairman of the Chapter, headed People's Enquiry Tribunal to take stock of the disturbances and attacks on a minority community on communal lines in states of Orissa and especially Karnataka. This has brought tremendous credibility to the TI-I.

The Chapter also undertook an Operation Reform, aimed at the legal profession and the judiciary. Justice Saldanha delivered several lectures at the Bar Association, Law Colleges, and the University directed at improving credibility and professionalism. He also delivered talks at the Judicial Academy for judges, and the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal, for High Court and Supreme Court judges.

The chapter worked closely with Justice Santosh Hedge, Lokayukta of Karnataka, in combating mega-corruption. One PIL in the High Court has also been admitted.

Kerala

A meeting of the Accreditation Committee was held on 7 December 2007. It had recommended the de-accreditation of the chapter as there no activity. The matter could not be placed before the BOM for any decision. It has been done on 13 December.

Orissa

The chapter organized a seminar on 'Towards Improving Governance in Orissa' on 30 April. The Chairman and the ED participated in the seminar.

Zonal workshop was organized at Puri. It was attended by NGOs, teachers, and bureaucrats. (13 September)

Dr. Mohanty delivered the following lectures

- Volunteers of Sukhi Orissa Mission (NGO), Bhubhaneshwar (11 August)
- Youth leadership training Program (16 August)
- National integration Camp at Puri (1 September)
- Meeting of Buddhists at Gaya (17 September)
- NSS volunteers and Program Officers at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology University (24 September)
- Meeting of Intellectual Forum (1 October)
- Seminar on peace and communal harmony at Bhubhaneshwar (17 October)
- International camp of artists on 'Role of artists in creating awareness on evils of corruption', Bhubhaneshwar (3 November)
- Officers of NALCO 4 November
- Bar Association, Cuttack, on 'Role of judiciary in eradicating corruption' (6 November)
- Public meeting at Sundergarh, organized by Sundergarh Education Society on 'Corruption defers development' (14 November)
- Students of Swami Sudhanand Polytechnics at Lachhipur, Cuttack, on 'Upholding value system in education' (14 November)
- 'Role of Ex-servicemen in serving society' at Jagatsinghpur (30 November)

S/Shri Ajit Mohapatra and B.K. Daas addressed public meetings at Subarnapur and Birmaharaj Pur (3 November).

Rajasthan

During a private visit to Jaipur, Shri P.S. Bawa tried to get in touch with the chairman of the Rajasthan Chapter. The General Secretary was not available; he perhaps had not returned from USA where, it is learnt, he spends about six months every year. He could meet Shri K.M. Sahaye, IAS (Retd.) who had assured that the chapter would be revived on return of the Chairman. However, there has been no activity of the chapter during the year, in spite of the correspondence and promptings.

Tamil Nadu

On March 1, the chapter launched a program of informing people on the potential of the RTI Act, besides increasing use of e-governance in public administration.

The Helpline Complaints had been functioning successfully at Chennai since August 2007. The chapter had received about 600 complaints through e-mail and telephone. Guidance was given on various issues pertaining to delivery of services. The complaints were also addressed by contacting the concerned departments for redress of grievances. The RTI Act was used in suitable cases.

The chapter organized eight training programs on the use of RTI Act during the year. About 400 persons were the beneficiaries of the program.

Uttarakhand

The chapter chairman contacted the Director, Administrative Academy, Nainital, regarding presentations to be given to officers attending various courses.

He delivered a talk to the officers at the National Forest Institute, Dehradun.

He also discussed with the State Information Commissioner, located at Dehradun, proposing cooperation regarding creating awareness about the RTI Act among the rural poor and others.

Uttar Pradesh (Central & Eastern)

Shri US Pandey made presentation on the Integrity Pact to Southern Railways at Chennai (23 January), Integral Coach factory, Perambur (29 January), Northern Railways (10 March), and RDSO (Ministry of Railways), Lucknow (20 March).

He also delivered lectures on Corruption and Integrity Systems at the Reserve Bank of India Training College, Chennai (30 January) and Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineers, Secunderabad (5 February).

Shri Pandey made a presentation on the IP to the officers of Lucknow Division of NE Railways on 10 November.

The chapter has also drafted a citizens' charter for Subordinate Judiciary of Uttar Pradesh. The copies of the same have been sent to senior judges of Allahabad and Lucknow for their views.

Justice Kamleshwar Nath has written to the Governor of Uttar Pradesh seeking action on the reports of the Lokayukta of UP against ministers, Chief Secretaries, and heads of departments. It has been pointed out that no action was taken on the reports from 5 January 2006 to 18 December 2007. This is a significant move to ensure compliance of Anti-Corruption Reports by the Lokayukta.

Western Uttar Pradesh

There has been no report of any activity undertaken by the chapter. However, this chapter had participated in the study on Youth Integrity Index by administering the questionnaire in one of the schools in Bulandshahar.

West Bengal

The chapter participated in the above study and collected data from four schools in the Nadia district.

Lecture by Lord Desai

Lord Meghnad Desai shall deliver the Annual Lecture on 'Corruption and Development' at the Indian International Centre (Annexe) on 16 January 2009.