**Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of Common Cause held on May 28, 2012**

The Executive Committee of Common Cause met at Common Cause House on May 28, 2012 at 11.00 A.M. Shri Vikram Lal, Major General (Retd) J.P.Gupta, Shri Kamal Jaswal, and Shri Surjit Das attended the meeting.

The Committee deliberated on the strategy for taking forward the campaign for probity in public life. It was observed that there was an impasse in the civil society movement against corruption and a complete breakdown of the dialogue among various stakeholders. The Committee felt that a confrontationist approach would not suit Common Cause, which should focus on its strengths, i.e. advocacy and public interest litigation.

The anti-corruption drive of the Society has comprised a wide range of initiatives, including PILs for annulment of CVC’s appointment, cancellation of 2 G licences and spectrum allocations, and initiation of the statutory process for the removal of Chairman, NHRC. It has also supported the Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms, the India Against Corruption movement and the efforts to streamline the implementation of MNREGA on the ground. The launch of a common logo for the War on Corruption, which has been developed by the National Institute of Design, would constitute an important element in this endeavour. It was agreed that while all these initiatives should be pursued to their logical end, Common Cause should make a special effort to promote policy reforms and process re-engineering most likely to minimize the levels of corruption at the cutting edge of administration. The Society should also continue to extend strategic support to the campaign for strong and independent Lokpal and and Lokayuktas.

The Committee thereafter considered the proposal to follow up the seminar on ‘Local Self-Government - The Unfinished Agenda’ held on March 28, 2012 with a symposium on alternative paradigms of self-governance by empowered communities. It was felt that while the discussion in the seminar was within the framework of devolution of powers and resources from the top to the local level, the symposium should effect a paradigm shift and explore radically different approaches for returning power to the people. Ideally, the symposium should have cover the following themes.

* Our legacy of self-governance and its relevance in contemporary India
* The Gandhian concept of Gram Swaraj and the Constitution of India
* Unmet regional aspirations and experiments with self-rule
* Moving towards a participatory democracy

Contributions in the form of discussion papers should be invited from acknowledged authorities in these domains and circulated to a select group of prospective participants in advance. The symposium may be planned for August, 2012, preferably in partnership with a reputed academic institution, such as the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. Eventually, the discussion papers and proceedings of the symposium may be brought out as a publication.