



# TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

**Quarterly**

## EDITORIAL

### Whiff of fresh air

Of late, there have been winds of change that have not only acknowledged the existence of corruption and deficit in governance, but also swayed in battlefield to deal with the menace. Gone are the days when the prime ministers felt that it was no use crying from rooftops that there was corruption as it demoralized bureaucracy, or that corruption was a universal phenomenon, or it was systemic, or expressed regret, helplessness and bemoaned that the intended benefits did not reach the beneficiaries, or recent advice to an author 'not to spoil India's image by going on and on about this'. All this is now objected to by the suffering masses who have felt impact of neglect through inflation, rising prices, loss of public exchequer through non-performing assets of Rs. 1.92 lakh crores, and conveyed their disgust for insensitive and flagrant play with public funds on irrelevant and unnecessary holiday jaunts by members of legislative assemblies to tourist spots, and celebrations and tamashas as reflection of utter insensitivity to the plight of insecure people who need care and attention.

The fresh air has come from the reports of the CAG, judicial pronouncements by the apex court not only on the scams but also in denial of privilege of continuity as elected representatives after conviction, the pressure of the civil society dealing with public interest, the ubiquitous media having panoptic

penetration into the depths of sleaze and wrongdoing and highlighting it, etc. There are also attempts, though constrained, to free the CBI 'parrot' from the cage of political masters. Another entrant in the club is a fledgling political party that has assumed power in the nation's capital after doing well in elections on the plank of dealing with corruption and pursuing the interests of common people through promise of good governance, yet to be actualized in action.

One of the outcomes of its success is change in the strategies of all political parties that have started harping on the twin agenda of anti-corruption and governance, including development. The receptivity of ruling parties of these agendas should have increased as these objectives are imperative for their success and cannot be ignored. It is a fitting occasion for TI India to seek reform, especially in the areas of making the governments commit to the integrity pact and other projects. They would now find it embarrassing to say no to our projects that are designed to do good for the common person in which political executive/ rulers can take credit as there are many stakes in ignoring the same.

### Board of Management Meeting

The Chairman hoped that TI-S decision on TII Re-accreditation could be communicated shortly. Expressing his concern about lack of funds for core function, he suggested that donors be persuaded to allocate more funds for administrative expenditure in excess of present ceiling of 20%, besides trying out other means to raise funds.

While reviewing the minutes of last BoM, concerns were expressed about direct correspondence with TI-S by certain members.

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Accordingly, ED was directed to provide (i) information on such matters to the Ethics Committee, and (ii) the 2011 original report on Development Pact to Shri Pandey and Shri I C Srivastava. The Communication Officer (CO) was sought to be engaged for better media coverage of all activities/achievements and not confined to one scheme only. The press releases must be approved by the EC before release. It was proposed that TII members based at the headquarters could participate in educating youths/school children on anti-corruption programme.

**Participation in RGM & AMM in Berlin :** Shri Jitendra Kohli, who represented TI India at the annual meeting, made a presentation on e-procurement as a tool for security and transparency. He also informed the delegates that the Government of India had issued 'e-Procurement Guidelines'. These were likely to be adopted by other national chapters.

**Vision, mission and Goals :** Shri Kohli informed that APD Director would visit India to discuss the Strategic Plan, development of 'Vision, Mission, Goals', organizational structure, budget, etc., to be prepared with the assistance of a Consultant. Shri P S Bawa opined that since he had prepared 'strategic priorities', there was no need for a Strategic Plan. The engagement of a consultant was not likely to contribute more to the document, which could be further developed in-house by Shri Kohli. The plan to engage a consultant was dropped.

**New Members :** Shri M.N Krisnamuthy-Bangalore, Dr Sachin Rai-Ujjain, Shri M.S Kocher-Delhi, Shri Prem Khamesra-Noida; and Shri James Rajsekaran - Madurai

### **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM was held on 14th Dec, under the chairmanship of Justice Kamleshwar Nath. It was informed that members of Karnataka State Chapter were keen to revive the activities of the chapter. Shri Razdan proposed the setting up a State Chapter in J&K. He

agreed to explore its possibilities as per TI Guidelines for opening State Chapters.

It was suggested that the budget for 2014-15 be redrafted.

**Election to the Board :** Elections to the Board were held by postal ballot. Prof P B Mangla, Returning Officer, announced the election of Shri M.N Krisnamuthy, Dr Sachin Rai, Shri M.S Kocher, Shri Prem Khamesra and Shri James Rajsekaran as Members of TII Board of Management. In view of his efforts to conduct a fair and transparent election process, Prof Mangla was persuaded to continue as a Returning Officer for 2014-15, which he had agreed.

### **Corruption Perception Index & Global Corruption Report 2013 (GCR)-2013**

Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2013 was released on 3rd Dec. India maintained same rank at 94 with score of 36 as for previous year. The report consists of corruption caused due to bribery, abuse of power, and unethical dealings. These problems continued to ravage nations around the world. More than two-thirds of the 177 countries ranked in CPI 2013, scored below 50, on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (Clean). It indicated that public institutions ought to be more transparent, and politicians and government officials more accountable. Denmark and New Zealand were at the first place this year, with a score of 91, followed by Finland and Sweden (score 89) and Singapore (score 86). Afghanistan, North Korea and Somalia were at bottom with a score of 8.

Global Corruption Report 2013 (GCR) was also released by TI on 25th October 2013. This report provided a comprehensive assessment of the corruption in the education sector.

### **TII Project Activities**

**Integrity Pact (IP) :** (1) Focus Group Discussions on "Integrity Pact: Roles & Responsibilities of Independent External Monitors" was organized on 22 Oct. (2) Conference on "Need & Relevance

of Integrity Pact in Private Sector” was held on 22 Nov. (3) International Conference on Integrity Pact - from Commitment to Compliance” was organized in New Delhi on 9th - 10th Dec.

TII signed the Integrity Pact with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. This is 46th PSU.

As part of IP monitoring, Shri Kohli made two presentations to CVC on e-procurement on ‘Security & Transparency Issues and ‘Relevance of Govt. Guidelines to Monitor & Regulate e-Procurement’, and ‘Red Flags in Procurement’.

**ALAC :** On behalf of TII, Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Vice-Chairman, received the prestigious **Financial Inclusion and Payment Systems (FIPS) Award for the Excellence in Advocacy/ Empowerment of Weaker Sections Category** from Shri **Jesudasu Seelam, Minister of State for Finance, at the conference on 24-25th Oct.**

During the quarter, ALAC conducted a number of mobile Help Desk at various locations thus reaching out to the masses through outreach activities. It also built partnerships with civil society organizations. As a result, the centre received over 700 complaints. These related to basic enquiry, government schemes, local self governance and revenue administration. TII engaged itself in about 75 cases.

ALAC@Campus program for participation of the youth in the fight against corruption was initiated. Training workshops on tools of governance were held.

**Internship :** Under Internship Programme, 17 interns from various colleges and universities were trained at ALAC, Delhi. They filed over 150 queries under the RTI Act, including office of the Prime Minister.

**Publicity :** Director (ALAC) attended a program on Red FM. Radio Mirchi has also been engaged in spreading information on helpline numbers in MP.

**ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY FUNCTION :** Every year December 9 is observed as the International Anti-Corruption Day, marked by the United Nations. “ALAC” also celebrates this day every year by organizing functions to acquaint and educate people regarding their rights and train them to take suitable steps to fight corruption. Accordingly, this year we organized various programs in three states on 9th and 10th December 2013. In Ranchi, we trained 25 Youth Coordinators of Nehru Yuva Kendra on RTI/RTS and tools of Good Governance and help them setup four “On the spot Legal Help Clinics”. have given free legal advice to all those who were in its need.

In Delhi, an Anti-Corruption Day, 2013 was organised at Balwant Rai Mehta Vidya Bhawan School by holding essay, debate and painting Competitions on the theme of “Techniques to Fight Corruption” for students from over 15 schools to enlighten the students regarding their rights and corruption fighting techniques.

In Patna, the ALAC organized a Painting and Essay Competition in the Youth Hotel on Dec 12, 2013 followed by a brief speech on the “The Dangers of a corrupt system and How to tackle it ?” to raise awareness among the youths regarding the ill-effects of corruption.

#### **ACTIVITIES OF STATE CHAPTERS**

**Rajasthan :** The General Body Meeting was held at Bal Sambal, Sirohi. The Chairman, Managing Committee, and State Advisory Council were elected. Members also had interaction with Bal Sambal, an orphanage for children. The children staged a cultural program for the members.

Shri Panchsheel Jain, activist and Member State Advisory Council TII went on fast on New Year’s Day for 5 days to bring about Naitik Jagaran (ethical consciousness) in society.

**Tamil Nadu :** Tamil Nadu Chapter continued to operate the Anti-Corruption Helpline & RTI Guidance Centre. It received 24 RTI complaints, 12 general complaints, 4 enquiries and from public in and around Chennai and other places

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in Tamil Nadu through telephone, e-mail and contact in person at its office. During the quarter, it participated in seminars/meetings. (1) The Electoral Integrity Forum Meeting held at 5th Pillar Office on 11th Nov. to make suggestions to the Election Commission (EC) and the Tamil Nadu Chief Electoral Officer for conducting free and fair forthcoming elections. (2) The chapter submitted its views and suggestions at a Focus Group Discussion organized by the Consultant, Election Commission of India and TN Chief Electoral Officer & Principal Secretary on 26th Nov. (3) A meeting at the Academy of Honest Politics was jointly organised by the Tamil Nadu Coalition Against Corruption on 6th Dec. on the commencement of a new course for 27 students.

#### FAREWELL

Ms Anupama Jha served TI India as Executive Director for the last six years. She has left her assignment on Jan. 17 2014. We thank her for her long and memorable association and wish her all the best.

Mrs Akansha Pandey served TI India as Director (Project Pahal) for the last two years. After her marriage, she has left her assignment on Jan. 14, 2014. We thank her for her memorable association and wish her all the best.

#### 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>
<b>Jaipur</b>	<b>0141- 2742 799</b>
<b>Bhubaneswar</b>	<b>0674 - 2555 525</b>
<b>Chennai</b>	<b>044 - 6458 1444</b>
<b>Bhopal</b>	<b>09009 99 2323</b>

#### 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

Name of Donor	Receipt No.	Rs.
1. Justice S.N. Bhargava 20/46, Mansarovar, Renupath, Ambedkar, Marg, Jaipur - 302020	1060	5,000/-
2. Shri B.K. Dasgupta BW-85A, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi - 110088	1061	10,000/-
3. Dr. Suresh Chandra Singhal Uma Niwas, 7 Chitnavis Naga, Byramji Town, Nagpur - 440013	1062	2,000/-
4. Shri M.M. Rajendran 3, G.S. Colony, Ganapathy Nagar, Teynampet, Chennai - 600018	1063	1,000/-
5. Shri Satyabrata Banerjee B-17, (GF) Suncity Sector-54, Gurgaon, Haryana	1064	5,000/-
6. Dr. R.K. Saxena 1/67, Vishesh Khand, Gomati Nagar, Lucknow - 226010	1065	10,000/-
7. Maj. Gen (Retd.) B.K. Mehta D-136, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024	1073	2,000/-

#### 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.