



# **India Against Corruption**

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**ANNUAL CORE COMMITTEE MEETING** of the India Against Corruption *jan andolan* ("IAC") held on 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 at New Delhi coincident with the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention for Right to Information by the Central Information Commission.

## **Record of proceedings**

1) The meeting is called to order at 13:30 Hrs by Shri Sarbajit Roy, National Convenor. The following are present:-

- a) Er. Sarbajit Roy (New Delhi)
- b) Er. C.J.Karira ( Secunderabad)
- c) Mr. Veeresh Malik (New Delhi)
- d) Mr. Hitendra Parihar (Nagaur)
- e) Mr. Manoj Pai (Ahmedabad)

Leave of absence:

- a) Er. N.S. Venkataraman (Chennai)
- b) Sh. Md. Muzibur Rehman (Gevra)
- c) Dr. Sandeep Gupta (Hisar).

2) The Committee unanimously agreed that meeting will be chaired by Mr. Veeresh Malik.

**3) The events of the previous year are reported / recorded as follows:-**

- a) It was publicly announced on 02 August 2012 evening by Sh. Arvind Kejriwal and his friends who were on an "indefinite fast" under the banner of "India Against Corruption" that the national anti-

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corruption movement would take a political nature/turn including by forming a political party and contesting elections.

- b) This unilateral announcement by Arvind Kejriwal met with considerable internal opposition within IAC movement (which is ideologically against direct participation in politics). Arvind's announcement was viewed by IAC as a device to distract from the popular dissatisfaction with demand for Lokpal Bill after overuse of methods like *satyagraha* and repeated fasting (*anshan*) caused IAC to lose public support across India.
- c) In the surcharged atmosphere, a series of public disagreements between the "political" and "apolitical" groups of IAC were being reported in the media affecting the IAC's reputation. The IAC's social networking sites and mailing lists were also hacked, manipulated and misused to wrongly project that the public mood wanted IAC to go political. IAC members and the public at large were being subjected to a barrage of propaganda and were tremendously confused by the "split".
- d) IAC HQ decided that the movement shall remain apolitical, and "Team Arvind" would exit by/on 2 October 2012 after announcing the name of their party which would be different from India Against Corruption's. The cyber war, however, still continued.

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- e) It was in these circumstances that social activist Er. Sarbajit Roy was inducted by IAC's HQ on 17 Oct 2012 to resolve the cyber warring and settle the issue of who would retain / use the India Against Corruption brand, which was entrusted to him *pende lis*, while the funds collection issues were being simultaneously resolved.
- f) On 26<sup>th</sup> October 2012 it was mutually conveyed/agreed to IAC HQ that Arvind and his faction would completely exit from IAC, give up their claims to the IAC name and form their political party with a substantially different name by 26th November 2012. It was also agreed that announcements and campaigns made in the period between 26.10.2012 and 25.11.2012 would not bind / devolve on the other.
- g) It was agreed in principle that the funds collected by Team Arvind till 25th Nov.2012 and with them could be held by them and Team Arvind would be responsible for rendering / settling the accounts to whoever required it.
- h) From 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2012 onwards Er. Sarbajit Roy is nominated as "National Convenor" by IAC HQ to be the public face of the IAC movement. Er. Roy in turn is selecting and nominating the eminent citizens and RTI activists of India known for their integrity and competence to be the IAC's core committee members on a voluntary basis.

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- i) Team Arvind have generally complied with their assurances and on 24.Nov.2012 have floated their organization under name and style of "Aam Aadmi Party" w.e.f 26.Nov.2012 and their erstwhile IAC website [www.indiaagainstcorruption.org](http://www.indiaagainstcorruption.org) was duly disabled by them. Meanwhile on 02.Nov.2012 Er.Roy had booked and started the new IAC official website as [www.indiaagainstcorruption.net.in](http://www.indiaagainstcorruption.net.in) For operational and security reasons the official website is presently redirected to the IAC's Core Committee crabgrass portal - securely hosted on Riseup's activist platform.
- j) Soon after the exit of Team Arvind it became apparent that not all their volunteers had opted to go with them, but were also unwilling to leave the IAC and operate under Er. Roy's stewardship. A fresh round of internecine sniping took place within IAC as volunteers like Kiran Bedi and Sunita Godara visited Ralegan Siddhi and requested IAC veteran "Anna" Hazare to lay claim to IAC's name. They got Mr. Hazare to claim certain payments from the movement and also opened an IAC (Anna) office at South Delhi in the house of a local politician. In turn IAC received counter representations from many volunteers that such persons had diverted substantial funds raised for the movement and were using it to seed Anna's new movement being projected for General.V.K. Singh. On 24.12.2012 Dr. Kiran Bedi publicly requested, by email, to leave the IAC platform/s and has not associated with IAC thereafter.

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- k) By January 2013, the Core Committee and IAC HQ were able to overcome all such obstacles. The IAC (Anna) Delhi office was closed down and "Team Anna v2.0" through Ms. Sunita Godara issued a press statement that "Anna" drops his claim to IAC brand name and would henceforth operate under name of his "BVJA". This set the final seal on the IAC renewal carried out by IAC HQ to instill the patriotic ideology of Hindustan Republican Army (HRA) throughout the movement. However, as a token of recognition to Anna's achievements for the IAC his name would be retained preeminently amongst the IAC's volunteers as long as he so desires. The same courtesy is also being accorded to Shri Shanti Bhushanji and other seniors of IAC movement.
- l) Despite the considerable internal disputes and dissensions, the IAC was able to conduct its affairs which are briefly summarized as follows:-
- (i) The much needed "Charter" for the movement was drafted by an internal sub-Committee. It underwent several versions and was discussed and approved by the primary subscribers on 1-January 2013.
- (ii) The IAC-HQ successfully organised a nation wide protest against the unfortunate gang-rape of a young girl in Delhi on 16.Dec.2012. Unfortunately the mass organised protests resulted in some local differences with Aam Aadmi Party workers and the

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IAC's main mailing lists were again hacked, but were soon restored from the backup facilities.

(iii) IAC was able to submit a comprehensive response to the Justice J.S.Verma Committee which was well appreciated by Justice Verma. Many of IAC's submissions found their way into the Committee's final recommendations. The IAC Core Committee thanks the following IAC subscribers for their team work and heroic effort to prepare the IAC's response in the limited time given to them.

- Maj. Gen (Retd) Pushpendra Singh
- Prof.Dr. Ms. Enakshi Bhattacharya
- Brig (Retd.) J.S. Ahuja
- Ms. Vidyut Kale
- Ms. Purobi Ghose Mohan
- Ms. Rina Mukherji
- Lt Col. (Retd) Pavan Nair
- Lt Col. (Retd) T.T. Kishore
- Er. Babubhai Vaghela
- Mr. Swarup Sarkar
- Dr. Sandip Gupta

m) The Delhi gang-rape episode clearly shows the need for IAC Core Committee to get pulse of our lady subscribers since ladies are equally at the receiving end of corruption and moral decay in modern society. Accordingly IAC shall put in place a gender based sub-agenda and induct many lady members on the Core Committee and other Committees as soon as the present national environment is normalized.

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- n) IAC prepared a draft Manifesto for the *andolan* which clearly defines the roadmap for the operational agenda and objectives of the *andolan*. This Manifesto was circulated and approved by the subscribers by 26.04.2013. It defines IAC as a strictly secular, socialist, apolitical people's movement dedicated to achieving True Swaraj (as envisioned by Tilak and Tagore). By this draft Manifesto the IAC also rejects the Lokpal Bills and the notion that overarching Lokpals can control corruption.
  
- o) On 03-04 March 2013 Er. S. Roy and Mr. Veeresh Malik attended a nation building conference at New Delhi. Many persons like Baba Ramdev previously cooperating with IAC movement were also present for *chintan baithak* sessions where the state of nation was discussed and solutions proposed.
  
- p) IAC had submitted representations to the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission concerning statements issued by Team Arvind in name of IAC in transition period of Oct-Nov 2012. These statements facilitated organised and systematic power theft by mafias in slum clusters and unauthorised colonies, thereby distorting tariffs for honest consumers in planned areas. On 05.07.2013 a closed meeting lasting about 90 minutes was held by the DERC exclusively for IAC to make their tariff presentations to the full Commission. Several submissions by IAC are incorporated in the tariff orders.

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- q) The IAC's Executive members in their individual capacities have done extraordinary work in anti-corruption field using RTI. Special mention may be made of Er. C.J.Karira who brought the CBI back within the RTI ambit on 31.10.2012. However, CBI had subsequently obtained an *ex-parte* stay order from the Delhi High Court. Counsel has been retained to defend Er. Karira's order vigorously and the counter affidavit has been filed and IAC fully expects that the CBI shall seek time to reply to it. Dr. Sandeep Gupta has also systematically used RTI Act to expose a racket of fake professional colleges and another racket in the Department of Atomic Energy's online purchase systems. The CIC has ordered information disclosure in the latter case but the information is still being mischievously withheld.
- r) It is now increasingly clear that the RTI movement in India is virtually dead, because of judicial orders as well as increasingly blatant corruption and anti-activist bias in the Information Commissions. There is also the disturbing trend of close cooperation between a few vested NGOs and Govt/politicians to scuttle RTI Act, which is otherwise an essential and basic tool for anti-corruption activists.
- s) Accordingly IAC Core Committee feels the urgent need to initiate the "*National Campaign to Protect RTI in India*" since the earlier RTI campaigns have proved to be proxies of political forces and deserve to be terminated / boycotted. Efforts are ongoing



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to coordinate IAC's campaign with like minded apolitical RTI forces who want to "Save RTI".

- t) That, as per press reports, on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013 a controversy of alleged funding by Sh. Sitaram Jindal (said to be an uncle of Congress MP Navin Jindal who has been allotted some coal block(s) in "Coalgate") to India Against Corruption to extent of Rs. 25 lakhs was heard in the Supreme Court of India in Coalgate matter. When Mr. Prashant Bhushan (also of Aam Aadmi Party) was asked on this by the Hon'ble Court, he reportedly mentioned those funds were received in name of his trust PCRf (ie. not in name of IAC') and hence there is no conflict of interest whatsoever for him to appear for his client Common Cause and others.
  - u) The IAC mailing lists are functioning smoothly and have achieved their intended purposes now reaching about 95,000 targeted recipients of whom about 40,000 are in public services.
  - v) The IAC also raised the issue of paid news and media dominance of news cartels with the TRAI, but the engagement with TRAI has been sporadic and will need to be ratcheted up considerably.
- 4) The following items are approved, signed and taken on record to be published on IAC's website.
- (a) Charter of IAC
  - (b) Manifesto of IAC

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5) The meeting is adjourned to the next day for resolutions.

6) The meeting resumes on 03-Sept at 4:00 PM.

**Resolved,** (A) That distribution of work (on a purely honorary and voluntary basis) in IAC *andolan* - till the at least the next annual meeting - will be as under

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|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) National Convenor (IAC):     | Er. Sarbajit Roy     |
| (b) Co-convenor (IAC):           | Mr.Veeresh Malik     |
| (c) Co-convenor (IAC-RTI):       | Er. C.J.Karira       |
| (d) General Secretary (IAC-RTI): | Mr. Manoj Pai        |
| (e) General Secretary (IAC-I):   | Mr.Hitendra Parihar  |
| (f) General Secretary (IAC-II)   | Md.Muzibur Rehman    |
| (g) General Secretary (IAC-III)  | N.S.Venkatraman      |
| (h) General Secretary (IAC-IV)   | Dr. Sandeep Gupta    |
| (i) General Secretary (IAC-V)    | Hari Kumar Bharatiya |

**Resolved,** (B) That IAC's "*National Campaign to Protect RTI in India*" shall be "soft launched" immediately from India's RTI activist forces.

**Resolved,** (C) That (i) no funds or donations will be raised in name of IAC, and (ii) the national emblems such as India's tricolour will not be misused by IAC's volunteers, under pain of summary expulsion from the movement in addition to other actions.

**Resolved,** (D) That the National Convenor is authorised to do all acts in coordination with IAC HQ and/or Core Committee to perpetuate and advance the IAC's objectives.