

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

Quarterly

EDITORIAL

Scam Fatigue: Let this not happen

The current scene is full of spectacle regarding spectacular scams that have helped the smart people to acquire dreams of properties and connections without the shadow of doubt. There is enough defensive and offensive rhetoric suggesting that this happened in your time, while others say this is too recent to connect with the past. Some blame the others of a sleeping watchman syndrome and bolting the stables after the horses have escaped, others hint at connivance and trying to establish links with the past performers, besides altering and adding law to the existing overflowing armory for regulation, pursuit, and punishment.

In the din of noises, headlines, editorials, lead articles, dissection and angry debates too bellicose and verbally violent to comprehend the essence in the Babel of voices with anchors helping the cacophony by inciting the participants, there is a surfeit of cynicism that believes nothing shall happen now as it never happened earlier. The issue is pushed in the background by clatter of swashbuckling. People are gradually losing trust in the intentions of the regulatory bodies thus blaming the functionaries at higher levels who are somnolent or pretend to be awake while looking the other way, or making the lower staff a scapegoat. In the whole cacophonous drama, the honest is at a disadvantage.

The whistleblower is deprecated and not believed. The red flags are not seen behind the cloud of self-interest; the sane voices are not heard by putting ear plugs of insouciance; and the dirt pushed under the carpet by those who had the vision to see it. It is a hay-day for skepticism.

In the era of post-truth, the scams have become the new normal and there is a feeling that these must happen and are of regular occurrence. And so, according to a survey on what drove voters' choice in the recent elections in the north-east, corruption was reflected as an issue by only 2% in Tripura, 7% in Meghalaya, and 8% in Nagaland. Voters seem to be more concerned with development. A positive reading would suggest that all is hunky dory in these states as corruption is not a problem which may be contrary to facts.

The civil society in its sagacity must continue to reckon with reality and ensure that the slide down must be prevented. It has to realize that India has slipped by two points on the Corruption Perception Index, other indices not registering any significant change, the sudden incarnation of iconic swindlers and their damn-care attitude for law and procedure, the assertion that eliminating the criminals through technology of shootouts is a step to an ideal state, etc. are portentous signals. It is thus a challenge to the conscientious citizens and right-minded organizations that must pick up courage, call a spade a spade, exhibit disenchantment with the happenings and express concern at non-happening of what should have happened, pointing out fingers, seeking accountability not only from defaulting institutions but also from those supervising their work and those probing the lapses, besides political accountability that cannot hide itself behind the veil of systemic defects, as all systems are designed by government. Time is of the essence.

Let corruption/integrity not get wiped from the radar screen.

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Integrity Pact

- City Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra (CIDCO) inked a MoU with Transparency International India (TII) on March 23, 2018 at The Claridges, New Delhi. MoU signed between Shri Vinay Kargaonkar (IPS, Adl. Director General of Police & Chief Vigilance Officer, CIDCO) and Shri Rama Nath Jha (Executive Director, TII). During MoU signing ceremony, Shri Pradeep Rath (Company Secretary, CIDCO), Shri S.R. Wadhwa (Chairman, TII), Shri P.S. Bawa (Advisor, TII), Shri A.K.Jain (Treasurer, TII) and Shri Brij Bhushan Singh (Deputy Project Director, TII) were present. CIDCO has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Transparency International India (TII) for good and citizen-centric governance. The MoU with TII will reduce the high cost and the distortionary impact of corruption on public procurement.
- Tender Analysis Team of TII --Shri Pankaj Kumar, Shri Brij Bhushan Singh and Ms. Purandhya Vij, analyzed the tenders of CIDCO from the period of October 2016 to September 2017 for the tender value of more than Rs. 5 Crore and prepared the report on Integrity Pact Analysis.
- TII conducted a workshop on "Probity in Public Procurement" for State Bank of India officials on March 9, 2018, in Gurugram, Haryana. This was TII's maiden event in the banking sector. The bank expressed its desire to conduct more such Programs for them. The workshop started with introductory remarks by Shri P.S. Bawa (Advisor TII).
- TII conducted a workshop on "Probity in Public Procurement" for State Bank of India officials on April 21st 2018 State Bank of India, Mumbai. Shri A. K. Mehra, Shri P. S. Bawa and Shri Rama Nath Jha were the key speakers of the workshop.
- SJVN Limited signed an MoU with Transparency International India (TII) on June 01, 2018 at SJVN Limited, New Delhi. MoU was signed between Shri N. L. Sharma (Chairman & Managing Director, SJVN) and Shri S. R. Wadhwa (Chairman, TII) During the signing ceremony of MOU, officials from SJVN and TII were present.

- The Integrity Pact team prepared training module for an upcoming training program for city Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra (CIDCO) on various topics i.e. Arbitrations and Public Procurement, Public Procurement practices, RERA, Swiss Challenge Models, tools of good governance etc.

PAHAL

- In order to assess the effectiveness of the various government schemes and impact of the efforts undertaken by various government organizations for rural citizens, TII conducted a baseline survey as a starting point for monitoring changes over the duration of the project. TII also published this baseline survey report.
- TII conducted a workshop on Use of RTI in Panchayat and Development on 5th May 2018 at Bokaro, Jharkhand. Shri Hiralal Manjhi (Vice-Chairman, Zila Parishad, Bokaro) was the chief guest of the workshop. Shri Babuchand Soren (Pramukh, Jaridih Block), Shri Ajay Kumar Singh (President, Bokaro Mukhiya Sangh), Shri Amar Prasad (Principal, Vinay International School), Shri Sanjay Singh (President, Jainamore Chamber of Commerce), Shri Gautam Sagar (Coordinator, Bokaro Swaichchhik Manch) and Shri A. K. Jain (Treasurer, TII) were the key speakers of the workshop.

ALAC

59 complaints were received at TII, New Delhi on anti-corruption helpline during the months of January to June 2018.

- TII received complaints alleging irregularities in a leading PSU. TII wrote a letter to Shri Nripendra Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister requesting immediate intervention and proper due diligence in the matter.
- TII received a complaint alleging irregularities in the organization of CLAT 2018. TII wrote a letter to Hon'ble Justice Shri Dipak Mishra, Chief Justice of India requesting immediate intervention.

New TII State Centres in Maharashtra and Gujarat

TII has in the recent past been focusing on widening its reach across India, through creating new local centers. Two new centres- Maharashtra and Gujarat were formed on 21st April and 23rd April 2018 respectively.

Maharashtra centre organized a seminar on “Transparency in Judiciary and Governance” at The Lalit Hotel, Mumbai on 21st April, 2018. While, Gujarat centre organized a seminar on “Transparency in Governance” at MBT College, Sarvajanic Education Society Campus, Surat on 23rd April, 2018.

Annual Lecture

TII organized its Eighth Annual Lecture on 8th May, 2018 at India International Centre, New Delhi. Hon'ble Justice (Retd.) Shri Swatanter Kumar (Former Judge of Supreme Court of India and Chairperson of National Green Tribunal) delivered the lecture on “Good Governance: Relation with social fabric & public life”. The Annual Lecture is dedicated to our Founder Adml. (Retd.) R. H. Tahilina (Former Chief of Naval Staff, Governor of Sikkim).

Advocacy

- Shri Rama Nath Jha (Executive Director, TII) delivered a lecture/talk on Anti-Corruption Framework in India & Implementation of Right to Information Act 2005 at National Center for Good Governance, BSNA, Mussoorie on January 13, 2018.

- TII organized workshop on “Strengthening Youth Integrity” with Cluster for Innovative Centre (CIC), Delhi University on January 23, 2018. The chief guest of the workshop was Shri Yashovardhan Azad (Information Commissioner, Central Information Commission.) The Speakers in the workshop were Shri S.R. Wadhwa (Chairman, TII), Shri Sachin Tapadia (CEO, Local Circles) and Shri A. K. Jain (Treasurer, TII).

- To make the procurement process transparent, accountable and faster within the State Bank of India (SBI), the senior management of SBI approached TII for suggestions to establish the Centralized Procurement Cell (CPC). TII officials met with SBI officials at Mumbai and gave the suggestions to establish the CPC.

Report Publication

- As a part of advocacy initiatives, TII published a report on Transparency in Budgetary Process on occasion of Union Budget 2018-19. This report is based on the International best practices after research through secondary resources, feedback with citizens and activists from diverse backgrounds. The objective of this report was to highlight the process-related inadequacies and gaps in budgetary process in India and need for improvement.

- On the eve of International Women's Day, TII published the survey report on “The Gender Dimension of Corruption: Issues and Challenges.” The study also conducted a survey on respondents' perceptions through face-to-face interviews in rural areas and online survey (in association with Local Circles) in a metro city like Delhi to learn women's experiences with corruption and to obtain a general overview of perceptions around women.

Internship

During the months of May-July 2018, 14 students did their internships at TII.

State Centre Activities

U.P. Centre

- In March 10, 2018, Chairperson of U. P. Centre resided over a Seminar organized by Foundation for People's Right to Information at which Hon'ble Governor Shri Ram Naik was the Chief Guest.

The chairperson placed several points in relation to Right to Information for consideration of the government, on the point of government's handling of Lokayuktas, Special Report under U. P. Lokayukta and Up Lokayukta Act-1975 and sent a Note dt.24/03/18 to Hon'ble Governor for consideration and appropriate action.

- The U. P. Centre was awarded a Momento which was received by Chairperson Justice (Retd.) Kamleshwar Nath from Hon'ble Home Minister of India, Shri Raj Nath Singh during the program organized by National Alliance for Swachh Bharat on March 18, 2018. A seminar was also organized on the topic of Sustainable Development and Participation of Civic Societies which was addressed by Shri D. C. Verma.
- The U.P. Centre held its Annual General Meeting on 16th of April, 2018. In which, the members suggested that name of such members who are continuously absent and are not attending any meetings nor contributing to achieve the aims & objects of TII are served with a notice in writing. If such Members fail to respond, their names will be removed from the list of members. Board of Management is considering this suggestion.
- The U.P. Centre sent a letter to Chief Secretary, U.P. pointing out the short comings in the 143 Notifications issued

TI India's (ALAC)
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by various Departments of U.P. u/s 3 & 8 of U.P. Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011. It has requested the Chief Secretary to issue direction for issue of fresh Notifications with all details required u/s 3 & 8 of Adhiniyam 2011.

- The Chairperson of U.P. Centre Justice (Retd.) Kamleshwar Nath wrote to Hon'ble Governor of U.P. for action u/s 12 (7) of U.P. Lokayukta and Up Lokayukta Act, 1975 on Special Report of Lokayukta which have indicted certain Ministers and Bureaucrats. Letter has also been written to Lokayukta of U.P. to press upon the Governor/State Administration to have the Special Reports laid before both the Houses of State Legislature in terms of Section 12 (7) of the Act.
- In the light of negative replies received from PIOs of some Judgeships in U.P., the Allahabad High Court Right to Information Rules 2006 have been studied. A decision of Supreme Court too has come to light on the subject. A paper has been prepared to be laid before the High Court of Allahabad to amend certain provisions of the Rules.

Donation Received

Name of Donors	Rs
1. Col. B.L. Bhat C-10, Pomposh Enclave GK-I, New Delhi-110048	30,000/-
2. Gyanendra Verma Noida	3000/-
3. Justice kamleshwar Nath C-105, Nirala Nagar Lucknow-226020	20,000/-
4. Shri S.R. Wadhwa W-107, Ground Floor G.K-I New Delhi -110048	50,000/-

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Note: Due to some technical reasons, the newsletter of first quarter could not be published. Thus, the first quarter and the second quarter activities have been clubbed together in this edition.