

Federation of Anti - Corruption Teams, India. (FACT INDIA)

Annual Report for the year 2009-2010.

India is having all the natural resources. India is rich in its marine, mineral and forest resources. If the revenue from each of these sources, directed properly to the government, Indian government would have been very rich by now. India would not be looking up to other foreign countries for financial aid.

If the benefits and schemes charted out by the govt. during the 62 years of Independence reached the public properly as planned, then 23 percent of the current Indian population may not be living below the poverty line. According to statistical reports, only 16 paise per rupee allotted in the country's laid out schemes reached its citizens.

In the past, foreigners looted India's rich heritage and wealth. But now our people with the help of politicians are doing plunder and have treasured the same as black money in more than 20 foreign countries. In Swiss bank alone more than Rs.72 lakh crores black money have been treasured. **This amount is equivalent to our country's budget for 15 years. A small part of this amount is sufficient to clear off our country's entire foreign debt.** Money from developed countries like America also was stacked in the Swiss bank. But most were recovered by these countries themselves after taking suitable actions. We are living in a world where technology is so advanced that we can recover conversations transpired between two persons over the phone 6 months ago. Our own police department's efficiency is compared to that of Scotland's. But we don't utilize such advanced technology to find out the facts and figures of this black money till now because of political reasons. The root cause of this problem is none other than bribe and corruption. FACT India was born to destroy this ruthless demon; FACT India was born to establish India as a super power.

Several organizations are relentlessly fighting over the past few years with the same goal – to fight the practice of bribery and corruption. Even though their efforts have yielded fruits, the practice is still prevalent. What can we do to put a check on this? After 200 years of India's struggle for freedom, **Gandhiji's** non-violence was the key that won us independence. What he did was to bring the people together and succeeded in his efforts. With the same principle in mind, FACT India was inaugurated under the presidentship of **Dr. M. S. Udayamurthy** and under the able guidance of **Dr. N. Sethuraman**.

The main goal of FACT India is to bring like-minded people together, educate them about how their fundamental birth rights can be achieved without giving bribe, how to bring about changes in existing administrative loopholes and about how to bring into force new laws to eradicate corruption.

About 40 separate teams that have been fighting corruption individually in their own terms have come together under this Federation. Each zone and district has their representatives under this Federation. In Tamil Nadu, FACT India is proud to be the only organization that is effectively functioning to fight corruption in all the districts of Tamil Nadu.

FACT India was founded on 31st March 2009 with the motto - *“Be the change that you want to see in the world”*. It has enlightened several people since its inception by conducting training on both Right to Information Act (RTI) and on the personal front – self development. Several training camps have been organized in district level to create awareness as well. Media has also helped in the education process and spread the

public about the organization.

RTI Act is considered as the second independence since our country's independence 58 years ago. We need to specifically mention that the public is benefitting from this Act and fulfilling their own requirements without resorting to bribe in spite of the lethargy and inefficiency of the Tamil Nadu Information Commission. Persons using RTI Act as a weapon to get information are under constant threat in several places. Our Federation has provided support to such persons. Our motto – “*Satisfaction through Service*” {“Be happy by making others happy”} have helped to serve several people to fulfill their birthrights without resorting to bribe or corruptive practices.

Under the advice of our Patron, **S P Mathur**, IPS, as per Sections 4 and 5 of the RTI Act several departments have made their information public by posting them in their respective websites.

FACT India has helped to obtain education loans from banks thus serving as a crucial stepping stone in their lives. It has helped several others to get their patta, ration cards, water connections, house plan approvals, and encroachment removals etc ... Most persons who requested for help with their EB requirements fulfilled without giving any bribe.

We have taken several steps to eradicate corruption in the Fisheries department. Faculty selection in Veterinary University saw several levels of corruption and this was exposed by FACT India. Misconduct in the Education department and Pollution Control Board were brought to light. Action was taken against Housing Board, Postal department and Passport offices. Our very own “Jhansi Rani” - **Tmy.P. Saranayagi**, Bank Manager(Retd) has helped the DVAC to arrest corrupt officials.

As per the records as on today, Our Federation stands first to get orders for the maximum amount of Rs.25,000/- through Tamil Nadu Information Commission on several officials in various departments including Police and Revenue departments.

We have conducted camps, training sessions in schools and colleges with the scope of creating a corruption-free next generation. To eradicate corruption in the education sector, we have taken steps to eliminate the compulsory payments demanded by most schools. Students posing as teachers exposed a major scandal in this sector and this was brought to the notice of Anna University with sufficient proof. This is to be noted as one of our major achievements. It is our duty to stop the educational institutions from collecting capitation fees.

Another important milestone in our success story was the removal of Nambedu Panchayat President in Tiruvannamalai District on corruption charges. Lots more are to be done in this area.

While we have been continuing in our efforts to serve the public and help them achieve a corrupt free nation, we realized the importance of having a website to reach the masses. It was the need of the hour. To achieve this, ISRO Scientist, **Dr. T S Balasubramanian** stepped up to conceptualize, visualize and shape a website for FACT India. Special mention should be given to **Ms. Subha Jawahar** and **Mr. Nazar Hussian** for helping in this venture also. The website – **factindia.org** is another milestone in our success story and it has been dedicated to the public – again with the motto to serve them better.

Delivering news in a video format has a much larger impact than news that is delivered in textual form. This vision was also fulfilled with the help from **Dr. N. Sethuraman** – both morally and financially. **factindia.tv** was born and this is yet

another milestone in our success story.

When we thought about ways to fund all these new developments – we came up with a solution, Electronic Clearing Service. Today we have about 35 members who donate monthly to our Federation. We are very happy to share this news with you. Thanks and our heartfelt gratitude to them. We are in much need of funds and we do sincerely hope to have more donors in the future.

Our country has witnessed the growth of several organizations and trusts. They have sprung up like anthills on the ground. Most of these organizations and trusts are reluctant to reveal their incomes and expenses. This is the prevalent culture as said in most journals. While these organizations are started with a true good intention, they change their goals as they grow – to an extent where they become selfish and corrupt. FACT India sincerely wishes not to follow suit and truly intends to change this misconception. We have revealed our every single transaction – income, expense and donations (voucher wise) and made it completely transparent for one and all. Anyone can view the records online. We are proud to announce that FACT India is the only organization that maintains such a transparent financial status. We are a true model to our country in this regard.

Our Founder, **Dr. N. Sethuraman** has provided us with office space, computers and their accessories, funds our employees and meets their food requirements. He tirelessly motivates us to work and he deserves a very special mention at this moment. **Dr. R V S Surendran** and **Baba Shankar** of Classic Farm who provide us with constant financial aid also deserve a special mention. All the other donors who provide us a monthly contribution deserve our special mention. Gracious gratitude and appreciation to the above members.

We have inculcated a confidence in the minds of the public that we as a Federation are existing to solve their problems. Several leading dailies are constantly watching our every move because we are popular among the masses and that we are people friendly. Even though we are proud to share these facts with you, we still have a long way to go. It has been one year since we started this Federation and we are still working on solving everyday public issues.

Eradicating corruption is our biggest goal. To achieve this we need more funds. We need more volunteers. We need to appoint a few more employees. Only then we can draw up an action plan and work towards achieving this goal.

“Serving public is the ultimate satisfaction. Anyone who has not done so is still an incomplete person and will not experience true happiness.” It is our humble and sincere request to please join us in our venture to eradicate corruption and thereby derive true happiness. Your time is valuable to us. Even if you are unable to dedicate much time for this cause, you can still share your thoughts, advice and suggestions. We also request you to please contribute your might to ease our financial burden. **To achieve our challenging goal – “Eradicate Corruption from Every Corner of the Nation”, we humbly request you to donate and support our open minded, sincere and dedicated effort.** We sincerely wish for your blessings as we continue in our venture to achieve our goal.

Thanking you!

(T Retna Pandian)

General Secretary