



# TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

Quarterly

EDITORIAL

## Tasks Ahead

The current elections have received the most enthusiastic response from voters who have come out to exercise their choice. There has been spectacular improvement in most of the states, even though there was much mud-slinging, abrasive comments and responses, vacuous rhetoric, bitter repartee, and no-holds-bar critical sobriquets containing hidden remarks by those who claim to guide the nation. The Election Commission has used all possible means to inspire electorate to vote. Its perceptive advertisements indicating the outcome in the form of corruption, inefficiency, and election of selfish and violent candidates promising moon if people do not take interest in voting has a symbolic hidden meaning and message for voting the good ones only who can get people rid of the malaises.

Full of expectations in view of the negative baggage of performance of incumbents and pre-incumbents, the turn out has created further uncertainties. The analysts are working hard on predictions, justifying their own assumptions. But in spite of clamor for anti-corruption push, the seizure of unaccounted money, flow of liquor, promise of freebies, and other allurements has not abated as if these were a compulsive norm. This is a bold knock in the face of integrity professed by political parties, and transparency sought not only by the Commission but also by the people. The parties have also been shy of declaring their stand on decriminalization of

politics, preventing charge-sheeted criminals from contesting elections and seeking support of politicians who have been convicted. They have also been evasive on inner-party democracy, transparency in collection of funds, compliance with Chief Information Commissioner's order on appointment of public information officer, besides their commitment not to field candidates having criminal records. The Commission, the judiciary, the academics, and people's wrath could not convert the somnolent leaders to stark realities of dealing with issues that impact upon development, equity, growth, and human development.

Though most of the political parties have offered lip-service to the retrieval of black money and offered other homilies without being specific, the Transparency International shall have to confront governments in a more vigorous manner by constant engagement thus insisting upon suitable response. The outfit has its bag full of tasks. First, legislation on pending matters is to be impressed upon and followed with vigor. Then, it would have to speak truth to authority and seek not only promised good governance, a basic attribute of development, progress, and internal peace, but also electoral reforms that shall bring about change. The movement shall have to keep a constant vigil upon performance in areas wherein delivery of services and matters relating to procurement are involved. It has to widen its network of integrity pact so that corporate entities, not yet tuned to the instrument, are compelled to sign the pact if they choose to do business with public sector undertakings. This would ensure compliance by the private sector which, of course, uses public money too.

The movement shall have to girdle up its loins, forget past, and look to future in a coherent manner with creative initiatives.

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### **Board of Management Meeting**

TI India's Board of Management's Quarterly Meeting held on 15th March. Since the departure of Ms Anupama Jha and Mrs Akansha Pandey, the changes had been made in the allocation of tasks. PAHAL and ALAC projects were merged since both dealt with the governance issues. The work of the ED would be attended to by Director (IP). The chairman informed that media was contacted to remove the confusion created by former ED's statement that according to a study attributed to TII the corruption level had come down in Delhi during the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government. As per her subsequent statement, this study was conducted by her business organization, namely, "Initiatives for Transparency and Accountability" set up in May 2012 without TII's permission.

The Chairman also expressed his concern over unauthorized correspondence by some members with TI-Secretariat by ignoring the decisions taken by the Executive Committee earlier. This had been complicating the smooth functioning of organization thus sending wrong signals. He impressed upon the need for cooperative and positive contributions by the members. Since there was a need to have documented material on functions of every office bearers, the Board approved the inclusion, on the proposal of Col. Ramakrishna, of S/Shri J. Kohli, U S Pandey, M S Kochhar in the committee to finalize the Performance Manual.

The Board decided to seek explanation from former ED who had, during her tenure as such, registered a 'business establishment' without permission. The issues of ALAC Bhubaneswar were proposed to be settled with the help of Dr Sachin Rai, member of the Board.

Shri Kohli circulated a note giving details of the strategic plan and invited comments from all the members. It was stressed that the matter needed be pursued with TI Secretariat for working out a plan to appoint a consultant.

It was decided to send Guidelines for starting the State Chapter to Dr Sachin Rai as he had proposed

the need for setting up a TII State Chapter in Madhya Pradesh. As regards his proposal for a study of corruption in MP, he would make a presentation in next meeting of the Board. It was decided to update the TI India's Website

Gp. Capt S C Bahri proposed to institute Integrity Award on the lines of TI Sectt.. This proposal would be examined in depth.

### **Activities :**

Meetings were held with Mr. Erin McCartney, Branch Chief & Sr Counsel for International FCPA Enforcement Office of International Affairs United States Securities and Exchange Commission; Mr. Peter Ainsworth Senior Anti-Corruption Counsel Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training U.S. Department of Justice; Mr. Alyce Ahn, Transnational Crime & Anti-corruption Advisor Bureau of International Narcotics & Law Enforcement Affairs US Department of State on the reference of British High Commission on Feb 11.

An article on "Corruption & Its Major Drivers in India: An Assessment" by the Chairman published in the Central Vigilance Commission Background Papers of its Golden Jubilee Celebrations on Feb 11-12.

Mr. Axel Heck, representative from TI Berlin met the Chairman on 12th Feb.

Meeting with the Head of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) on 16th Feb.

Held a meeting with MAC member **Mr. Laurence Cockcroft** on Feb 26<sup>th</sup>. His book titled "Global Corruption Money, Power & Ethics" was also launched in the evening. Laurence Cockcroft is a development economist. He has worked for governments, international organizations, and private and public-sector entities. He is a founding member of Transparency Int'l and was formerly chairman of TI's UK chapter. In a dozen short chapters, his book provides a useful introduction. He deserves personal credit for the development of anti-bribery legislation.

Corruption has played a pivotal role in sustaining appallingly high levels of poverty in many developing countries, particularly in relation to the deficient

provision of basic services such as education and healthcare. It is also a major reason why growth-rate in Africa and South Asia have failed to benefit large segments of the population. Corruption drives the over-exploitation of natural resources, capturing their value for a small elite. In the developed world, corrupt funding undermines political systems and lays policy open to heavy financial lobbying.

Laurence Cockcroft argues that corruption has to be seen as the result of the interplay between elite “embedded networks,” greed, and organized crime. The growth of corruption has been facilitated by globalization, the integration of new and expanding markets into the world economy, and the rapid expansion of offshore financial facilities, which provide a home to largely unregulated pools of money derived from personal fortunes, organized crime, and pricing malpractice in international trade.

Laurence Cockcroft considers “Corruption is a tax on development. . . . Wherever it grows, it hollows out governing institutions and undermines prosperity and stability. He has built a formidable reputation as an anticorruption crusader and co-founder of Transparency International. He provides a candid narrative, distilling his experience in countries all over the world on corruption and its possible solutions. This book is thought-provoking takes a wide sweep through the cause of corruption and its historical reality. He has written a brilliant analysis of its scale and malign results.

### TII Project Activities

#### **Integrity Pact (IP)**

Integrity pact was signed with the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on 16th January. It is the first municipal council in India to adopt Integrity Pact. ED Ashutosh Mishra organized an IEM sensitization programme in Coal India Ltd in Kolkata on 20th January. The MoU with the Airport Authority of India (AAI) was renewed on 22nd January. A Focus Group Discussion on Transparency in Sports Sector was organized on 28th January in Delhi.

ED Ashutosh Mishra gave presentation on IP to the officers of the Indian Defense Account Services at

National Law University, Delhi on 14 February.

Conference on “Transparency in Corporate Reporting (TRAC): Way Forward” held on 28th of Feb. A Review meeting was held with ONGC on IP’s implementation and other related issues.

IP cell took up cases relating to misuse of Corporate Social Responsibility Funds, especially in the Ministry of Steel.

Complaints against violation of IP by the Airport Authority of India were resolved.

#### **ALAC**

602 complaints were received at Delhi, Ranchi, Bhopal and Patna on anti-corruption helpline and mobile ALAC during Jan.-March. Training program on the RTI Act & Right to Service Act was held in Ranchi to promote good governance.

### ACTIVITIES OF STATE CHAPTERS

#### **Rajasthan**

On Jan 5, a seminar on the Lokpal and the Lokayukta was held and attended by Shri G. S. Hora former Law Secretary and Member Executive Committee TII.

On Jan 16, Shri I C Srivastava, Chairman, and Prof. Indu Mathur addressed under-graduate girls of Bhawani Niketan PG College on the importance of transparency and accountability in administration and gave a brief on anti-corruption measures. Shri I.C. Srivastava also provided an overview of RTI Act, Citizens’ Charters, Rajasthan Guaranteed Delivery of Services Act, and the Rajasthan Jan Sunwai Act.

On Feb 3, Shri H L Chauhan, Member of Managing Committee addressed members of Indian Institute of Public Administration and MDA on combating corruption.

Chairman Shri I C Srivastava took up with DG Anti Corruption Bureau the matter of expediting vacation of stay orders in High Court obtained by corrupt officers against prosecution. A letter was addressed to Hon’ble Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court for filing up the posts of Judges in newly created three anti-corruption courts.

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On March 8, in a seminar on 'An Effective Lokayukta for Rajasthan', the key note speaker was Justice Pana Chand Jain. Shri M L Mehta, former Chief Secretary, Rajasthan, presided. The panelists were Shri D R Mehta, former Chairman SEBI, Shri G S Hora former Law Secretary, and Shri Rajendra Bhanawat IAS (Retd). They made significant observations and recommendations during discussion. Politicians, bureaucrats, judicial officers, technocrats, civil society members, students and others took part in the seminar.

### **Corruption in India a big contradiction**

Speaking about the present education system at Lady Shri Ram College in Delhi on March 20, the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama said, "Existing education is not enough. There is need to promote love and compassion. The modern education system is geared towards material wealth." Complimenting India and its secular fabric while being critical of the level of corruption, he said: "I am a messenger of ancient Indian thought and tradition of non-violence and compassion. India is a living example of religious harmony and secular ethics. The Indian Constitution is based on secularism. However, corruption in a religious country like India is a big contradiction.

The Tibetan leader also spoke to students on 'success, ethics and happiness' stating "technology is no guarantee of a better world. Material wealth fails to bring happiness. Pay more attention to inner wealth".

### **Request**

We depend upon our well wishers to provide financial support of any amount. We value their contributions, which may be sent to Transparency International India, Qr. No-4, Lajpat Bhawan, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi-110 024, by cheque or draft alongwith your PAN Card Number. Such contributions are exempted from Income Tax under Section 80 G of the Income Tax Act.

### **Applications for Active Membership**

TI members, who are desirous to become Active Member, are requested to send their Application Form with details of activities on the prescribed form. This Form can either be downloaded from its website [www.transparencyindia.org](http://www.transparencyindia.org) or may be obtained from its Delhi office.

### **TI INDIA'S DONORS**

<b>Name of Donor</b>	<b>Receipt No.</b>	<b>Rs.</b>
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### **TI India's Advocacy & Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) Anti-Corruption Help-Lines**

<b>Delhi</b>	<b>011- 2623 2323</b>
<b>Patna</b>	<b>09304 22 0023</b>
<b>Ranchi</b>	<b>09334 40 2323</b>
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