



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

Quarterly

EDITORIAL

Triumph of civil society

For the first time in India, the *vox populi* is *vox dei* when the voice of people, at once articulate, effective, audacious, loud, and uncompromising has influenced the thinking of both the judiciary and politics that seem to have taken note of straws in the wind. The mute disdain of sensible people against corrupt and criminal-politicians, continuing since long, had not pierced into the blocked ears of political bosses. It was only the uproar of the middle, educated, aware, and change seeking class that created the repulsive wave against the decision of the cabinet and compelled the scion of the family and a big level political functionary, to express his disdain and anguish at the ordinance that was diabolic in content and regressive in effect. It was the open rebellion of the party against the government, or a face-saving device for both, who had erred under the pressure from most of the political parties that have criminal legislators - both at the national and the state levels.

The tone of the civil society was set by a string of decisions by the Supreme Court and the Chief Information Commissioner that attempted to read sense in the voice of people and reason out the implications of people's desire for a clean politics which they found to be reasonable, justifiable, and fair. The right thinking does not go in vain and triumphs in the long run. The pursuit of fundamental issues to ensure transparency in functioning of political parties by bringing them under the regime of Right to Information, delegitimizing the continuity of convicted legislators to continue till their appeals are decided (which never happened but provided a breather to them to complete their tenure and still contest), right of people to reject candidates, etc., are like detergents to cleanse the political process.

To complete the circle of reforms, three more initiatives are required. The transparency of funds of political parties, inner party democracy, and prevention of individuals charged with heinous criminal offences six months before the elections are announced shall fulfill the mandate. Besides disabling the criminals from contesting elections, the last proposed reform shall also ensure that the politician does not play delaying tactics with the system in case he feels he is innocent.

Whatever be the loopholes that parties would try to search and neutralize the stipulations through stratagems of amendments, one thing is clear. The parties dare not hook their fortunes to the win-ability of the candidates but must stress upon acceptability by people. One assumes that no party would risk engagement with criminals facing charges despite the principle of jurisprudence on innocent till proved guilty or the money that such a candidate could ensure, because there is awakening and enlightenment all around.

The civil society has scored in spite of a recalcitrant government and incorrigible political class.

ELECTIONS TO BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

In the delayed BoM elections for 2012 held in July, Shri Omkar Razdan, Shri Jitendra Kohili, Shri I C Srivastava, Col C M Ramakrishnan, Col K R Dharmadhikary, Shri Pankaj Agarwal and Gp. Capt. S C Bahri were elected.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING : AUG 3

After congratulating newly elected BOM members, the Chairman looked forward for their fruitful cooperation in eradicating corruption. Pointing out towards huge election cost, he emphasised the need of economizing it in view of precarious core fund position. Hence, he requested all to mobilise donations from India and abroad. Further, he hoped to receive TII's reaccreditation by June-end.

Thereafter, Chairman highlighted TII activities, including the winning an award at Global Development Network (GDN)'s in June on Dev.

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Pact, forthcoming MoU on IP with HAL on Aug 5th and also Defence Minister's being the Chief Guest at an IP's Impact Workshop & landmark performance of Dir (IP) on revealing "Cartel & Collusion in Indian Industry"; significant activities of ALAC, including Help-lines & training of interns and promotion of TII's aims & objectives in rural areas through *Pahal*. He also informed that a TI-S Team would be visiting shortly to promote a Strategic Plan and Fund Raising Project. Then, Chairman released a Rajasthan Chapter's Brochure. Shri I C Srivastava briefly explained its details

Minutes of 13th May BoM meeting were reviewed & confirmed with modifications in para 4 "The BoM accepted the Screening Committee's recommendations for 26 members as Active Members.

The Meeting was informed about the Action Taken on the decisions taken in the last BoM Meeting. These included the progress in proposed amendments in R&R and executions of decisions of BoM and EC. A few members expressed concern about direct communication by the TII member/staff with TI-S, leading to considerable embarrassment. Hence, it was decided that such matters may be referred to TII's reconstituted Ethics Committee. The Board appointed Shri I C Srivastava as its Chairman. The Board reaffirmed the change in the nomenclature of Dev. Pact (DP) to 'Pact for Corruption-free Development'. On the need for a TII member to obtain TII's prior permission before joining another NGO, it was decided that such restrictions were imposed in the interest of efficiency and integrity of TII under its R&R 14(k) & (l). In view of TI-S insistence for the appointment of a Communication Officer (CO) for the ALAC, it was decided that the CO would also attend TII's other activities. Details were also shared of TI-S' RPM Meeting held at Cambodia. These included the discussions on TII's re-accreditation with the TI-S Regional AP Director and Regional Coordinator. Other decisions include -

- (i) While finalizing the TII's Performance Manual, the concerned Committee should also consider the views received in response of the Chairman's "vexed question" circulated in March.
- (ii) ED should elaborate the existing STRATEGIC PLAN in consultation with Sri Kohili before it is discussed with the visiting TI-S Team.

- (iii) ED, PDs and all members make their best efforts to raise funds.
- (iv) ALAC to start Help-lines in Lucknow, Bhopal and Dehradun.
- (v) 21 TII Membership applications were approved
- (vi) Two vacancies in the TII's Screening Committee were filled up by nominating Shri J.S.Rana and Shri M S Koacher.

INTEGRITY PACT

HAL became the first Defence PSU to sign MoU for IP on 5 Aug., A state level IP workshop was organized at Bhopal on 21 Sept., IP cell has been also approached by MECON, EIL, Neveli Lignite Corporation sought clarifications on IP-related issues. TII received IP violation cases by a) AAI b) CCL c) BHEL .IP cell is pursuing a case of corruption and whistleblower protection in ICICI Lombard

PROJECT PAHAL

Pahal organised four one day-workshops on Right to Information to educate rural deprived communities, and youths at Muzaffarpur, Supaul, Madhubani and Darbhanga in Bihar. Project evaluation for 2011-12 was conducted in Bihar. A Base Line Survey was done to create benchmark information for proper monitoring & evaluation and to ensure proper implementation of project.

ALAC

The ALAC Team organized **Mobile ALAC** outside the Moolchand, Nehru Place, and Govindpuri Metro Stations from 8 am to 6 pm. to inform common man about the availability of free legal advice. Over 60 interns and staff sat outside the Metro Stations. They were trained on a wide range of topics. ALAC recd over 300 complaints on issues like Birth/Death Certificate, Ration Card, LPG Connection, Electricity Bills, Voter ID-Card, Passport, PAN Card, Police, women safety, auto – rickshaw, etc.

NGO Partnership Meet & awareness campaign in Ranchi: An ALAC team visited Ranchi on July 9 to assess the ALAC achievements. At a local level, a no. of NGOs, social welfare committees etc. were shared the helpline number to spread awareness and guide victims of corruption. The Team also met the Director of Ranchi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) and head of Dainik Bhaska. During a half day campaign, ALAC received more than 35

complaints related to BPL card, Ration Card, Voter ID etc.

Launch of ALAC (anti-corruption) helpline in Bhopal: A Helpline: - 9009 992 323 was launched in Bhopal on 21st Sept at the National Institute of Technical Teacher's Training & Research, Bhopal by Former DGP, Shri SK Rout. ALAC Bhopal helped over 200 people with issues about various govt. schemes like scholarships, pensions, Ladli Lakshmi Yojna, Sahri Mazdoor Rojgar Karyakram etc. It received over 2000 calls within 20 days of its launch. Dir (ALAC) was interviewed on a radio Red FM Bhopal to promote the helpline and spread awareness about ALAC.

On the sidelines, it organized a discussion on strengthening the Public Grievance System. It was attended, among others, by Shri Pankaj Agarwal, TII Vice-Chairman and Shri Omkar Razdan, TII Board Member, Ms. Anupama Jha, TII Exec Dir, and Shri Ajay Dubey (RTI Activist)

CSR Meet A discussion was organized on "Corporate Social Responsibility and Governance" on 27 Sept at IIC, New Delhi. Shri S Mittal, Secy, SRRF was the Keynote Speaker. To link CSR activities with governance issues, he has come out with a SRRF report. It was attended by CSR heads of many private and public enterprises.

DEVELOPMENT PACT (DP)

Work on Corruption Free DP project started in Jhanjharpur (Madhubani distt,) by holding ward and review committee meetings.

ED also addressed on "Dealing with the challenges of Bribery Solicitation" at the audit and consulting firm, Deloitte, on 13th Sept. and at the Conference on Corruption organized by American Con Institute in Delhi.

As desired by IDRF and TI-S, ED visited Dharmasati village in Chhapra district of Bihar, where 23 school children, all under 10, died after consuming midday meal to study the problem. This meal was cooked in oil suspected to be laced with insecticide.

Lt. Col. K.R. Dharmadhikari : He addressed at six colleges and three Universities in Vidharbha (Maharashtra) on Youth for Good Governance in from Aug. 21 to 24. He has been invited again in Nov to address their annual Meet. He was also involved

in MDGs by visiting various rural areas for employment training, skill development etc for poverty elevation, health, introducing Tele-medicine project, potable water, etc

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Rajasthan : The PIL filed in November 2012 regarding unwarranted collection of toll tax by National and State highways contractors has been transferred for hearing in the Supreme Court. Another PIL has been finally disposed of in favor of TII Rajasthan Chapter directing the State Government to file replies in all the stay cases pending in the High Court against officers for issue of prosecution sanctions by empowered authorities.

Chapter has entered into tie-up with Rajasthan State Legal Authority which agreed to allow TI members to participate actively in their awareness camps to highlight need for transparency in government offices to ensure exercise of rights by citizens.

The Chapter has launched essay and debate programs for city schools and colleges to bring about awareness among students for ethical conduct in life. The Chapter is also organizing an essay competition amongst the students aspiring for the IAS/RAS services in the Parishkar Institute in Jaipur.'

It released a brochure titled: 'अष्टाचार मुक्त भारत के लिए संकल्प' at the TII BoM Meeting in New Delhi on 3rd Aug. and organized awareness programme at Poddar Institute of Management and Malviya Colleges through debate competitions in Sept.

A memo. was submitted to Governor with a copy to Chief Secy Rajasthan suggesting measures for expeditious disposal cases against corrupt officers and constitution of additional anti-corruption courts.

Chapter interacted with TI Nepal and Bangladesh visiting representatives on 7th Oct for a better understanding about anti-corruption movement.

Chapter's representatives suggested changes in the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill 2013 to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on 9th Oct at the State Sectt, (Jaipur). Suggestions were sent to Jt Secy, Rajya Sabha by e-mail. The Chapter enrolled 8 new members.

Tamilnadu : The Chapter participated in meetings on (i) Strategies for consolidating Anti-Corruption

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Movement by Nandini Voice for the Deprived and other NGOs on Aug 3 on completion of its 6th year as an Anti-Corruption Helpline & RTI Guidance Centre; (ii) the Coalition Against Corruption on Aug. 10 to adopt new strategies in enrolling youth for a course conducted by the Academy of Honest Politics, on Aug 22 to induct more NGOs for the Anti-Corruption & RTI; (iv) "Satta Panchayat Helpline" (legal Panchayat) jointly organized by Makkal Sakthi Iyakkam and other NGOs jointly so that the people could clarify their grievances and avail Government benefits without bribes; (v) a meeting of about 300 people and students on "Corruption/Bribe Free Society" in Sept. at Hotel Ashoka, Egmore, Chennai. Besides, a Citizens Awareness Rally was conducted against Bribery & Corruption at Elliots Beach on Aug 18 in co-ordination with other NGOs.

TII-TN has undertaken a study of the implementation of the 73rd & 74th Constitutional Amendments to ascertain the ground realities, particularly the devolution of powers and resources to the local bodies. It has filed a no. of RTI applications in various depts..

APPLICATION FOR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

All the TI India members, who are desirous of becoming Active Member, are requested to send their application on the prescribed form. This Form can either be downloaded from TI India's website: www.transparencyindia.org or may be obtained from TI India's Delhi 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

TI India's Annual Events

1. TII's **Annual General Body Meeting** is to be held on Dec. 14, 2013 at 2.30 PM at Balwant Ray Mehta Vidya Bhawan, Greater Kailash Part II, New Delhi. All Members are requested to attend it.

2. All are cordially invited to **TI India's Annual Lecture** to be delivered by **Jornalist Gurcharan Das** at 6.30 PM on December 14, 2013 at the IIC Lodhi Road, New Delhi

TI INDIA'S DONORS

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7. Shri S.R. Wadhwa A-445, Defence Colony, New Delhi	1052	10,000
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9. Dr. Sachin Rai M1/2, Vikram Univ. Campus, Ujjain, (MP)	1054	20,000/-
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12. Shri Biren Kumar Gogoi House No.4, Bhagaduttapur, P.O. Kahilipara, Guwati-781019 (Assam)	1058	5,000/-

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.