



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

EDITORIAL

Quarterly

Negation of negatives

At one level, the scams that have emerged with rapidity are welcome. The reason: these had been a fait accompli, buried under the carpet, unknown to 'We, the people' who are completely oblivious because of everyday life, prices, and threat to life and living. These would have remained fossilized with passage of time. So whether it is Bofors, unaccounted deposits in foreign banks, G-2 spectrum, CWG, Adarsh Complex, IPL, housing finance, mining irregularities, conversion of status of land patronizing the near and dear ones, or tapes signifying manipulative culture, these have all resulted in exposures through penetration either by the media or the outcome of seeking of information under the RTI Act.

These are all happy signs as the symptoms are getting exposed that enable a proper diagnosis. It is like an eruption of a boil that has puss in it. Surgery, bandage, balm, fomentation, anti-biotic medicines can now work as the wound is visible and painful. Without the signs of ailment, it is difficult to do anything. This has aroused a sprit of enquiry and an urgency to seek remedies. The exposures have roused the ruling class from somnolence. It has now acknowledged the need for reform as water level has crossed the danger level and reached the nose of credibility. There are attempts to wake up, float over the rising tide, and a desire to seek the opposite of what has happened. There is a hope in the state of hopelessness, courage of people instead of cynicism, and their refusal to accept the happenings in place of show of weakness and defeatism. No longer shall the people tolerate leakages, malfeasance, evasion of taxes and a myriad of other ailments.

The scams shall inspire solutions, cajole the conscience, if at all, inject concerns and create need for accountability that the opposition seeks from the ruling group, a balancing act on the political tightrope and trapeze. Exposure of scams is good. We welcome their openings to prevent further ailment. More the exposures, better it is for the general good. Negation can be negated by an act of conscientization, an expression used by Franz Fanon.

Board of Management Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the Board of Management was held on 11 December. All the projects like the Pahal, Development Pact, Integrity Pact, and ALAC were reviewed by the respective Directors. Shri US Pandey proposed the inclusion of a clause in the declaration of the Development Pact that the winning candidate would not indulge in any corrupt practice and that funds be spent in a transparent manner.

The BOM approved active membership of S/Shri R. Srinivasan and S. R. Wadhwa. Memberships of S/Shri Pratyush Sinha, Kunal Kashyap and V. Muthukrishnan were also approved.

The BOM authorized the Executive Committee to scrutinize all membership applications and make proposals to the Board every Quarter.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on 11 December. After reviewing and discussing TII's activities and minutes of the last AGM, the queries were replied, the revised minutes were adopted. Thereafter, the TII's Annual Report 2010, highlighting its significant achievements, was presented. Considering the need to look into major scams and corrupt practices and the availability of experienced Members, it was agreed to have a panel of experts of different disciplines for various projects. The AGM approved TII's Audited Accounts for 2009-10, budget for 2011, and appointment of M/s Rajesh B. Mangla & Associates as the new Auditor.

Dr B Mohanty, Mrs Kiran Aggarwal, AVM V B Batra, S/Shri Biswajit Mohanty and James

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Rajasekaran were unanimously elected to the BoM.

Prof. P B Mangla was appointed as the Returning Officer for 2011.

Integrity Pact

In the Focus Group Discussion, held in Delhi on November 26, the participating IEMs offered their suggestions on how to improve the IP's implementation. A State-level Workshop was organized at Bhubaneswar on Dec. 3 for advocacy of the IP and to widen awareness about its benefits for the departments, undertakings and other organizations of the State government.

The Regional Workshop, conducted in Ranchi on December 15, discussed the issues faced in the coal industry and measures to overcome the same. The evaluation of IP's implementation is being conceived in collaboration with Management Development Institute, Gurgaon. TII plans to establish its office at Ranchi for effective monitoring and advocacy of IP. It would also work for an Advocacy & Legal Aid Cell (ALAC).

TI India signed an MoU for the IP with the Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVNL), a joint venture of Governments of India and Himachal Pradesh, on 5 January 2011 at Shimla.

Development Pact (DP)

DP was signed in three assembly constituencies in Bihar in October, where the candidates signing the pact had won the elections. Following the DP's implementation in Chhattisgarh (seven Panchayats), Bihar (three Assembly constituencies) and Rajasthan (Panchayat), the TII team plans to conduct meetings in Bihar (10th- 14th January) with all stakeholders and political leaders to finalize monitoring methodology and sensitizing people through media, prior to the launch of the DP in forthcoming Bihar Panchayat Elections.

A donors' meet was held on 18 November to showcase the project for adoption by them and possible collaborations.

Pahal: Shaasan Sudhaar Ki Ore

The initiative covers four states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, and Bihar. With the support of the Commonwealth Foundation, a Panchayat voter awareness campaign was undertaken during Nov-Dec. in Koderma, Chatra and Hazaribagh in Jharkhand to educate

January 2011

the villagers about the Panchayati Raj provisions which have been introduced for the first time. In Bihar, Pahal plans to be launched in four districts, namely Madhubani, Darbhanga, Purnea and Patna. The Pahal activities like promotion of tools of good governance, filing of applications under different government schemes, participation of people in initial Gram Sabhas and social audits for micro-planning and monitoring of PRIs have been taken up in these districts after the elections on a long term basis.

A good governance training initiative, under the supervision of Raipur-based Project Coordinator, has been launched in Nov. to cover several educational institutes, the state administrative training institute, SIRD, etc in Chhattisgarh. A district level training camp was organised in Bilaspur on 19 Dec. to train volunteers on RTI and follow-up RTI applications. A computerised information centre is also functioning from 15th December at Angul to help the people in filing applications for various schemes.

New projects would be undertaken with the support of donors like the IDRF, Asia Foundation, and Common Wealth Foundation.

A meeting was also held with senior management of Concern Worldwide India at Bhubhaneshwar on 4 October to discuss the project.

TI India's Annual Lecture

Dr. Bimal Jalan would deliver 2nd TI India Annual Lecture on "Supply & Demand of Corruption" on 19th February, at 6.30 pm at Lecture Hall Annexe of India International Center, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi. All are cordially invited.

Lectures/ Meetings

The Chair addressed Retired IPS Officers Association and Orissa Police Academy in a seminar on Development and Corruption in Bhubaneswar on Oct 3; IAS officers in a course held at National Academy of Audit & Accounts (Shimla) on 7 October; senior management of the Airport Authority of India on 26 October; students of a business school at Varanasi on 2 November; senior executives of Bhilai Steel Plant on 19 November; and members of the American Chamber of Commerce on 9 December.

Shri BR Lall addressed senior police officers at the National Police Academy, Hyderabad. Dr S K Agarwal made an IP presentation at the IIMM, Mumbai, on November 26, and addressed law students in Bareilly (UP) on Dec 26.

Television Appearances & Articles

Dr Agarwal participated in the Lok Sabha TV programs on the proposed Lokpal Bill on October 20, and corruption on November 9, along with three MPs from BJP, Congress and BJD. He also appeared on India News on CPI on October 26. He contributed an article on Legalization of Lobbying in the Economic Times, December 3.

United Nations Anti-Corruption Day

Letters were sent to various institutions, universities, business schools, trade organizations, law schools, and State Chapters to observe anti-corruption day every year. Accordingly, it was, *inter alia*, celebrated by CVC, and SAIL. Balwant Ray Mehta Vidya Bhavan, Gr. Kailash II, observed the Day by organizing a debate, and essay and painting competitions on the theme of corruption. The Day was also observed by the FORE School of Management by administering an oath of integrity to about 480 students. The day was also observed by Orissa, Rajasthan, and UP chapters. A few other institutions informed that they had observed the Day and would do so regularly every year.

Corruption Perception Index 2010

The CPI was released on October 26 at the Press Club. There has been a little decline in India's integrity score from 3.5 in 2007, 3.4 in 2008 and 2009 to 3.3 in 2010, on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 10 (least corrupt). India's rank also dropped to 87 out of 178 countries from 84 in 2009. Perception about corruption in India is confirmed by the statements of the former CVC Pratyush Sinha's comment that 'One in three Indians is utterly corrupt', and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's statements against the damaging effect that bribes, extortion and fraud have on all levels of life, and that the problem threatened country's future economic prospects.

Global Corruption Barometer

According to GCB-2010, a global public opinion survey on the state and status of corruption in various services in different countries, political parties were perceived to be most corrupt institution by Indians. Police and parliament/legislature were rated by about 97 per cent of respondents as the most corrupt institutions in India. Other institutions that were termed corrupt include the public officials/civil servants, private sector, media, and judiciary. Nearly three-fourths of the respondents opined that level of corruption in India had increased in the past

three years. Similarly, three-fourths of the people sampled felt that the government had not been effective in addressing corruption. Respondents, however, expressed their maximum trust in media in fighting corruption. The common man mostly contacted public utilities (31.6%), followed by Education (24.1%) and Medical Services (20.9%). Bribes were paid most frequently to police, followed by land services, registry/permit services, tax revenue, and the judiciary. Such a state of affairs affected the poorest vis-à-vis high-income respondents.

TI's Annual Membership Meeting

The AMM was held in Bangkok and attended by the chairman and the Exec. Dir. (6-10 November) The Exec. Dir. also participated in the 14th International Anti-Corruption Conference (10-13 November) at Bangkok.

FK Exchange Program

Participants from Transparency International South Asian National Chapters – Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Pakistan - met at Colombo on 24-25 November for a mid-term review of the program. They discussed participants' taxation, accommodation, budget allocation, etc. TII was represented by Mrs Vineeta. Exchange program was termed as a tool to bring TI's South Asia Chapters closer.

Activities of State Chapters

Orissa Chapter

The TII chair felicitated Shri Biswajit Mohanty, active member of TII on his being conferred a National RTI Award for Gallantry in September 2010 by the National RTI Forum, Lucknow.

An international seminar on "Elimination of Corruption – A Necessity for Poverty Reduction" was organized jointly with Jeevan Rekha Parishad on 24th November at Bhubaneswar. Besides, an awareness program on Integrity Pact was organized at Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industries Conference Hall, Bhubaneswar.

On the occasion of Anti Corruption day, in collaboration with Directorate of Vigilance, Govt. of Orissa, the chapter organized a workshop on the 'Role of Civil Society in curbing corruption' at Bhubaneswar.

Rajasthan Chapter

The chapter observed the UN Anti-Corruption Day on 9 Dec. A Youth Rally was organized by Arya Samaj Educational Institutions. An Interaction Program was held at St. Edmund's

School, Jaipur, by Shri Kewal Khanna and Dr. Sudhir Singh on 10 and 11 December.

The chapter, in collaboration with IIPA (Regional Branch), also organized a seminar on "Can tools of governance reduce corruption?"

Tamil Nadu Chapter

Shri LM Menezes highlighted TII's activities in his address to the Rotary Club's Inner Wheel Club of Midtown on 26th July and called on its members to join the campaign against corruption.

On completion of three years of its Anti-Corruption Helpline & RTI Guidance Centre, it had published an article in the newspapers inviting all to avail of its services free of cost. This Helpline received 284 RTI complaints, 162 general complaints and 48 general enquiries, complaints, and petitions from public in and around Chennai city and other districts in Tamil Nadu during the quarter. TII had extended financial support of Rs.10,000 per month towards its running for a period of one year from October 2010 .

The Academy for Honest Politics, sponsored by the Coalition Against Corruption, of which TII-TN is a member, trained four batches of 80 students to create awareness among public regarding clean politics.

U P Chapter

A symposium on the subject 'Corruption & Moral Values' was organized on 28 Nov. Shri US Pandey delivered a talk on the theme of 'Generating Awareness and Publicity Against Corruption' on 25 October to officers of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., Jagadishpur. He made presentations on the Integrity Pact at Madhyanchal Vidyut Vitaran Niagam Ltd. on 18 October, and the U.P. Power Corporation Ltd, Lucknow, on 27th October.

He addressed the officers of N.E.Railway Division, Lucknow, (1st November) on 'Generating Awareness about Corruption and its Effects' as part of the Vigilance week. The Chapter also organized a symposium on "Corruption & Moral Values" on Nov.28.

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