

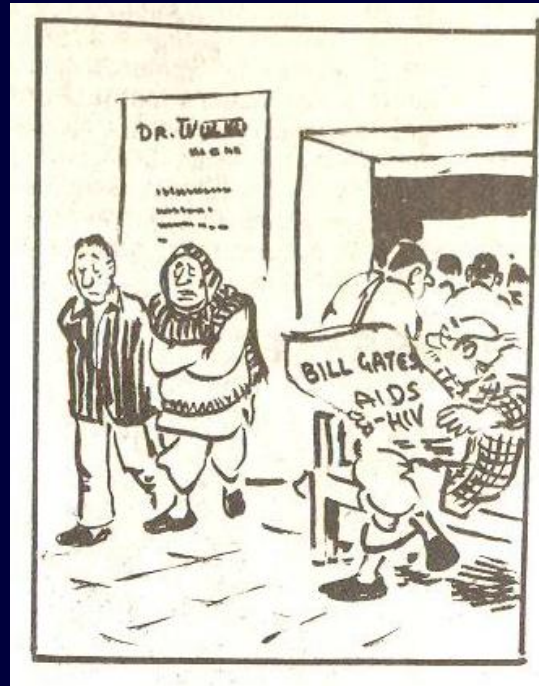
LOK SATTA
People Power

5 May 2005

Recent Developments

- Health care to rural poor
- Towards a comprehensive Right to Information law
- Reforms in Judiciary
- Strengthening of cooperatives and rural credit flow
- Local Governments Empowerment
- Elections to Municipal Governments in AP
- Federation of women reps from local govts in AP

All are improvements and +ve steps, but clearly not sufficient.
Fundamental problems at systemic political and electoral level.



Rs 30 just to say I've cough and cold and Rs 20 for two pills! I hope Bill Gates will one day take up eradication of cough and cold!

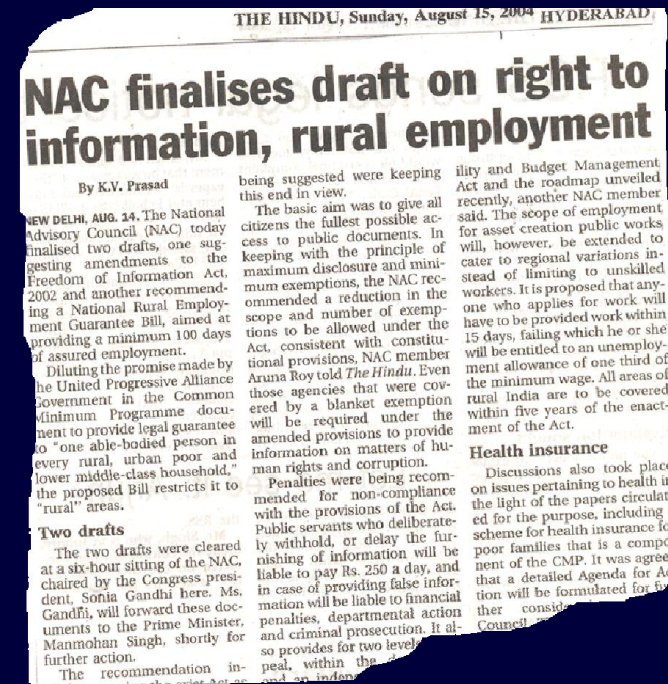
1. National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) launched

- MoH&FW's Rs. 6510 crore-mission
- Decentralization to village and district level; district health funds
- 400,000 trained workers ('ASHAs')
- Primary health care centers to be first referral units
- PM invites Lok Satta to the Mission Steering Group
- Vertical integration of all programs
- Phase I covers 18 most backward states
- Phase II of NHRM by 2006; to cover rest of India



2. Comprehensive Right to Information (RTI)

- Comprehensive coverage - union, state and local governments included
- Compensation provision of *Rs. 250 per day*
- Stringent penalties for non-disclosure/delay
- The onus shifts to the provider of information
- Key role by Lok Satta in NAC and with the Parliamentary Standing Committee



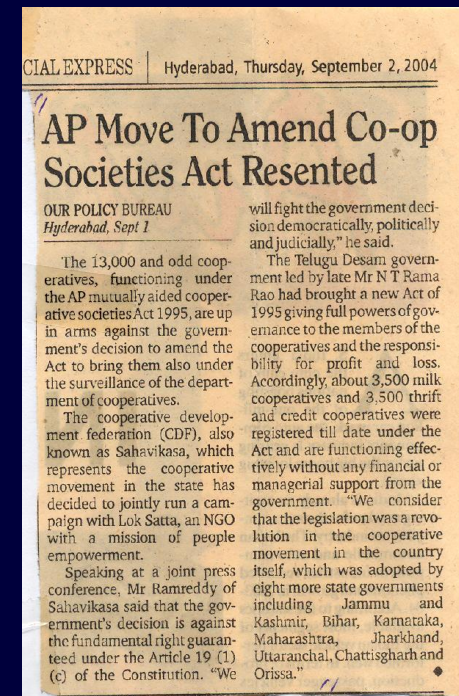
Present Status: RTI draft bill passes through Standing Committee after necessary amendments. Final draft submitted to Parliament.

3. Cooperatives

- NAC for preserving autonomy of cooperatives, under Article 19(1) - Right to Freedom of Expression
- Constitutional amendment for right to form and run cooperatives, free of state control
- For increasing rural cooperative credit and institutional lending to farmers. Vital for reviving rural sector
- Public campaign by Lok Satta in AP, opposing the curbs on State MACS Act.

4. Judicial Reforms

- NAC to consider creation of All India Judicial Service for Subordinate Judiciary - under Article 312
- Creation of National Judicial Council for Higher Judiciary
- Local Courts for timely and easy access to justice



5. Empowerment of Local Governments

- Fiscal devolution directly from the Union to Local levels
- Implementation of programs by Local governments.
- To own, manage, monitor and control all new programmes, schemes and missions.
- State Finance Commission recommendations as binding
- 'Principle of Subsidiarity' to guide allocation of subjects
- Task force for identifying inconsistencies in Union and State laws – linked to Articles 243N and 243ZF of Constitution



“ In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man;
if you want anything done, ask a woman ”

Margaret Thatcher

6. Federation of Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) from Local Governments



- Federation of 300 EWRs in Andhra Pradesh across all tiers of local governments, both rural and urban.
- Towards building capacity of EWRs
- Part of the effort towards broader goal of empowerment of local governments
- Singamma Sreenivasan Foundation (SSF)-supported field activities on pilot scale

HC admits writ on civic polls

By OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Hyderabad, March 30: The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Wednesday admitted a writ petition seeking early conduct of municipal polls.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Devinder Gupta and Justice B. Seshasayana Reddy admitted the public interest litigation filed by Mr. B Ankaiah, general secretary of Lok Satta.

The petitioner accused the government and the State Election Commission of de-

laying the elections to corporations, Zilla Parishads, municipalities and mandal parishads.

The delay in conducting polls amounted to a negation of democratic principles, he said. The bench posted the matter to April 4.

DIRECTIVE ON SPONGE IRON UNITS

The AP High Court directed the Pollution Control Board to stop the functioning of sponge iron industrial units

IN AP HIGH COURT

in Jadcherla which did not possess the required consent for operation.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Devinder Gupta and Justice B. Seshasayana Reddy gave these interim directions in a public interest litigation filed by Veerendranath P. The petitioner contended that the sponge iron units were causing air pollution at affecting its reside-

WRITS FILED BY BAR OWNERS ADMITTED

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Devinder Gupta and Justice B. Seshasayana Reddy admitted a bunch of writs filed by owners of bars and restaurants challenging the Police Commissioner's decision not to renew amusement

మున్సిపల్ ఎన్నికల రిట్ హైకోర్టు స్వీకరణ

హైదరాబాద్, మార్చి 30, ప్రభాతవార్త

మున్సిపల్ ఎన్నికలను వాయిదా వేయడాన్ని సవాల్ చేస్తూ లోక్సత్తా దాఖలు చేసిన రిట్ పిటిషన్ను హైకోర్టు విచారణకు స్వీకరించింది. ప్రధాన న్యాయమూర్తి డి.వేందర్ గుప్తా, న్యాయమూర్తి శేషశయనారెడ్డిలతో కూడిన ధర్మాసనం ఎదుట బుధవారం ఈ కేసు విచారణకు వచ్చింది. ప్రతివాదులైన మున్సిపల్, పంచాయతీశాఖల ప్రిన్సిపల్ సెక్రటరీలకు, రాష్ట్ర ఎన్నికల సంఘానికి నోటీసులు జారీ చేసింది. ప్రత్యేకాధికారులకు బదులుగా మున్సిపల్ చైర్మన్లను కొనసాగించాలన్న కేసుతోపాటు ఈ కేసును కూడా 4న మరో ధర్మాసనం విచారించిస్తుంది.

వార్త
పువ్వువారం 31, మార్చి 2005

Writ petition filed in AP High Court over postponement of elections to Municipal Governments in AP – under Articles 243E and 243U

Plea to declare 62-A of Municipalities Act, 1965 as unconstitutional – linked to Article 243ZF

8. Towards Collective, Informed Assertion by Ordinary Citizens

- 80,189 persons across 23 districts of AP trained to be 'Active Citizens' (2001-2004)
- Focus on catalyzing collective, informed action on local issues of concern. Training as a tool for genuine empowerment.
E.g.: illegal occupation of public land (worth Rs. 1.5 crore) prevented by ordinary citizens in Qutbullapur, Rangareddy District
- Training activities supported by Sir Ratan Tata Trust (RTT)

9. An International Perspective...

- **Delegation of British MPs visits Lok Satta (October, 2004)**
- **The Commonwealth invites Lok Satta as observer for the Maldives Elections (January, 2005)**

Team of observers led by Cassam Uteem (fmr. President of Mauritius), Lok Satta represented by G. Pratibha Rao

Why Political Reforms? Why now?

- India has an excellent track record of democratic politics. But, only at a macro-level. Severe structural defects manifest at constituency level.
- These defects directly affect nearly every aspect in the lives of Indians
Eg: pervasive corruption, ineffective and unsatisfactory governance
- Systemic flaws in political system holding back India's progress.
Economy, public health, infrastructure, security and other sectors critically linked to the nature of our political system
- The time is ripe; biggest opportunity since 1947



**A non-partisan, pro-political people's movement
for systemic reforms**

What is **VOTE**INDIA?

Dis-incentivization of corruption, criminalization and divisive politics

Better, fairer representation of diverse views

Reduced wastage of votes, better choice for voters

Proportional Representation
in Legislatures

Separation of executive and legislative roles at state level - stable governments

'Demand side' curb on electoral corruption

Executive authority fused with accountability

Direct election to head of
government at state level

Transparent and democratic procedures in political parties for selecting electoral candidates and office bearers

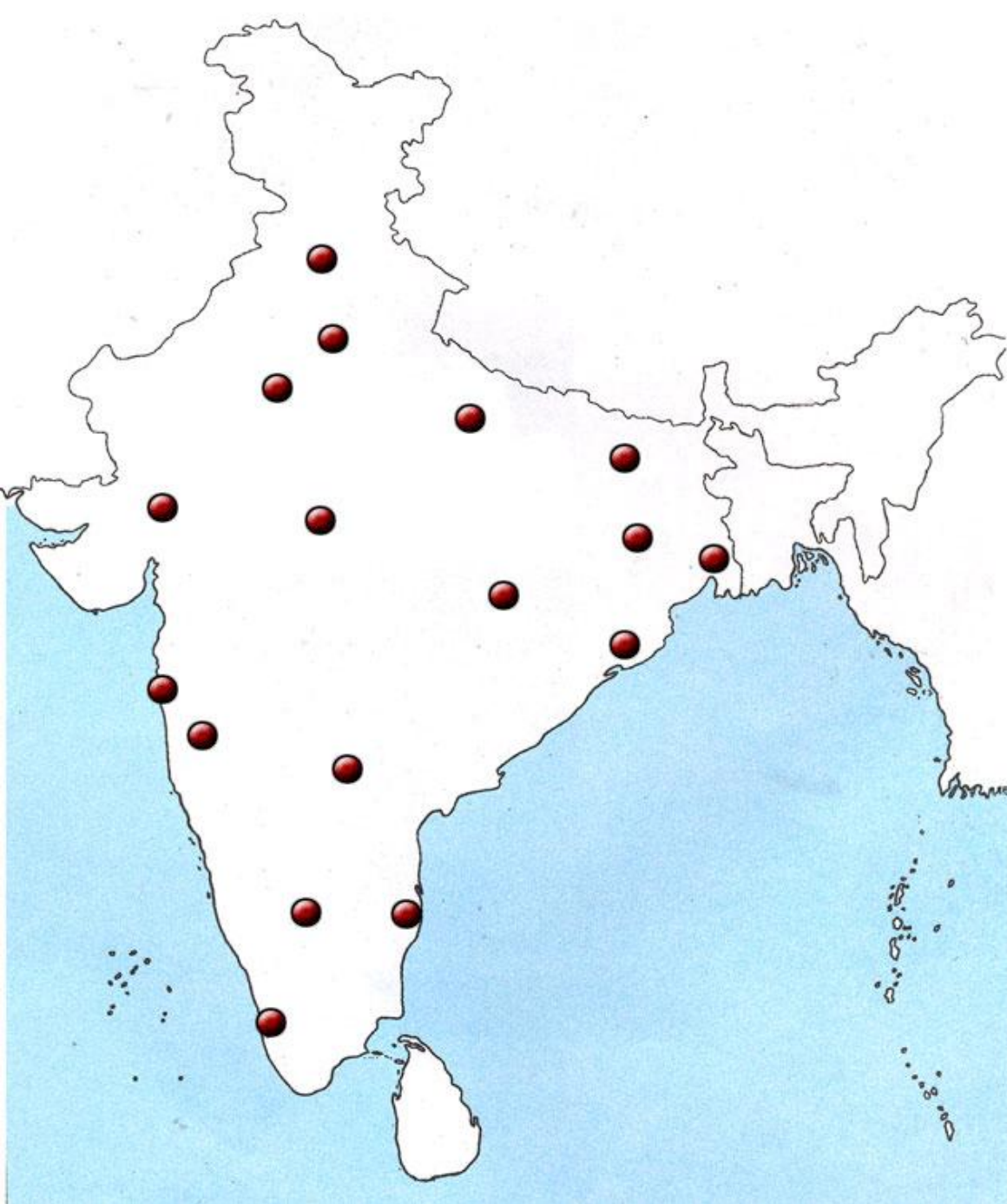
Internal party democracy
by law

The **VOTE**INDIA Approach

- Communication Campaign
 - positive, unique, inclusive message through various channels
 - political systemic reform as objective
- Establishment of state/regional chapters and their expansion
 - formation of region-wise core groups
 - memberships and co-option of public minded groups and individuals
- Regional/Local activities and events
 - focus on proximate reform issues with wider/national implications
 - activities as entry points for participation in national campaign
- Overall political strategy

VOTEINDIA

Regional Chapters



Phase I

Ahmedabad
Mumbai
Pune
Bangalore
Chennai
Hyderabad
Kolkata
Patna
Lucknow
Delhi
Jaipur

Phase II

Kochi
Raipur
Bhubaneshwar
Bhopal
Ranchi
Chandigarh



VOTEINDIA Regional/Local Activities

18

The Citizen's Initiative on Voters' ID List (CIVIL)

- National campaign for cleansing of electoral rolls and improving their integrity
- Flagged off on April 15 in Bangalore; led by JANAAGRAHA; inaugurated by the CEC TS Krishnamurthy
- A citizen-led initiative.
High local importance and easy initiation
Long-term and national significance

VOTEINDIA will provide platform and tools for expansion of CIVIL across all major regions and states in India



Central Excise, CVC , CBIT – Industry - Lok Satta

- Reform initiative towards transparent and citizen friendly procedures in Central Excise and Customs.
- In collaboration with the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes (CBIT)
- Public hearings will be held in Hyderabad and Mumbai between the Industry and the CVC, CBIT, Excise & Customs.
- Hearings facilitated by Lok Satta
- Initiative will be expanded to other centers across India

“ Now this is not the end. It is not even the *beginning* of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning ”

Winston Churchill
(after Al Alamein, Egypt, 1942)

