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EDITORIAL

Who shall bell the cat?

Of corruption, of course. There are three stalwart candidates as leaders in society and movers of change – politics, business, and religion. Who shall succeed in the effort? Having acknowledged that corruption is a serious problem, the three players in the contest must be examined with regard to their capabilities.

Politicians have all the legal power of governance. As heads of ministries, they are heading the executive that exercises powers as per law, rules, and procedures under guidance of political leadership. Can they bring about the desired change? It is doubtful, as the experience of all the years has demonstrated. The politicians are busy with elections all through the year, resolving schism and conflicts in the party, preventing desertions, expanding their region of influence, making loud promises, and finding alibis in their inability to deliver. They have not taken the business of governance seriously as is demonstrated in their behavior in houses of legislature. There is an abysmal low level of seriousness in passing positive and desired

legislation that is designed to deal with the menace of corruption. There are series procrastinations in decision making and the laws remain in limbo for want of notification. This class has dismayed people as problems of education, health, employment, poverty, and infrastructure remain unsolved with no hope of an early resolution. The rule of law is a casualty and impunity of all sorts impedes the effect of good legislation. The politicians, by and large, have lost image of rectitude and influence as lack of probity, transparency, and integrity is apparent in their conduct. Seriousness of purpose seems evading them in the context of personal interest.

How about business houses? The less said the better. They swear by a 'code of conduct', and yet they indulge in bribing public officials for seeking contracts and facilities. They are only interested in maximizing profit. It is they who have stashed money in offshore locations, pay bribes in foreign countries to secure business, evade payment of loans thus adding to the non-performing assets of banks, and have refused to respond to request for adopting Integrity Pledge, a tool proposed by Transparency International India, as a mark of their

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Annual General Meeting - 2016

TI India Next Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2016 is scheduled to be held on 10 December, 2016 Saturday at 15:00 hours. Agenda and other documents will be sent through post and e mail in last week of November 2016.

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.

Annual Subscription for FY 2016-17

As per amended Rules & Regulation, TII members are required to pay Annual Subscription of Rupees 250. The annual subscription for the year 2016-17 is to be paid latest by December 31, 2016, through cheque/ draft in favor of 'Transparency International India', and sent to Qr. No. 4, Lajpat Bhawan, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi – 110024.

Online payment through NEFT can also be made. Intimation of the same may be sent through mail/ sms.

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Members may consider paying of subscription for 3 or 4 years together.

sincerity and commitment. They have rarely supported any initiative dealing with corruption. India is low in Bribe Payers Index thus indicating the propensity of business houses to indulge in malpractices abroad.

Can religion be relied upon? It is the oldest institution in the world trying to put people on the path of rectitude, creating fear of god and thus emphasizing on performance of good deeds. There are texts by prophets, interpreters on a regular basis cajoling people to keep greed, avarice, and accumulations under check. There are institutions, rituals, observance of fasts, penances, pilgrimages, bathing in holy waters, a series of discourses on television by modern gurus, et al, as if there is a dawn of spiritual era that never was. But the impact on the conduct of people is negligible.

So, who is one to be relied upon? Having no hope in these institutions, the individual shall have to rely upon the self. Not all individuals, but a handful of them who are articulate, can see the inadequacies, can speak truth to authority, seek accountability, understand the dynamics of change, have the capacity to pressurize for a positive change; in fact, the intellectual who has feel for the other, compassion, sees himself in the other, can give direction to the discourse on policy, make noises and gather others to pursue the mandate for change. After all, the change has been spearheaded by the thinking lot either in terms of idea generation, or mobilization of faculties to give meaning to existence and struggle for rights, justice, fraternity, equality, dignity, and security.

You alone can bring about change, none else. Therefore, do not sit back and say that nothing can be done and remain sedated in apathy, loss of hope, and dejection at the sight of despondency. Wake up and do your bit. There shall be change. We guarantee.

Integrity Pact

- **Presentation on Integrity Pact:** A detailed presentation was made on Integrity Pact by Ms Jot Prakash Kaur to the Board of Management of Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (RFCL) on August 16, 2016.
- **Feedback on Manual on Rules of Procurement of Goods drafted by Ministry of Finance:** Ms Jot Prakash Kaur, Director IP, drafted a feedback on the Integrity Pact section of the Procurement Manual and circulated it among TII's members and Integrity Pact stakeholders. The final

documents shall be prepared soon.

- **Submission of Project Proposal to Donor:** TII has been approached by UK Transparency Fund for creating awareness on the Bribery Act 2010, in the context of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 among companies in India, bureaucracy and civil society for six months, from October 2016 to February 2017.
- **Preparation of Integrity Pact Compendium:** The Integrity Pact division is working on a compendium on Integrity Pact. It is expected to be completed by end of October 2016.

ALAC

- 39 complaints were received at Delhi on Anti-Corruption Helpline Number (+91-11-26-23-23-23) during July-Sept.
- Shri Ajay Kumar and Shri Brij Bhushan Singh from TII helped in organizing workshop "Income Declarations Schemes 2016" by Delhi Residents' Welfare Associations at Safdarganj Enclave, New Delhi, on 10 August 2016. More than 60 participants from the Resident Welfare Associations, civil society organization and others participated in this program.

Success Stories

- ALAC team received a representation from Mrs. Neha W/o Shri Anoop (name changed) aged around 20 years where she claimed that she has been under treatment of Acharya Shri Bhikshu Government Hospital since December 2015. As claimed by patient, her expected date of delivery was 5 September 2016. On that day, Acharya Shri Bhikshu Government Hospital referred her to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital (DDU) but DDU hospital refused to admit and operate. After TII intervention, the OSD to the minister of health and head of hospital sent written reply that treatment to the patient was ensured.
- ALAC team received a complaint from United Kingdom citizen of Indian origin Ms Sneha (name changed) regarding police inaction in NCR and seeking legal support on the issue. After careful perusal of case, the matter was referred to Director General of Police, Haryana, for immediate intervention after which action was initiated.

Engagement with the Government & others

- Executive Director Shri Rama Nath Jha had a meeting with Dr. B. S. Bisht, Associate Professor, National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG),

Department of Personnel & Training, Govt. of India, to carry joint research study on "Assessment on Effectiveness of Public Service Grievance Cell in India". NCGG and TII in principle agreed to carry out the study to analyze the existing effectiveness of Public Grievance Cell from the government's and citizen point of view.

- **TII meeting with Asian Development Bank Officials:** On August 12, 2016, Shri Pankaj Kumar and Ms Jot Prakash Kaur, Project Directors of TII participated in a consultation held by Asian Development Bank to deliberate on increasing their engagement with the civil society.
- Executive Director had a meeting with Mr. Bharat Agarwal Co founder of Say2gov regarding innovation of new tool which would enable better communication between the citizens and the government of Delhi using information and communication technology.
- Treasurer Shri A. K Jain participated at Consultation Sessions for the Country Safeguards System Assessment for Power Grid Corporation of India in New Delhi on 17 August 2016.
- Former chairman P. S. Bawa participated in the workshop on 24 August 2016 for development of a module on Ethics & Anti Corruption Strategies for trainees, at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration Mussoorie, Uttarakhand.
- Chairman I. C. Srivastava and former Chairman P. S. Bawa held meeting with the Secretary Shri Tapan Ray, Ministry of Corporate Affairs for inclusion of "anti-corruption and/or good governance" as one of the activities for Corporate Social Responsibility in Schedule VII of Companies Act 2013. The matter was followed. Decision is awaited.
- Executive Director participated in a live panel discussion on the issue of Black Money, organized by Bloomberg Television, New Delhi.

Activities of State Chapters

Rajasthan

- Chairman I. C. Srivastava wrote a letter to the CM, Rajasthan, for restoration of RTI Education in syllabus for school of Rajasthan.
- RTI Cell was started at Prakrit Bharati Academy, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur, to educate, train, and create awareness of RTI Act, 2005 under guidance of Shri J. K. Sachdeva, IAS (Retd.).

Regular programs in different educational institutions were being held.

- Consequent on election of Shri Srivastava as chairman of TI India, a Special General Body meeting of TII-Rajasthan held on 27 August unanimously elected Shri G.S. Hora as the Interim Chairman of TII-Rajasthan till elections of the chapter in December, 2016.
- A national seminar was organized by TII-Rajasthan in association with MKSS on "Awareness about Government Accountability" on 27 August, 2016 at Jaipur. Shri Nikhil Dey, Co-Founder of MKSS, was the key-note speaker. Shri P. N. Bhandari, IAS (Retd.) presided. Shri Dey mentioned that draft bill titled "Rajasthan Bhagidari, Jawabdehi aur Samajik Anekshan Bill-2016" sought to empower people to secure an accountable and participatory governance.
- Shri Srivastava, Chairman, presided over the valedictory session of the International Conference on Transforming Business Practices for Innovation, Development and Governance at Amity University, Jaipur, on September 2, 2016. He specially stressed upon use of RTI Act as an instrument towards transparency in governance. He also made a strong case for use of CSR funds for anti-corruption activities.

Uttar Pradesh

- The U.P. Chapter is pursuing the issue of pending cases of heinous crime against sitting M.Ps/ M.L.As.
- Deeply concerned over illegal occupation of 260 acres Government land of Jawahar Bagh, Mathura, leading to massive violence on 2 February in process of eviction of squatters, encroachers, and trespassers by police, resulting in death of Santosh Yadav, Station House Officer of P.S. Farah, and fatal injuries to Mukul Dwivedi, S.P. City Mathura, the U.P. Chapter resolved to move the Government of U.P. to amend, and clarify the terms of reference of One Man Commission of Inquiry of Mr. Justice (Retd.) Imtiyaz Murtaza, contained in the Government Notification dt.07.06.16. On July 11, 2016 the proposal with objects, reasons and proposed amended provisions was sent to the Governor, the Chief Minister, Justice Imtiyaz Murtaza, and the Chief Secretary.
- The Chapter shall organize a seminar on "Law and Order, Governance & Peoples' Options" in the month of November 2016.

Chairman's Appeal to Members

Dear Esteemed Colleague,

I have succeeded my illustrious predecessor, Shri P. S. Bawa IPS (Retd.), who has had long and fruitful innings in consolidating TII movement. My tasks, though challenging, are well defined, to my satisfaction.

As life members, I am sure you are conscious of the onerous responsibility of promoting movement of transparency in public offices throughout the country in the prevalent environment and for fighting against corruption which is corroding the vitals of our body politic and civil society.

International Anti Corruption Day is observed every year on December 9 and was launched on December 9, 2003 by the General Assembly of the United Nations as a way to raise awareness about corruption. TII is celebrating Anti Corruption Week from December 9, 2016 – December 15, 2016. Please consider organizing at least one activity during this week. TII headquarter will be happy to support you with logistics like advocacy material, books on RTI/RTS, Calendar of TII, pamphlet, poster, note pad and pen for conference, backdrop design, etc.

It is in this context and perspective that I would urge and call upon you kindly to focus on the following important facets of TII movement:

- Use of RTI Act to seek information on issues of common public interest.
- Seeking Police, Judicial, Electoral, and Legislative Reforms through advocacy.
- Lectures, Seminars, and Workshops – to create a demand for good governance, as well as influencing bureaucrats towards good governance.

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- Ethical Education in Schools, Colleges, and Business Schools – to motivate students at the formative stage of their development.
- Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) providing free and legal advice & assistance to witnesses and victims of corruption.

I am sure this would enable you to select an area of involvement. You may seek information from us should you so require. We believe that you can contribute in creating a discourse on some of these aspects in area of your operation and interest.

I look forward to having more interaction with you. At the same time we expect to be informed of your initiatives. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us on anti-corruption issues.

I. C. Srivastava, IAS (Retd.)

Chairman, TII

Email: chair@transparencyindia.org

**TI India's (ALAC)
Anti-Corruption Help-Line
New Delhi (011-26 23 23 23)**

Donation Received

Name of Donors	Rs.
1. Col. B. L. Bhatt (Rtd.) C-10, Pamposh Enclave New Delhi - 110048	30,000/-
2. Sindhu Charitable Society 132, Katara Mansion Dr. A. B. Road, Worli Naka, Mumbai- 18	10,000/-
3. Shri Arun Gurtoo 43, Baghira Appartments, E-5, Arera Colony, Bhopal- 462 016	5,000/-
4. Shri Rustam R. Dalal Plot 5, Naushir Bharucha Road, Mumbai – 400 007, Maharashtra	5,000/-
5. Shri P. N. Thakur A-4/236, Konark Apartments. Kalkaji Extension, New Delhi – 110019	1,000/-