



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

Quarterly

EDITORIAL

Conscience + Awakening

'Conscientization' is an expression used by Paulo Friere in his *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* to denote restlessness with status quo that makes the masses accept the inevitable and the given which makes them resign to fate. It denotes critical radicalism and 'engagement with effort to transform concrete objective reality'. It is an expedition of doubt, confrontation with lies, and a search for truth. A spark of consciousness is worth many switches that may lie dormant. It alone would make people question their condition, whether it is endangered by exploitation, injustice, violence, oppression or silent submission to the given. In other words, it is an awakening of the conscience and opening portals of perception.

This tool would make people question the vulgarities of ostentatious celebrations, callous greed, banality of riches, usurpation of sky high salaries that put the poor, the jobless, and the destitute to shame. There are three stages in the process of awakening. First, the oppressed must feel the

oppression. Secondly, they must resolve to engage with forces of oppression. And, thirdly, this can be done by praxis. They must reflect their condition, for 'true reflection leads to action'. It is, therefore, a commitment to transformation and a method of emerging from forces of oppression.

In this context, TI India is also engaged, though in a limited manner, by helping people in their 'incessant struggle to regain their humanity' by making them reflect and participate in effort. It creates a spark of consciousness of their being oppressed by the hidden and camouflaged hand of corruption and delay in delivery of services, and strengthens their resolve to seek answers thus standing up to local authority for claiming their rights, seeking answers to their queries and taking issues to a logical conclusion. It endeavors to achieve these objectives through two schemes – *Pahal* (initiative) and Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC). The first is an initiative in rural areas and the latter is an aspect of praxis that actually intervenes in case of injustice in terms of denials, mostly in urban areas.

There are three aspects that concern the TII. First, there are many entitlements through various schemes sponsored by government for the well being of the dispossessed in particular and people in general. Then there are facilities created by the State in areas of

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education, health, shelters for the poor, etc. Lastly, the rights of people under the Constitution, especially the one in the preamble that seeks 'dignity', are significant. Both the people and the State must ensure that these are not usurped by the unscrupulous or leaked unobtrusively by the clever and the crooked.

TI India helps in the vigil and ensures, to the extent possible, that rights must accrue to the people who deserve.

Board of Management Meeting

The BOM meeting held on 20 December 2014 circulated the Report of Ethics Enquiry Committee received on 18 December among its members. Since the same was to be sent to the newly elected members also, a special meeting was scheduled for Jan 17, 2015 to discuss it. Besides, the draft of the Annual Report 2014 and proposals for amendments in Rules & Regulations were approved.

Annual General Meeting

The members were informed of the award of re-accreditation of the Chapter by the Membership Accreditation Committee for three years. Besides, the Returning Officer Prof P B Mangla announced the results of election held for five vacancies in the Board. Dr. Raka Arya, Smt. Anju Bala, Shri P. S. Bawa, Shri A. K. Jain and Shri Ajay Dubey, were elected to the Board. In view of Prof Mangla's efforts to conduct fair and transparent election process, he was persuaded to continue as a Returning Officer for 2015-16. After a few amendments, the proposed changes to R&R were accepted. A Special General Body Meeting will be convened on 14 Feb. 2015

January 2015

at Balwantray Mehta Vidya Bhawan, GK II at 3:00p.m. to consider the amendments in R&R as approved in the last AGM.

RGM & AMM in Berlin

Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Vice-Chairman, represented TI India at the Annual Meeting held in Berlin in October 2015.

Obituary

Shri B.G. Verghese (1927-2014), member of the Advisory Board of Transparency International India passed away on 30 December 2014. It is a tragic loss of one who had been associating with activities pertaining to anti-corruption and good governance. A reputed journalist with an independent mind and views, editor of top newspapers in India, information advisor to the Prime Minister Of India, a versatile author whose wrote a seminal book *The First Draft*, and winner of Ramon Magsaysay Award, Shri Verghese was a versatile personality who would be missed by all at TI India.

Corruption Perception Index 2014

TI's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2014 was released on 3 Dec. 2014. India scored 38 and ranked at 85th. More than two-thirds of the **175 countries** ranked scored below 50, on a scale from zero (perceived to be highly corrupt) to 100 (perceived to be highly clean). Denmark comes out on top with a score of 92, while North Korea and Somalia shared last place, scoring just 8.

Integrity Pact (IP)

During this quarter, TI India signed MoU on Integrity Pact with the RAIL Tel Corporation of India which became the 50th organization

to adopt the pact. A training workshop on “Identification of Red Flags in Public Procurement” was organized on 17-18 December 2014 in New Delhi. More than 80 representatives participated from 40 different PSU’s and companies.

Vice Chairman Shri Pankaj Agarwal spoke in Anti-Corruption Compliance in India Summit on 30-31 Oct.

Meeting with Independent External Monitors of AAI, EIL, NDMC and HSCL was held during the quarter to discuss issues related to IPs implementation.

TII participated in the World Bank Procurement Policy review on 11 December. Presentation on IP was made to Members of Afghanistan Parliament on 16 December. Presentation on Tools of Good Governance was made to the members of the Rotary Club, Delhi on 12 December.

ALAC

During the quarter, 295 complaints/information seekers contacted the Help Lines (Delhi - 121, Patna - 41, Ranchi – 69, Bhopal – 64). A meeting with Nehru Yuva Kendra Coordinator, Patna, was held for training of youth coordinators. Besides, the RTI and Right to Service Acts were invoked issues of public importance.

With the intervention of ALAC, full salary of one employee in K. V School, Delhi, was got restored. Protection of a RTI activist was also sought in Darbhanga. The Centre helped a retired Professor of University who was implicated in a false case. The Centre also

represented seven citizens before judicial or quasi judicial authorities.

The *Pahal* Project Completion Report was submitted to donor IDRF of USA.

UN Anti-Corruption Day

TII observed the UN Anti-Corruption Day by organizing a series of events like panel discussions, debates, cartoon competition, slogan writing, oath taking, as well as focusing on theme of ‘Tools of Good Governance’ at Delhi, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Madurai, Moradabad, Srinagar, Dhanbad, Patna, Ranchi, Madhubani, & Eastern UP.

Documentary: A documentary by the TII interns was prepared to understand the perspective and experience of the youth of our nation. This survey was conducted in Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and the area of Hauz Khas. It was an attempt to understand the opinion of the youth regarding corruption in the country. It is available on [https://www.facebook.com/Transparency InternationalIndia?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/TransparencyInternationalIndia?fref=ts). Regular updates like photos of events/news/articles/press releases related TII’s activities are also available on these connections.

Activities of State Chapters

Rajasthan: The Chapter celebrated UN Anti Corruption Day on 9 Dec.r 2014 at Jaipur. It also released a Souvenir containing its activities. Shri R. Shekhar, former Director CBI, delivered the key-note address, on the theme of “Anti-Corruption: Issues and Challenges’. Justice Shri S.K. Sharma, former Judge of Rajasthan High Court, and Shri D.R. Mehta, former Chairman SEBI, participated in the event.

Special General Body Meeting will be convened on **14 Feb. 2015** at Balwantray Mehta Vidya Bhawan, **GK - II, New Delhi at 3 p.m.** to consider the amendments in R&R as approved in the last AGM .

The Chapter organized B.D. Joshi Memorial Debate in collaboration with Kalyan World School. An essay competition was also held for colleges in Jaipur.

The member of the Chapter addressed officers at the HCM Rajasthan Institute of Public Administration, and students of Rajasthan Law University and J.P. University.

Tamil Nadu: The Chapter continued to operate the Anti-Corruption Helpline & RTI Guidance Centre. It regularly receives complaints/petitions from public in and around Chennai and other districts in Tamil Nadu through telephone, e-mail and personal contact at office. It handled 90 RTI complaints and 52 general complaints.

The Chapter organized a one-day fast on 15 November, demanding the proper implantation of "Right to Services in Tamil Nadu".

To receive the TI India's Quarterly e-News Letter, please intimate your email ID at info@transparencyindia.org or subscribe on TII's Website www.transparencyindia.org

TI India's Advocacy & Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) Anti-Corruption Help-Line
New Delhi (011-2623 2323)

Applications for Active Membership

TII 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 or may be obtained from its Delhi office.

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