



# TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

EDITORIAL

Quarterly

## Saptarishi of ideas

A new discipline of archeology of the contemporary past is emerging fast in understanding the present. This helps in comprehending the nature of modern society, besides allowing more self-awareness. Though the discipline is more concerned with relationship between culture and social behavior of persons and artifacts, objects, and places that are extinct or have fallen into ruin, understanding the present also involves interpretation of current ideas during the last sixty years or so, since the UN Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 that have shaped the policy and given direction to issues of governance.

A constellation of some of the recent ideas of rights, environment (ecology and conservation), transparency (inclusion and participation of people), sustainability, responsibility, accountability, and human development (happiness) have assumed importance. Of these, the idea of human rights is the most seminal and has taken roots that have flowered into other related ideas. Environment can be better protected if one cares for sustainability of projects, human development, and a responsible use of resources. Similarly, transparency is an offshoot of right to information and encompasses the ideas of accountability. Though the ideas appear to have flowed out of each other, yet these are independent and affect the policy formulation. These have shaped the laws, expanded the ambience of governance and planning, gave themes to civil society to pursue and implement, compelled

interest of private business corporations in social responsibility, and propelled judiciary to intervene.

There is a demand and focus on the theme of devolution of power at the ground level so that the subaltern, the poor, the dispossessed, and the marginal, who are often left out of consideration by authorities to determine what is best in their interest, are not only represented in the grass roots decision making, but are also made to feel part of governance. These ideas, in their realm, are affecting technology, scientific research, experimentation in governance, and focusing on problems for solutions to emerge. These would improve level of outcomes, delivery of services, and affect expending of resources on human development so that growth is sustainable and continuing.

The activities of TI India flow out of these ideas in one form or the other. These have a strong ideological base.

### Integrity Pact (IP)

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed for the implementation of Integrity Pact with the Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (SVJNL), a joint venture of the central government and that of Himachal Pradesh, in Shimla on January 5, in the presence of Shri R. Srikumar, Vigilance Commissioner, Central Vigilance Commission. There are now 40 undertakings that have committed to implement the IP.

A meeting with bidders, independent external monitor, and Eastern Coal India Ltd was held on 15 Feb. to resolve a reference from EICL. The report was sent to the undertaking.

Meetings were ask held with officers of BHEL (18 March) and CMD of CONCOR (Container Corporation of India) on IP (29 March)

### Development Pact (DP)

The DP was signed in Jhupelaw Panchayat, Pali District (Rajasthan) on 3<sup>rd</sup> March among

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people, Sarpanch and administration. It was also introduced in two Gram Panchayats (GP) of Chhattisgarh as pre-election measure. As such, it is now implemented in 14 GPs

Village-level consultations were held in eight panchayats in Rajnagar, Jhanjharpur and Digha constituencies of Bihar to implement DP in forthcoming elections. These were also attended by MLA of Rajnagar and local administrators, including DM.

### **Project Pahal: Shaasan Sudhaar Ki Ore Awareness about on Tools of Good Governance:**

(1) A training workshop for about 15 grassroots NGOs' Network of Bihar was organised by DKA/KFB Austria at Sewa Kendra, Kurji, Patna on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. TII participated on Panchayat Awareness Campaign and shared its vision, mission and programmes with the network. The NGOs showed interest in this Campaign and, in principal, committed to work for this issue in 1-3 Gram Panchayats in their respective programme areas with TII's advisory support and guidance. (2) An Orientation-cum-Sharing Workshop for Commonwealth Foundation Project Team was held at Raipur on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. (3) A multi- state Conference on Right to Information was held at Collectorate Campus in Raipur on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, to discuss the status and challenges of RTI Act. About 80 RTI activists from Chhattisgarh, MP, Bihar, Orissa and Jharkhand attended the Workshop. An important outcome of this workshop was the creation of an RTI Network in Chhattisgarh, an action plan for effective implementation of RTI to follow-up the upcoming issues. (4) An RTI Workshop for 20 RTI activists (Soochna Praharis) was held at Watson High School, Madhubani, where various tools for fighting corruption and improving governance, and the proposed activities of Pahal programme were shared with the activists. (5) A workshop was organized by the SDO in Jhanjharpur Subdivision of Madhubani on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb; where TII team was invited for an interaction to facilitate the implementation of all aspects of RTI and make it a model subdivision.

**Pahal Launch in Bihar :** This programme was launched in two districts of Bihar, namely, Madhubani and Darbhanga on 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February, respectively. Shri Nemi Kumar and Shri Ashok Kumar Singh have been

appointed for the project. Within a month of launch, more than a thousand complaints against bribery and corruption have been received and more than a hundred RTI applications have been filed by TII team. The panchayat voter awareness campaign has been launched in 30 GPs ahead of the Panchayat elections in May.

### **Evaluation of Pahal Programme:**

To evaluate the programme, inputs were collected in four Gram Panchayats namely Mochh of Bilaspur, Jariput of Khurda, Dadpur of Hazaribagh and Purna Nagar of Koderma in a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) mode.

### **ALAC**

An Advocacy & Legal Advise Centre was inaugurated on 14 February by Shri G. S. Rath, Additional DGP (now DGP of Jharkhand) at Ranchi. (Tel. No. 0651-6522632) This is the second ALAC, the first being in Chennai. (Tel. No. 044 64581444, 044 26644774)

### **Board of Management Meeting**

During the quarterly meeting on 26 March project-related activities were reviewed. The BOM approved 18 applications for TII's life membership and one organizational membership of Society for Institutional Development (SFID). The BOM approved formation of committees with a view to involving members in its activities to focus on important issues.

### **TI India's Annual Lecture**

Dr. Bimal Jalan, economist, former Governor of Reserve Bank of India and Member of Parliament delivered 2<sup>nd</sup> TI India Annual Lecture on 'Supply & Demand of Corruption' on 19<sup>th</sup> February, at the India International Center, New Delhi, to a packed auditorium.

### **Lectures**

The Chairman spoke at the 150<sup>th</sup> birth celebration of Swami Vivekananda held at IIM, Indore (10 January), Conference on Integrity, New Delhi (18 Jan.); PNB Paribas Executives and Anvestors at Mumbai (28 Jan); Haryana Institute of Pubic Administration, Gurgaon, along with Ms. Kiran Agarwal on 'Transparency and Accountability' (1 Feb.); Amity University, Noida, on 'Role of Civil Society in dealing with corruption' (4 Feb); Srikrishan Institute of Public Administration,

Ranchi, on 'Role of Civil Servants in dealing with Corruption' (14 Feb); SCOPE for officers from BHEL on RTI Act (28 Feb); Symbiosis, Bengaluru, on corporate responsibility (5-6 March); and Kirori Mall College, University of Delhi, on 'Political Economy of Corruption' (15 March).

Shri U S Pandey delivered a talk on "Ethics in Management" to a group of engineers in Engineering Staff College of India at Hyderabad on 11 Feb.

### **Meetings**

Meetings were held with Joh Clark, PTF (16 Feb.); Credibility Alliance, Frank Vogl, founding member of Transparency International (28 Feb); Jose W. Fernandez, Assistant Secretary of State, USA, and his colleagues on US business in India (11 March).

### **FK Exchange Program**

FK Planning Meeting of Phase III for TI's South Asian Chapters held on 21 - 23 Feb. in New Delhi, *inter alia*, to review the follow-up activities of the II<sup>nd</sup> phase, partner exchange proposals, III<sup>rd</sup> phase partners budget estimates, and signing of agreements.

### **Applications for Active Membership**

All the TII members, who are desirous to become Active Member, are requested to send their application on the prescribed form at the earliest but not-later than May 31, 2011. This Form can either be downloaded from TI India's website [www.transparencyindia.org](http://www.transparencyindia.org) or may be obtained from TI India's Delhi office.

### **CAPART**

Council for Advancement of People Action & Rural Technology in its meeting on March 16 had included TI India in the Transparency Committee to ensure compliance with sec 4, RTI Act. Chairman attended the meeting.

### **Lokpal**

Chairman attended a meeting on March 28 with Sub-Committee of Ministers, headed by Shri A K Antony, (Defense), Shri Kapil Sibbal (HRD), Dr. Veerappa Moily (Law), and Shri Kumaraswamy (Personnel) in connection with public consultation for drafting of the official Lokpal bill. This was constituted by the Group of Ministers to resolve the issue of participation by the civil society in drafting the bill.

April 2011

### **Fund raising**

In view of the paucity of funds for running the core tasks, Chairman has requested all active members to raise Rs. 20,000 annually. Efforts are being made to have fixed deposits of amounts so as to ward off financial problems.

### **Right to Services**

Following our suggestion to the Department for Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DAR&PG) on reviewing of citizens' charters in consultation with the stakeholders for securing hassle-free public services, Government of Madhya Pradesh has enacted the Public Services Guarantee Act for guaranteeing delivery of public services to common people within a stipulated time frame. The Government of Bihar has also enacted a Right to Service Act (RSA). Similarly, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has legislated Janhit Guarantee Act. These acts make it mandatory for all public officials to extend services to people within a stipulated time frame, failing which they could face exemplary penalty of Rs. 250 per day, to a maximum of Rs 5,000.

The Delhi Assembly has also recently cleared its Right of Citizen to Time-Bound Delivery of Services Bill 2011 to bring 40 services to ensure accountability. To ensure real time monitoring, status of applications would be available on the e-monitoring portal of Delhi government website.

### **India fourth-most corrupt nation in Asia-Pacific: Survey**

According to a survey undertaken by the Hong Kong-based business consultancy firm Political & Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd (PERC), India is the fourth most corrupt nation among the 16 Asia Pacific countries. It has secured 8.67 on a scale of zero to 10 with the latter being the most corrupt. Among the 16 countries, Thailand was rated at 11 with a scale of 7.55, followed by China (7.93) and Vietnam (8.3). Comparatively, Singapore was given a clean sheet with a score of 0.37, followed by Hong Kong (1.10), and Australia (1.39), Japan (1.90) putting them at the top. Sector-wise, civil and other local-level political leaders were found more corrupt than the national-level political leaders in India, with the former given a score of 9.25 and the

latter slightly better at 8.97. Indian civil servants at the city level too were rated at 8.18 worst than the civil servants at the national level (7.76).

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