

EDITORIAL

Compulsion or Design

The political class has not been charitable to any reform that impinges on their privileges. It has strongly and unanimously opposed the decision of the Supreme Court that had mandated that the candidates contesting elections must give their background with regard to education, criminal cases pending against them, and the assets and liabilities. It has not yet taken a categorical stand on the exclusion from candidature of those involved in criminal cases, especially the heinous ones, if the charge sheet has been submitted six months before the announcement of elections. It was again the apex court that had decided that once convicted, the legislator has to relinquish his seat. It was contrary to stipulation that permitted the finality of appeals in higher courts by which time the person had completed his tenure. Recently the Chief justice of India had indicated that there must be an evaluation of the reality check in terms of the manifestos released at the time of elections when the moon is promised for all. There has been no strict scrutiny of the election expenses, most of them by-passing the limits. The class is averse to the regime of the Right to Information Act.

Added to the above is the lackadaisical attitude

Request

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to implement the Lokpal Act 2011 thus making the institution operational. The Act was passed after a nation-wide protest movement protest against corruption. It was then considered a singular victory of the civil society that had its say. There was a big fanfare with regard to achievement that was celebrated all over the country. It was the culmination of the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee during the mid-sixties. The tragedy is that even those who had taken part in the movement and claimed to have scored against the government are again playing fugitive in seeking its actualization.

However, the seed planted has not ripened as the institution is yet an aspiration. The only

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hurdle, legally and technically, is the non-availability of the Leader of Opposition, required for appointment of the Lokpal, as no party could secure sufficient seats in the legislature to qualify as such. This has continued since the general elections. But surely remedy is available through an amendment in law which should not be problem with massive majority of the ruling party. It is a step that would not elicit an opposition from any quarter as all political parties are publicly committed to deal with the menace of corruption. Consensus often happens in seeking privileges, and other issues like raising the eligibility income of the 'creamy layer' to a substantial amount, a move that no party dare oppose for fear of a reaction.

Till the stalemate is resolved, the benefits of the Act shall not be available. It has become a dead letter right at its inception, a tragedy of sorts, and a sad case of a child decapitated at birth, even though it can be resuscitated with little effort if there is a strong will. But if the doable is avoided, then one has a reason to suspect the intention of ignoring law that exists but is suffocated. It is a case of lawcide (apology for coining a word). And since the promise of law is denied for the last six years, it shall introduce forgetfulness. The civil society is quiet having achieved it, the government is finding an alibi for postponement, and public in general, though disillusioned, shall accept the 'new normal' and become apathetic and cynical.

It is classic case of 'design' camouflaging the 'compulsion'.

Integrity Pact

The following courses were conducted:

1. Training Workshop on "Probity in Public Procurement & Integrity Pact" was organized on 19th May 2017 at Hotel Claridges, New Delhi. Central Vigilance Commissioner Shri K. V. Chowdary was the Chief Guest of the workshop. Other distinguished speakers were Shri V. Ravindran, Dir. General, CAG; Shri Ashwini

Nagia, ED-MM, ONGC; Shri Shivendra Kumar, Sr. Procurement Specialist, World Bank; Shri V. K. Jain, Former ED, Air India; Ms. Usha Saxena, Technical Director, e-Procurement Implementation Division, NIC; Shri Ashish Goel, Corporate Quality Head, mJunction Services Pvt. Ltd.; Ms. Bulbul Sen, IRS (Retd.), IEM, OFB; Shri M. P. Juneja, IEM, AAI and Former CTE, CVC; Shri Anup Mehra, IEM, SAIL and Former Director (Commercials), MOIL Ltd.; Shri Arvind Srivastava, ED, Vig. (Stores), Railway Board; Shri Subhash Chanda Aggarwal, Eminent RTI Activist; besides Shri I. C. Srivasatava, Chairman, TII; Mrs. Madhu Bhalla, Vice-Chair, Shri S.R. wadhwa, Board Member; and Shri A. K. Jain, Treasurer, TII. About 100 delegates from leading Public Sector Undertakings, private sectors, Independent External Monitors (IEMs) and Chief Vigilance Officers (CVO) had participated.

2. Training program for the Shipping Corporation of India on theme of "Best Practices in Public Procurement and Integrity Pact" on 6 April 2017 at Powai, Mumbai.
3. "Red Flags in Public Procurement and Real Estate Regulatory Act" on April 7, 2017 at Navi Mumbai for CIDCO.
4. National seminar was organized by TII-Kerala Centre on the theme of "Transparency in Public Procurement" on 29th April 2017 at Kochi. Shri E. Shreedharan was the Chief Guest of the Seminar.
5. Chairperson Justice Kamleshwar Nath delivered Lecture on "Role of Vigilance" on 27th June 2017 to Vigilance Officers of the Railways at Indian Railway Institute of Transport Management at Lucknow.

TII reviewed the Integrity Pact Contract of the Shipping Corporation of India as per the latest Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the CVC.

Corporate Support Forum (CSF)

The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC), Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL), National Hydropower Corporation Ltd (NHPC), Hindustan Steelworks Corporation Limited (HSCL), Konkan Railway & Telecommunication Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) joined the forum.

ALAC

36 complaints were received during the quarter April-June 2017.

1. Shri Manish Gohel, Employee, Gujarat Gas Limited (GGL) through an e-mail dated Jun 11, 2017 alleged corruption in Gujarat Gas Limited. The matter was referred to the Chief Vigilance Officer of Gujarat Gas Limited for appropriate action.
2. Regarding denial of grade pay, Shri Jagdish Prasad was advised to invoke the RTI Act for which a draft questionnaire was prepared for him.
3. ALAC team intervened in a complaint filed by Shri Mohan Kumar (name changed) against Government Aided School regarding land allotment by government land and its usage. He was advised to invoke the RTI Act for which a draft petition was prepared.

IDRF Project

IDRF, a civil service organization in USA has funded a project for Promoting Tools of Good Governance & Transparency through multiple interventions in state of Bihar and Jharkhand from June 2017- May 2018.

Study

TII has undertaken a study of the of the functioning of State Information Commission and Lokayuktas for which data has been sought.

First Shri Shambhu Dutta Memorial Lecture

To acknowledge the contribution of Late Shri Shambhu Dutta, a Memorial Lecture was held on 15 April 2017 at IIC, New Delhi, in collaboration with Gandhian Seva & Satyagraha Brigade. It was delivered by Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar, Founder & Trustee, ADR, on “Electoral Reforms”

State Chapter Activities

Rajasthan Centre

1. During the annual general meeting on 30 April 2017, the new management committee was unanimously elected. It constituted as such: Justice S.N. Bhargava, Former C.J. Sikkim High Court – **Patron**; Shri G.S. Hora, Former Law Secretary, Rajasthan – **Chairman**; Shri J.K. Sachdeva, IAS (Retd) – **Vice-Chairman**; Shri Rajendra Bhanawat, IAS (Retd) - **Vice-Chairman**; Shri S.S. Bissa, IAS (Retd) – **Secretary General**; Shri V.K. Singhvi – **Secretary**; and Shri Alok Kulshrestha – **Treasurer**.
2. Vice-Chairman Shri Rajendra Bhanawat delivered a lecture to 2016 Batch of IAS officers of Rajasthan Cadre at HCRIPA (OTS) on effective performance in a transparent manner. 1 June.
3. On 6th June Shri Rajendra Bhanawat, Vice-Chairman, addressed officers responsible for urban governance at the OTS on ‘Team Building and Motivation’.
4. A Two days seminar (21-22 June) was organized in collaboration of Indian Institute of Public Administration. Shri R.K. Huda, I.P.S. (Retd.), former DGP Rajasthan, and Visiting Professor in American Universities delivered a talk on “The United Nations Performance and Future”. Chairman I.C. Shrivastava delivered a lecture on “Ethical Values and Success Mantras”. TII- Rajasthan centre

chairman Shri G.S. Hora also addressed the audience on moral values in life. On both days about 150 participants attended the seminar.

5. On 27th June 2017, at Rajasthan High Court, Chairman Shri G.S. Hora addressed Para Legal volunteers on communication skills, observation, listening and drafting skills with specific emphasis on ethical and moral values.
6. On 29th June 2017 on the occasion of Eid festival, Chairman G.S. Hora, at the invitation of Minority Commission, delivered a talk on Religion & Moral values. The conference hall was full with audience.
7. Rajasthan centre Chairman Shri G.S. Hora, Vice-Chapter Shri J.K. Sachdeva and Shri Alok Kulshrestha, Treasurer met Shri Suresh Choudhary, Chief Information Commissioner, Rajasthan, in his office to explore the possibility of co-operation in creating awareness about the RTI Act.
8. On 29th June 2017 Shri Rajendra Bhanawat, Vice-Chairman and Shri Alok Kulshrestha addressed a group of officers from Bhutan, at Jaipuria Institute of Management on various aspects of team building and leadership in organization particularly in govt.

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Uttar Pradesh Centre

1. TII-U. P. Center noticed that many MLAs/MPs had been re-elected though criminal cases of heinous crimes were pending against them since their earlier term. It was also noticed that some non-compoundable offences had been compounded. The matter has been taken up with High Court of Allahabad on 23rd May 2017. Another letter regarding functioning of investigation and prosecution was addressed to the State Government on 30th June 2017.
2. In spite of efforts made earlier, none of the State PSUs had opted for Integrity Pact. It was decided to take up the matter afresh with the new State Government.
3. E-mail was received by Chairperson on 14th June 2017 from Sri P.S.Bawa, Advisor TII, regarding corruption prevailing in Lucknow Jail over visitors' meeting their relative-inmates in the Jail. Chairperson forwarded the same to IG Prisons Sri P.K.Mishra for necessary action.

IG has confirmed telephonically that action was taken promptly and Superintendent Jail and some related staff had been transferred. IG suggested that we could have a reook at the developments

Donation Received

Name of Donor	Rs.
1. Shri M.N.Krishnamurthy, IPS(Retd.) Krishna, 3C-910, HRBR Layout Kalyan Nagrai Block Bangalore - 560043 (Karnataka)	10,000/-
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