

APPEAL

To:

Board of Directors of
Tata Consultancy Services Ltd.
Indian Hotels Company Ltd.
Tata Steel Ltd.
Tata Motors Ltd.
Tata Chemicals Ltd.
Tata Power Company Ltd.

December 7, 2016

Dear Members of the Board,

We, the representatives of civil society in India, write to you to record our deep appreciation for the consistent and meaningful support that has been extended by the Tata Trusts to the development of a vibrant civil society in the country over the years.

The Tata Group's philanthropy predates the CSR law, perhaps by a century. Sir Ratan Tata sent a cheque of Rs. 25,000 in 1909 to help Gandhiji in his struggle against the apartheid government in South Africa. Shri JRD Tata believed and practiced the principle of trusteeship enunciated by the Father of the Nation. Besides inculcating a voluntary spirit in his employees, he became an embodiment of this practice of trusteeship by giving away all his wealth to the Trusts, keeping nothing for himself.

We, the civil society organisations, and in turn, the havenots of India in the communities we work in, have been the beneficiaries of Tatas' generosity. No other organisation in India has been as central to the growth and vibrancy of the civil society, erstwhile known as the voluntary sector, as the Tata Group, spearheaded by the Trusts. And we have no reason to believe the future will be any different, with or without the CSR law.

In this context, we are unhappy to note the current developments in the Tata Group, giving rise to certain unwarranted questions about the Tata Trusts. The Tata Trusts have always maintained a dignified low profile and we, the partners, haven't felt the need to talk about the impact of our collaborations with the Trusts either, till now. But we are deeply concerned that the current environment might have implications on the Trusts, which would have serious consequences on the functioning of civil society actors. The Trusts and our numerous projects with them are key to community development and social welfare, towards the larger goal of inclusive growth in our country.

Keeping this in view and understanding the importance of a vibrant civil society for the growth of democracy and sustainable development, we appeal to you and all the stakeholders in Tata group to kindly ensure that Tata Trusts' philanthropic activities are protected and grow in the coming years, and continue to be the soul of the various flourishing business operations of the Tatas. We hope and urge good sense to prevail.

Yours sincerely



1. Mr.Manas K Satpathy, Executive Director; PRADAN (www.pradan.net)
2. Ms.Priyanka Singh, Chief Executive; Seva Mandir (www.sevamandir.org)
3. Mr.Ved Arya, CEO; Srijan (www.srijanindia.org)
4. Mr.Ashis Mondal, Director and Managing Trustee, Action for Social Advancement (www.asaindia.org)
5. Jagdeesh Rao, Chief Executive; Foundation for Ecological Security (www.fes.org.in)
6. Apoorav Oza, Chief Executive; Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (www.akdn.org)
7. Padmashri Deep Joshi