



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

Quarterly

EDITORIAL

A Paradox

Four of the eight world religions had their origin in India – Sanatan Dharma, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. Both Islam and Christianity have their considerable presence. All the religions have charismatic, iconic, and exemplary personages, gods, saints, and prophets with an aura of divinity. All have conveyed deep thought captured in excellent texts and holy books that guide ethical life of an individual. These are egalitarian in spirit, reasonable in enjoyment of pleasures of the world, and have a humanitarian approach. All therefore have a very strong ethical base.

Then, why is it that despite an accent on religiosity, there is corruption in the country with a dismal positioning on the international scale? One need not find any flaws in the holy texts. These are interpreted by scholars and preachers daily and shared with the masses through television. There are discussions on spirituality, more gatherings at religious places, celebrations of festivities, and observance of special days. India has the largest number of living gurus who have large followings and travel all over trying to change minds of people. In spite of all these, the country is found deficient in integrity issues.

The blame perhaps lies in those who have interpreted the texts suiting their own ends.

They feel that mere recitation would solve their problems and pardon their indiscretions. A dip in the holy place, pilgrimage, donation or charity, or mere wearing of symbols of protection would absolve them of their sins. They have not internalized meaning of teachings. There is no communion between the sacred and the worldly, the spiritual and the practical. So individuals, barring a few, who have said their daily prayer would not hesitate to go astray as the two domains are distinct with watertight compartments. It is this denial of harmony between the spiritual and the worldly that is at the root of the malady. Otherwise there is no reason why a religious society should be a corrupt society that does not care for the impact on development and plight of the poor.

Another reason could also be a wrong interpretation of karma which is considered more as a destiny based upon the past rather than action in the present for the sake of the future. He who sows shall reap. He who is getting the benefits feels that these are the results of the good deeds of the past. Since the future is not a certainty, one is justified in accepting the fruits of the past good deeds. And then there is act of sharing with gods and institutions that appeases the mind and does not stir any angst, doubt, or ambiguity. He feels that the poor have their nemesis for their past misdeeds and they deserve this.

The way out is an emphasis on ethics. While not disputing the core values of religion and their fundamental strength that have inspired the devoted few, steps to introduce ethical education in schools need not be given up in the name of secularism that means an equal respect, reverence, consideration, and equity of treatment. Secularism does not mean

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distancing from religion. Ethics is the basic attribute of a civilized society. In societies where religion does not have a strong hold upon people, an appeal to conscience or the Constitution is the focal point of practicing values. However, since India has a strong connection with religion, it may be useful to reinforce ethics with support of religion.

Religion has not succeeded in inspiring ethical conduct, but ethics can be inspired by religion.

Board of Management Meeting

Meeting was held on 14th June, 2014. The chairman informed that Dr Srirak Pliapat (Director, Asia Pacific Division) and Ms. Illham Mohd visited India twice in April and May. They interacted with members of the Board and staff to have first hand information on TI India activities. They also met several donors like UNDP, German Embassy, New Zealand High Commission, and secured response for grant proposals worth Euro 8 lakh. They expressed their optimism about the Chapter's pending accreditation. They hoped that TI India and APD would be entering a new phase of open and constructive relationship to combat corruption challenges in India. Their second visit was mainly to release Youth Integrity Report, based on the survey in four Asia-Pacific countries, namely, Sri Lanka, Korea, Indonesia and Fiji. During their visit, Dr. Pliapat also discussed the issue of Strategic Planning.

Revision of TII membership Fee

Since there has been phenomenal increase in price index, it was proposed to revise the Life Membership fee to Rs 5000/ from Rs 1000/ which was fixed as one-time payment in 1998.

TII's Integrity Award

Gp Capt S.C.Bahri proposed for instituting an Integrity Award, on the lines of TI-S, to a person for his outstanding integrity and efforts against fighting corruption. A Committee would be constituted to consider the modalities and details of the proposal.

TII membership

Life Membership of Shri Shyam Sunder Bissa, IAS (Retd.), Shri Dalip Singh, Shri Vipin Kumar Sood, Shri Sanket Mahajan, Dr. Maya Tanon, Shri Rakesh Rustogi, and Shri Ram Ballabh Sharma, IPS (Retd.) was approved.

Recommendation of the Screening Committee for active membership of Dr. AM. Swaminathan, Dr. T.V. Govindan, Shri G. Ramasamy, Shri L.S. Jaganathan, Shri A K Jain, Dr. Raka Arya, and Shri Ajay Shankar Dubey, were approved by the Board.

Visit of TI-S MAC Team

The TI-S Membership Accreditation Committee (MAC) is scheduled to visit TI India on July 20-24 to review its legal compliance, financial management, internal governance and impact of TII activities for re-accreditation of TI India. The MAC mission will include Mr Rueben Lifuka, Chairperson, Mr Chandu Krishnan, Network Fellow of the Edmond J Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University and former Executive Director of TI UK, and Ms Maren Thompson - a staff member from the TI-S Asia Pacific Department for administrative support.

Security for People who expose graft

The Dept of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government of India, has authorized Chief Vigilance Officers (CVOs) to act as distant arm of Central Vigilance Commission, and take decision on providing security to whistleblowers. The order states, "If CVOs in the ministries or department, either on the application of the complainant or on the basis of the information gathered, are of the opinion that either the complainant or the witnesses need protection, they shall take up the matter with the CVC for issuing directions to the authorities concerned."

DoPT has issued a detailed procedure for handling of complaints under Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers Resolution to be followed by CVOs of government ministries and departments. CVOs

have been authorized as the designated authority to receive written complaint or disclosure on any allegation of corruption or misuse of office by or under any central Act, government companies, societies or local authorities owned or controlled by the central govt and falling under the jurisdiction of that ministry or the department.

TII Project Activities

Integrity Pact (IP)

MoUs were signed with the Ministry of Railways' IRCON International Limited on April 22, and National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) on May 9. A meeting was organized with embassies and donor agencies from 22 to 25 April for fund raising. IP Cell also resolved complaints made by (i) IEMs regarding structured meetings of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL); and (ii) Jai Mata Di Construction Engineers & Builders against RITES Limited.

R H Tahiliani, Mentor, informed that he had sent letters to various Ministers on e-Procurement.

ALAC

343 complaints were received at Delhi, Ranchi, Bhopal and Patna on anti-corruption helplines and mobile ALAC during April- June. The case of Mr. A. K. Jain (Whistleblower) against Damodar Valley Corporation and The cases of Shri Jagdish Parsad (Chowkidar of Kendriya Vidyalaya AFS, Tughlkabad) against Kendriya Vidyalaya were successfully handled by ALAC wing with a positive feedback.

PAHAL

TII conducted camps in Panchyats of Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Madhubani and Supaul Districts to raise awareness about ill effects of corruption, villager's entitlements under welfare schemes, legal ways to get their dues without bribing. It promoted tools of good governance, including Right to Information (RTI) and Services (RTS). Besides, Calendar for 2014 with TII Anti Corruption (Bihar) Helpline Numbers was distributed in targeted panchayats. It also facilitated meetings of Gram

& Ward Sabhas for social audits of MGNREGA & Indira Awas schemes.

In all, 135 volunteer, including 34 (including 10 female) in Mushahari block of Muzaffarpur district, 38 persons (including 6 females) in Supaul district, 30 volunteers belonging to SC and ST in Manigachhi Block of Darbhanga, and 32 people of Lakhnaur Block of Madhubani were trained. As a result, many applications under the RTI Act were filed in various ministries and departments.

A study to assess satisfaction level of the service recipients in terms of the contents and quality of services provided by the public service delivery institutions is going on through the Citizen's Report Card.

Agenda for Corruption-free Development

Leaders of different political parties spoke about the agenda of their respective Political Parties on 15 April in Bhopal and 24 April in New Delhi. A meeting was organized at BMVB, GK-II, New Delhi, on 22 April. An open house discussion on these issues was held on May 3.

A panel discussion on "Asia Pacific: Youth Integrity in Crisis: How Do We Solve It?" was held on 27 May in New Delhi. APD Director Srirak Plipat, TI-I Vice Chairman Shri Pankaj Agarwal and Exec Dir Shri Ashutosh Mishra participated in the discussion. Earlier, a press conference was organized at the Foreign Correspondents Club of South Asia, New Delhi on 27th May.

ACTIVITIES OF STATE CHAPTERS

Rajasthan

On May 3, 2014, an Open House discussion was organized with spokespersons of political parties representing INC, BJP, BSP, CPM (Marxist) & AAP. Civil service aspirants, senior citizens, NGOs and members of Rajasthan Chapter participated actively. Newspapers and local TV channels widely reported this event.

On June 3, Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)'s Jaipur Branch, organized a workshop-cum-book-review

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programme on Mr Laurence Cockcroft's book titled "Global Corruption Money, Power & Ethics". Shri I.C. Srivastava, Chairman TII-Rajasthan, presented the review of book, and initiated the discussion.

In June 2014, Chapter Chairman was on the panel in a discussion by Zee T.V. on its two programmes on Unwarranted Collection of Toll by National Highways Authority and Sarkar Aap Ke Dwar (Government at your Doorstep) programmes.

TAMIL NADU CHAPTER

The Chapter continued to operate the Anti-Corruption Helpline & RTI Guidance Centre. It regularly receives complaints/petitions from public through telephone, e-mail, and personal contact. During the quarter, it received 102 RTI complaints, 85 general complaints, and 13 general inquiries.

The Chapter conducted a study on Corruption in Government Hospitals in Chennai with the help of Dr. M. Srinivasan, Professor, Criminology Department, University of Madras. The report is awaited.

It also participated in (i) protest of Satta Panchayat Iyakkam, a unit of Makkal Sakthi Iyakkam, against the Tamil Nadu State Information Commission (SIC), seeking early disposal of RTI petitions; and (ii) a meeting demanding shutdown all liquor shops functioning near important public places.

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.

Applications for Active Membership

TII members, who are desirous to become Active Member, are requested to send their duly filled-in prescribed Application Form with details of their activities. This Form can either be downloaded from its website www.transparencyindia.org or may be obtained from its Delhi office.

TI INDIA'S DONORS

Name of Donor	Receipt No.	Rs.
1. Dr. T. N. Kaul 249, Nilgiri Apartment, New Delhi-110019	1086	2,000/-
2. Shri M.L. Kumar 132, Nilgiri Apartments, Alaknanda, New Delhi-110019	1090	1,500/-
3. Mrs.Pratibha Arun Puranik 91, Aspen Greens Nirwana County, Sec-50, Gurgaon-122001 (Haryana)	1091	5,000/-
4. Justic Kamleshwar Nath C-105, Gunjan, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow - 226020 (UP)	1092	20,000/-
5. Shri Chander Thakur A-4/236, Konark Apartments, Kalkaji Extn., New Delhi-110019	1093	1000

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
Chennai	044 - 6458 1444
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