

**LOK SATTA**

*People Power*

## **Mission**

To promote peaceful, democratic transformation of Indian governance process and enable India to achieve full potential through good governance

## Key Reform Goals

- Comprehensive electoral reforms
- Empowerment of local governments
- Instruments of accountability
- Speedy and efficient justice

# Electoral Reforms

- Process Improvements

- Preventing polling irregularities

- Arresting and reversing criminalization of politics

- Checking abuse of unaccountable money power in elections

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- System Improvements

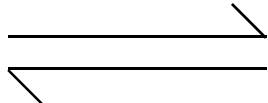
- Political party reform

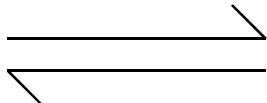
- Proportional representation

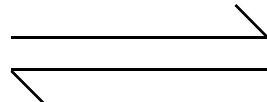
- Direct election of Chief Executive at the state level with clear separation of powers

# Empowerment of Local Governments

- Transfer of funds, functions and functionaries to local governments
- Link between

vote  public good

taxes  services

authority  accountability

# Instruments of Accountability

- Right to Information
- Independent crime investigation
- Independent appointment of constitutional functionaries
- Independent and effective anti-corruption agency
- Term limits for public office
- Strict penalties for abuse of office
- Citizen's Charters
- Stakeholder empowerment

## Judicial Reforms

- Limit writ jurisdiction
- Increase number of courts
- Local courts in local language (Gram Nyayalaya)
- Time bound justice
- Independent mechanism for judicial appointments
- Independent crime investigation

## Approaches to Citizens' Action

- Collective informed assertion
- Wide dissemination of information
- Effective mass communication
- Strategic intervention



## **Methods of Citizens' Action – People's Watch**

- Collective informed assertion
- People's charter
- Lok Satta as platform
- Fight against corruption
- Fight for better delivery of public services

## Methods of Citizens' Action – Swarajya

- Advocacy and campaign for specific reform goals
- Choice of goals
  - Locally achievable
  - No cost / low cost
  - Universally acceptable
  - Strategic goals opening many doors

## **Swarajya – Reform Goals**

- Right to Information
- Citizen's Charters
- Empowerment of local governments
- Empowerment of stake holders
- Universally accessible school education
- Speedy justice through rural courts
- Toilet for every household

# Methods of Citizens' Action – Election Watch

- Voter verification and registration
- Screening of candidates
- Know your candidates
- Common platforms
- State-level debates
- Training of volunteers
- Monitoring of polling process

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## Methods of Citizens' Action – Election Watch

- Does not aim to affect the outcome
- Election time is ripe for awareness campaign
- Focus on remediable flaws
- Pressure on parties and candidates
- Idea of accountability

# Impact of Lok Satta

Citizen's Charters – introduced in 9 departments by AP government

- State Electricity Board
- Road Transport Corporation
- Transport Department
- Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board
- Employment Exchanges
- Commercial Taxes Department
- Registration Department

Citizen's Charter for Municipalities in A.P. – Lok Satta's creation – provides for compensation of Rs. 50/- day for delay in services – first in India

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## Impact of Lok Satta

- Cessation of short delivery at petrol stations all over A.P. – benefit of Rs 1 crore / day
- Stakeholders' empowerment – water user associations and school education committees constituted formally by the state government
- Toilets for every household – largely on Lok Satta's advocacy over 2 million toilets were built in the last 3 years
- Stopped enactment of a restrictive Societies Law and ensured passing of an enabling law  
(in collaboration with CDF)

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# Impact of Lok Satta

Several local successes eg:

- Building regularization scheme - Kukatpally
- Changing the nature of dialogue on women's reservation
- Creating awareness on Right to Information
- Election Watch – arresting growth of criminal elements in politics  
eg: could influence selection of candidate for ZP chairperson in  
Kurnool district through public pressure
- Lok Satta's advocacy made common electoral rolls for local, state and national elections a reality
- At state level, tendered vote is now accepted as a proof of rigging and repolls are ordered
- Lok Satta's surveys influenced Election Commission to make post office nodal agency for voter registration

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## **Impact of Lok Satta**

- Lok Satta's work led to Delhi High Court judgment on criminal record of candidates
- Our advocacy of an alternative model for women's representation has altered the national debate and is now accepted across the spectrum
- India's leading movement for governance reforms
- 20 % popular base in A.P.
- Emerged as an influential voice for specific governance reforms in various fora of civil society as well as government bodies
- Nationally recognized as a credible, non-partisan, effective platform to fight corruption, and seek better governance
- Acquired the potential to help build a national movement

## **Major Current Activities in A.P.**

- Mobilizing 100,000 active citizens as watchdogs and activists
- Advocacy for Right to Information Legislation
- Expansion of Citizen's Charters
- Empowerment of local governments

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## **Major Current Activities in A.P.**

- Advocacy of legislation for Gram Nyayalays
- Police reforms at state level
- Hyderabad city Election Watch
- Focus on delivery of school education and public health
- New stake-holder empowerment laws
  - Marketing committees
  - Empowering ward committees

## Major Activities at National level

- Advocacy for political funding reform
- Advocacy for regulation of political parties
- Changes in voter registration procedure – post offices as nodal agency
- Measures to curb polling irregularities
- Election Watch in Tamilnadu, W.Bengal, Maharashtra and U.P.
- A series of national workshops (for 1000 activists) on active citizenship
- Alliances & national platform for governance reforms – Karnataka, Gujarat, M.P., Orissa and Delhi

# Resources

- Mostly Volunteer time, energy and credibility
- Support in kind (infrastructure, printing etc.)
- Skillful use of Media
- Limited cash support
- Limited funding for specific projects
- No foreign funding (as a policy)