

Dear Friends,

Greetings from New Delhi! It is steadily getting hot here and it seems it will be a long summer in 2010.

I am writing to you after a long or intermittent unexplained silence from me. I can only apologize and share with you what I have been doing the past five months. This message is for each one of you and is not in your inbox inadvertently.

We, TARAA, are a member of an Alliance of Mater Trainers. We were invited to support the Census of India in 2011. Amongst many preparations required to execute this humongous national exercise is a series of capacity enhancement activities at critical levels to ensure the highest quality of this effort and eventually its result, which has a bearing on the work we do and the lives of the billion+ people of India directly. The enumeration will be in two phases. First phase will list all residential houses in the country and will also gather data for the National People's Register. This phase of House-Listing and NPR will kick off on April 01, 2010. The second phase will be actual counting of the people in the country over forty-five days beginning February 2011.

TARAA is facilitating the process in the eight northern states of India which include Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir includes Ladakh and Kargil, Uttrakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. As preparations for the first phase we, with the support of our seven partner organizations, are directly responsible for the training of 12,825 persons and of 590,515 enumerators indirectly. These trainees are from three language groups spread over the eight states of North India.

Last week we completed the training two hundred and thirty trainers who are now beginning to train 12,595. TARAA and its partners have to back stop and monitor the quality of the training of the 12595 trainees and eventually the ground level enumerators.

In addition to the above by virtue of being located in Delhi I have the task of facilitating the coordination between the Alliance and the Office of the Registrar General of India.

There was never a dull moment during the past five months. All our experiences, expertise and networks were called upon to work the diverse stakeholders. My team continues to work as we wait for the First Citizen of India to be first name on the National People's Register and the details of her house will listed on April 01 2010.

So, this is what we have been doing and soon we are ready for a short break and I go for a 10 day Vipassana retreat before we begin the leg work for the second phase.

Watch this space.

Jyotsna