



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

Quarterly

EDITORIAL

BETTER TO LIGHT A CANDLE THAN CURSE DARKNESS

It is true that the nation is going through convulsions of pain caused by malignant virus of corruption. The change is slow and uncertain, surely at a snail's pace. There is an ample critique of what has happened, what is happening around, and that there is no light at the end of the tunnel. Criticism of inaction by government, financial crunch, inflation, sluggish job market, etc., abounds in daily discourse in the press and social media, all leading to a state of despondency. There is a cacophony of complaining. All that is said, commented upon, and accepted add to the darkness around.

Every one is busy finding faults. Parliamentarians pick holes in the proposals and proposed projects. They are skillful in the act of blaming, a blame fest one may call it. But none gives a solution and puts government wise on what is to be done; no recipe, only reproaches; no remedies, only tirades that make the atmosphere gloomy. Pulling each other's leg is considered a virtue, winning a point in a debate that leads to vacuous results is all that matters. All criticism without a genuine quest for a solution becomes a problem. But a proposed solution within a regime of genuine critique can put the nation on a progressive path

In such a sordid atmosphere, it is the humble candle that comes to rescue. Candle is a metaphor for attention, light, brightness, and awakening. Candle light vigils arouse social

conscience, and create solidarity on issues by bringing the assorted people to a concentrated point. Candle can be used to light other candles, not stones. It can ignite wood that has fire inherent in it. But stones have no fire and cannot burn.

There is thus a requirement for introspection on what to do, what an individual, or a small group can do. There is an urgent need for small candles of social action to ignite unlit and inactivated ones. These candles come in various forms. In society too, paying taxes voluntarily and truthfully would do away with the need for transfer of funds and stashing money abroad; following rule of law and accepting law as a guide, teacher, and judge shall deactivate and neutralize the corrupt and lethargic law enforcement system and reduce growth of impunity; teaching and practicing individual ethics can trigger a positive spiral; making constructive suggestions can bring about path correction in policy and spare the nation of the time lost in houses of legislature. It is more useful and important to make use of technology, ideas, projects, and initiatives than cling to their adverse side and harping on disutility thus preventing problems, darkness and waywardness.

So it is better to light a candle than curse darkness. Darkness is dystopian. No need to spread darkness by extinguishing candles. One may not light a candle, but one need not extinguish the burning ones.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

The Quarterly Meeting of the Board was held on 9 June at Balwanray Mehta Vidya Bhawan, Greater Kailash Pt. II, New Delhi. A two minutes silence in memory of Late Shri A C Talwani was observed. Former CVC Shri Pratyush Sinha was introduced as a new Board Member, co-opted in place of Late Shri B. R. Lall. Minutes of the last BoM were approved. Members were briefed about the progress in various TII activities during the

Transparency International India
 Qr. No. 4, Lajpat Bhawan, Lajpat Nagar-IV,
 New Delhi-110 024, India
 Tel. (011) 2646-0826 / 4063-4797
 Fax : (011) 2642-4552
 Editor : P. S. Bawa
 E-mail: info@transparencyindia.org
 Website: www.transparencyindia.org

preceding quarter. Col C. M. Ramakrishan, formerly TII Vice Chairman, was co-opted as a member of the Board in place of Late Shri A. C. Talwani.

Mr. Rukshana, Programme Coordinator from TI-Secretariat made a presentation on the TI-S Strategy-2015 to fight corruption and suggested that the TII should go beyond volunteerism and run as a professional entity. However, the members were of the view that TI-S' policy should be country-specific.

INTEGRITY PACT

Meetings, Workshops & Focus Group Discussion

- 1) Chairman and Director (IP) met CVC Shri Pradeep Kumar and CAG Shri Vinod Rai in April.
- 2) Chairman, Executive Director, and Director (IP) had a meeting with CII's representatives.
- 3) Director (IP) and Exchange Fellow from Nepal met SAIL's Nodal officer
- 4) Director (IP) visited Directorate of Geology and Mining, Ministry of Mines, Government of Madhya Pradesh in connection with the Bunder Diamond project of Rio Tinto.
- 5) Director (IP) accompanied by Vice Chairman made a presentation on Integrity Pact in the Ministry of Home Affairs
- 6) Letters were addressed to the (i) Ministry of Defence to follow the procedure of Integrity Pact and (ii) Shri Godrej for IP's implementation in private sector.
- 7) Formation of a Coordination Committee to study IP's implementation by selected PSUs.
- 8) Letters were addressed to the (i) World Bank to incorporate IP in its procurement and (ii) various training institutes of PSUs for widening awareness about IP
- 9) It is proposed to organize an IP Workshop on August 22-23, 2012 at India International Centre. Its participants would include, *inter alia*, representatives from CAG, CVC, PSUs, CVOs, IEMs and Min of Defence

Collaborations/Reports/Events.

- a) TI-S' Michael Wiehen's comments on IP :

"TII has made remarkable progress in propagating the IP concept and in getting the government, PSUs, the industry and the engineering family to become more aware of the damage from corruption and the benefits of a systematic campaign against that problem. ----- Those impressive results have been achieved with a very small staff. There is no doubt in my mind that that campaign must be enabled to go on and indeed expand. The scope for additional activities in India is limitless – but so are the potential benefits. I believe TII is on the right path."

- b) A State-level Workshop on "Enhancing Framework for Transparent Public Procurement" was organized in Muzaffarpur (Bihar) on 27 June

Public Procurement Bill (PPB)

Director (IP) met with MPs S/Shri Baijoyanta Panda, Rashid Alvi, Prakash Jarvedkar and others and made a presentation to the members of Bhartiya Vitya Salahkar Samiti on the inclusion of IP in the proposed Public Procurement Bill.

PAHAL

Pahal activities included training of journalists, official and non-officials of the administration on RTI in Raipur, Rajnandgoan, and Jagdalpur Districts of Chhattisgarh. A plan to start Pahal project in Odisha in collaboration with Utkal Youth Association for Social Development is under consideration.

To empower the citizens for their entitlements and strengthen service delivery, Director (Pahal) Akanksha Pandey and Ashok Kumar Singh (Madhubani based TII Staff) organized three training programs in Lakhnaur and Jhanjharpur Blocks of Muzaffarpur district in Bihar on tools of good governance. For the first time, a Ward Sabha was conducted in Ward no. 17 of Jhanjharpur in Madhubani. During the training, the participants were made aware about their entitlements under various government schemes, Right to Services Act, drafting of RTI applications, Right to Education

(RTE), social audits, and rights and duties of gram and nagar Panchayats. Concerns were expressed about harassment to RTI applicants, poor grievance redress mechanism, MNREGA, etc. About 160 people participated. It was widely covered by media.

Now, it is proposed to conduct a state-level conference in Patna on July 25 to discuss RTI-related issues, conducting a social audit in Madhubani, and training on tools of good governance in Supaul district of Bihar in July.

ADVOCACY & LEGAL ADVICE CENTRE (ALAC)

Launch of “ALAC Anti Corruption Helpline” at Bhubaneswar, Ranchi and Delhi

TI India launched ALAC Helpline at Bhubaneswar, Ranchi and Delhi to provide free legal advice and help victims of corruption. Help lines were inaugurated at (i) Bhubaneswar on March 18 by Hon'ble Justice Indrajeet Mohanty, Odisha High Court Judge, (ii) Ranchi on April 15 by Jharkhand Lokayukta Hon'ble Justice Amreshwar Sahay, and (iii) Delhi on April 28 by Lokayukta Hon'ble Justice Manmohan Sarin.

Training for ALAC Officials

A three-day software database training workshop was organized in Delhi on May 18-21 to familiarize ALAC staff with various operational aspects. It included effective usage and analysis of ALAC data.

DEVELOPMENT PACT (DP)

Out of 40 candidates of Jhanjharpur Panchayat, who signed community members' DP Agenda, 16 were elected. Local issues like availability of potable drinking water, improving drainage system, water logging etc., will be taken up by these elected representatives. Similarly, Election Manifesto of MCD's Safdarjung Ward was signed on 4 April.

FK EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Ms. Akanksha Pandey, who was in Bangladesh for the last ten months from July 2011, is now working for Pahal Project. Shri Binod Bhattarai from Nepal has completed his term in June and

July 2012

gone back to Nepal. In 2012-13, two FK Fellows from Nepal and Sri Lanka are expected to be posted at TII.

LECTURES/ SEMINAR/ MEETING

- TII Chairman and ED attended the TI-S Annual Regional Pacific Meeting held in Korea on May 12-17.
- ED participated in (i) a symposium on Governance organized by Meghalaya Institute of Governance in Shillong on April 5, and (ii) the “National Consultation on Transparency and Anti-Corruption Measures in Procurement in India” on April 18 - 19 .
- Board Member Shri Pankaj Agarwal participated in the Stakeholders Consultations (Civil Society) for formulation of ADB's Country Partnership Strategy on May 24 in Delhi. During his interaction, he spoke on the TII activities and the importance of transparency, anti-corruption measures and Whistle Blower Protection mechanism in the ADB funded projects and issues of governance and need for improving service delivery.
- Vice Chairman and Dir (ALAC) participated in the Working Group meeting of the UN Office on Drugs & Crime on May 29, to review current legislation, policy and practices in light of India's ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)
- Vice Chairman appeared on Zee TV on May 23 on Black Money, and on Lok Sabha TV on May 30 on Corruption in Corporate Sector.
- Vice Chairman and Executive Director from TI India represented in the consultation meeting on “Issues of Governance in Water Sector” organized by India Water Partnership on June 18.

ACTIVITIES OF STATE CHAPTERS

Rajasthan

TII Rajasthan Chapter launched an Anti-Corruption Cell to provide counselling on corrupt practices in public dealings. Meanwhile, the Government is being pursued to introduce Integrity Pact in its public procurements.

Uttar Pradesh

The U P State Chapter wrote to UP Chief Minister on May 12 to ensure appropriate appointment of Information Commissioners u/s 12(5) of R T I Act 2005.

The U P State Chapter Chairman wrote to the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court on April 30, in support of NGO Lok Prahari's Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging Allahabad High Court's ruling fixing a fee of Rs.500/- for Information Application under R T I Act. The Rule has been amended and is now pending with the State Govt. for Gazette Notification.

Responding to the Chairman U.P. Chapter's letter of April 16, regarding U.P. Govt's omission to place budgetary demand with Prime Minister of India for creation of more Courts in U.P., the Chief Minister vide his letter of May 24 responded that Government was looking into the matter.

The U P State Chapter is organizing a workshop at Lucknow on 11th August. It will be inaugurated by Shri Abhishek Mishra, Minister of State in the UP Chief Minister's Office.

TI India's Advocacy & Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) Anti-Corruption Help-Lines

Delhi	011- 2623 2323
Patna	09304 22 0023
Ranchi	09334 40 2323
Jaipur	0141- 2742 799
Bhubaneswar	0674 - 2555 525

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Request

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