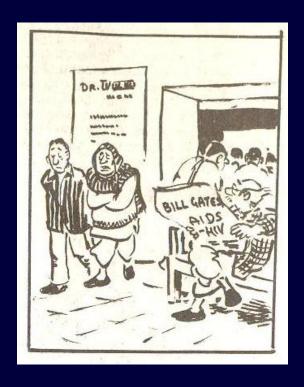


5 May 2005

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!

Lok Satta's lead role in National Advisory Council (NAC)

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**

THE HINDU, Sunday, August 15, 2004 HYDERABAD

NAC finalises draft on right to information, rural employment

NEW DELHI, AUG. 14. The National dvisory Council (NAC) today reedom of Information Act. maximum disclosure and mini- cater to regional variations in-2002 and another recommendg a National Rural Employ-

ne United Progressive Alliance Aruna Roy told The Hindu. Even every rural, urban poor and information on matters of hulower middle-class household," man rights and corruption. the proposed Bill restricts it to

chaired by the Congress presi-

this end in view.

The basic aim was to give all citizens the fullest possible access to public documents. In keeping with the principle of mum exemptions, the NAC rec-stead of limiting to unskilled ommended a reduction in the nt Guarantee Bill, aimed at scope and number of exemptions to be allowed under the Act, consistent with constitutional provisions, NAC member inimum Programme docu- ered by a blanket exemption rural India are to be covered those agencies that were covent to provide legal guarantee will be required under the within five years of the enact-"one able-bodied person in amended provisions to provide ment of the Act.

Penalties were being recommended for non-compliance with the provisions of the Act. Public servants who deliberate-The two drafts were cleared by withhold, or delay the fur-scheme for health insurance at a six-hour sitting of the NAC, nishing of information will be liable to pay Rs. 250 a day, and dent, Sonia Gandhi here. Ms. in case of providing false information will be liable to financial uments to the Prime Minister, penalties, departmental action ther consist Manmohan Singh, shortly for and criminal prosecution. It also provides for two level in- peal, within the

Act and the roadmap unveiled recently, another NAC member said. The scope of employment for asset creation public works will, however, be extended to workers. It is proposed that any one who applies for work will have to be provided work within will be entitled to an unemploy ment allowance of one third of the minimum wage. All areas o

Discussions also took place on issues pertaining to health in the light of the papers circulat ed for the purpose, including a

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

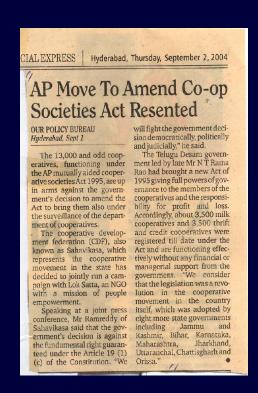
Lok Satta's lead role in National Advisory Council (NAC)

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



Lok Satta's lead role in National Advisory Council (NAC)

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



Need to empower women stressed

Karnataka Governot, V.S. Rama women were in so way interior

All that was required was the itions and realise their poten- of three -- all of them in ial, she told over 300 Elected of local bodies at the first-ever State-level convention organised here for them by the Lok.

eaed on child-rearing, nutrition plus year-old woman sarpanch

these, they were also enlight. Governor, she had seen a 70-100 lay a road.

and family health. Ms. Rama near Mangalore go on a hunger people that a road to improve Devi recalled that as Karnataka strike to compel the authorities connectivity was more importemple. Such people deserves to be honoured, she said.

Voice of rural masses

for them to shed their inhib- Kell is the name of a mother media glare. school from a remote Masi- take me seriously and disnew project. All this because I

Presiding over the inaugura while power was important.

- 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 compris-Gupta and Justice B. Seshasayana Reddy admitted the public interest litigation filed by Mr. B Ankaiah, general secretary of Lok

corporations,

municipalities and mandal parishads.

The delay in conducting Justice Devinder Gupta and polls amounted to a nega- Justice B. Seshasayana ing Chief Justice Devinder tion of democratic princi- Reddy gave these interim ples, he said. The bench directions in a pu posted the matter to April 4. est litigation file

SPONGE IRON UNITS

The AP High Court directed that the sponge The petitioner accused the the Pollution Control Board were causing government and the State to stop the functioning of pollution at Election Commission of de- sponge iron industrial units affecting its reside

A division bench comprising Chief

Veerendranath practising advoca

The petitioner c

OWNERS ADMITTED

not possess A division bench compristhe required ing 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

mes.

had

ions

ants

మున్ని పల్ ఎన్సికలను వాయిదా వేయదాన్ని సవాల్ చేస్తూ లోక్సతా దాఖలు చేసిన రిట్ పిటిషన్ను హైకోర్మ విచారణకు స్వీకరించింది. స్థ్రవధాన న్యాయమూర్తి దేవేందర్గుపా, న్యాయ మూర్తి శేషశయనారెడ్డిలతో కూడిన ధర్మాసనం ఎదుట బుద్ధవారం ఈ కేసు విచారణకు వచ్చింది. మ్రతివాదులైన మున్సి పల్, పంచాయతీశాఖల (పిన్సి పల్ స్మేకటరీలకు, రాష్ట్ర ఎన్సికల సంఘానికి నోటీసులు జారీ చేసింది. ప్రత్యేకాధికారు లకు బదులుగా మున్సి పల్ చెర్మనను కొనసాగించాలన్న కేసుతోపాటు ఈ కేసు ను కూడా 4న మరో ధర్మాసనం విచా

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, <u>only</u> <u>at a macro-level</u>. 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

National Campaign for Political Reforms



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

What is **VOTEINDIA?**

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

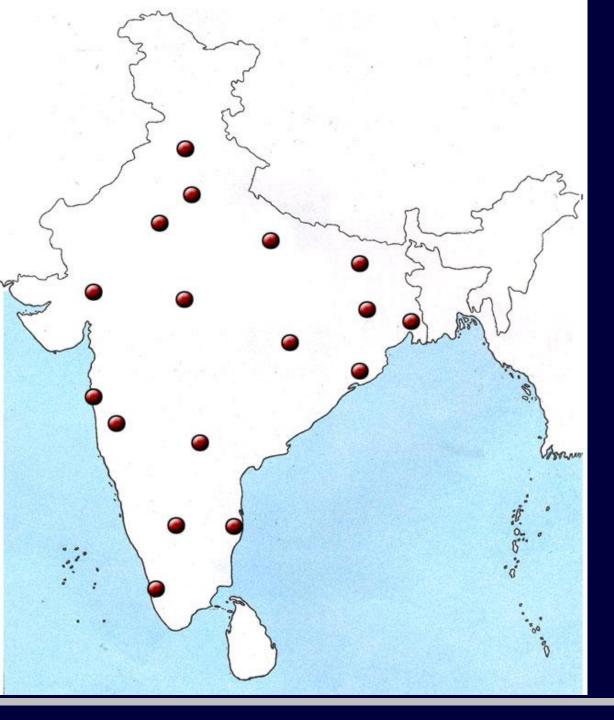
Direct election to head of government at state level

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

Internal party democracy by law

The **VOTEINDIA** 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



VOTEINDIARegional 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

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





VOTEINDIA Regional/Local Activities 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)

